



The background is a complex collage. At the top, a person's hands are seen reading a newspaper. Below this, a pair of red-rimmed glasses is positioned. The central focus is the title 'NEWS FOR TODAY' in a stylized, outlined font. Below the title, a globe of the Earth is shown, surrounded by a glowing circular clock face with Roman numerals. The bottom right corner features the word 'NEWS' in large, bold, yellow letters. The overall color palette is a mix of purple, blue, and yellow.

NEWS FOR TODAY

Brian Foden

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... Introduction ...

Have you ever tried to read a newspaper or listen to the radio or TV in English and given up quickly because it was too hard? If you're like almost everyone who is learning English (and who is not at a very high level), then your answer is "yes!" As someone who has written thousands of newspaper stories and edited and read thousands of other stories for radio, I completely understand. Writers often use very high-level vocabulary to tell their stories. It's not that they are trying to make it especially hard for you. It's because that vocabulary is very precise and can convey information very clearly. Very precise wording makes it easier for writers to give information in a very short space. But, of course, using that difficult vocabulary makes it harder to read (as an experienced ESL teacher, I also know how students struggle with the language). I have written this series of books to help learners better understand the difficult language they find in the media. My hope is that after reading the chapters in these books, you will have greatly improved your knowledge of English and are better able to understand the stories you see in the media. Happy reading!

*Yours truly,
Brian Foden*

Definitions:

1. **precise** (adj) Exact in the details.
2. **convey** (v) To make ideas, thoughts or feelings known to others.



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..... Chapter **1** *Media Terms*

Newspapers, magazines, radio and TV are very important to everyone's life. People who write the news and read it **on air** tell us about what is happening in the world. Knowing about what is happening in the world helps people understand things better and make good decisions. Of course, the words used in **the media** can be very difficult to understand. For example, a **headline** is the title of a story in a newspaper or magazine, while a **byline** is the term used for the writer's name as it is seen under the headline. This book is aimed to help you improve your vocabulary so that you can better understand things you read in newspapers and magazines, and what you hear on TV and the radio. Before we talk about different types of stories in the media, we are going to discuss **terms** used to explain the media itself.





Definitions:

1. **on air** (phrase) On television or radio.
▶ The announcer is on air right now.
2. **the media** (n) Newspapers, magazines, TV and radio.
▶ My brother works in the media.
3. **headline** (n) The title of a story in a newspaper or magazine.
▶ The headline of the story is “Lion escapes from zoo.”
4. **byline** (n) The name of the writer of an article shown under
▶ the headline in a newspaper or magazine.
Whose byline is on that story?
- ▶ **term** (n) A word or group of words.
What does the term “on air” mean?

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Unit

1

The Media



You often hear the phrase “the media.” There are two basic types of media: print media and electronic media. **Print media** includes news that is published, or printed. The **electronic media** is made up of radio and television. People who write and report about the news are called reporters or **journalists** (the career or job field is called **journalism**). A story written in a newspaper or magazine is called an **article**. However, if the story is about what a writer thinks (his or her opinion on a topic), that type of story is sometimes called a **column**. The person who writes it is called a **columnist**.



Definitions:



1. **print media** (n) Newspapers and magazines (media that is printed).

▶ Newspapers and magazines are called print media.

2. **electronic media** (n) TV and radio (media that is electronic).

▶ TV and radio are both part of the electronic media.

3. **journalist** (n) A person who gathers news and reports it.

▶ Another name for a journalist is reporter.

4. **journalism** (n) The profession of news; also the things journalists do.

▶ Journalism is an interesting career.



5. **article** (n) A story in a newspaper or magazine.

▶ A newspaper has many articles in it.

6. **column** (n) A story in a newspaper or magazine in which the writer gives his/her opinions.

▶ He writes a column every day for the newspaper.

7. **columnist** (n) A person who writes a column.

▶ Do you have a favorite columnist?



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Questions



- ★1 Newspapers and magazines are part of what type of media?
(A) paper
(B) electronic
(C) journalist
(D) print

- ★2 Which media are part of the electronic media?
(A) print and radio
(B) newspapers and magazines
(C) TV and radio
(D) radio and magazines

- ★3 Another name for a reporter is: _____ .
(A) journalist
(B) journalism
(C) column
(D) news

- ★4 What is an article?
(A) a story in a book
(B) a story in a newspaper or magazine
(C) a story about what a journalist thinks
(D) any kind of story

- ★5 Which statement is true?
(A) TV is part of the print media.
(B) A column is about what a journalist thinks.
(C) Someone who works in the media is called a journalism.
(D) Newspapers and TV are part of the media; magazines and radio are not.



Notes

NEWS FOR TODAY

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Unit

2

Hard News



Much of what you see in newspapers and on TV and hear on the radio is **hard news**. Hard news is news that is **significant** for some reason, and usually has a big impact on many people.

Hard news is also usually **immediate**. Examples of hard news are a plane crash, a big accident or fire, a **major** announcement by the government, a natural disaster like an earthquake or a flood, or war. When an important story happens, it is called **breaking news**. News **anchors** love to report important, breaking news.



Definitions:



1. **hard news** (n) News that is important and serious.
 - ▶ People like to read hard news.

2. **significant** (adj) Important; major.
 - ▶ A significant story is one that is important to many people.

3. **impact** (n) Effect or influence (on something).
 - ▶ Reading that story had a big impact on me.

4. **immediate** (adj) Happening right now.
 - ▶ The immediate problem is to put the fire out.

5. **major** (adj) Important; large; serious.
 - ▶ The major reason I'm not on time is that I woke up late.

6. **breaking news** (n) Important news that is happening right now.
 - ▶ That radio station is good at reporting breaking news.

7. **anchor** (n) A person who reads the news on TV or the radio (usually from a desk).
 - ▶ An anchor should have a strong, clear voice.



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Questions

- ★ **1** News that is significant and has an impact is called: _____.
(A) tough news
(B) soft news
(C) fast news
(D) hard news

- ★ **2** If something has an impact, what does that mean?
(A) It has a big effect.
(B) It has no effect.
(C) It is interesting.
(D) It is boring.

- ★ **3** Which word does not describe hard news?
(A) immediate
(B) significant
(C) old
(D) major

- ★ **4** What is “breaking news”?
(A) an important story that is happening now
(B) any hard news story
(C) a story that is not major
(D) an important story that happened yesterday

- ★ **5** Which is not an example of hard news?
(A) a fire
(B) a natural disaster
(C) a plane crash
(D) a story about a funny person



Notes

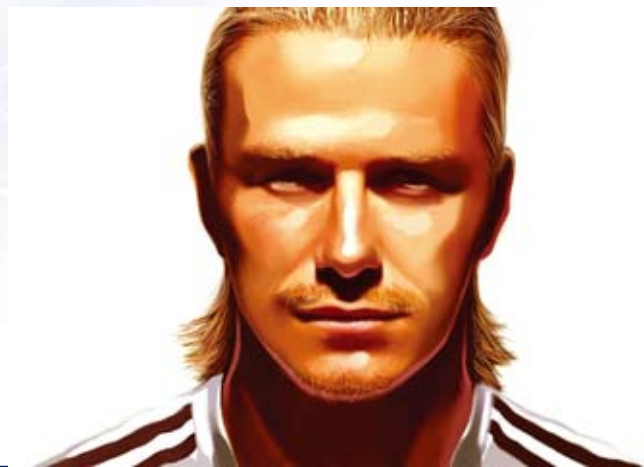
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Unit

3

Soft News



Soft news is the opposite of hard news. It is usually not very significant, but soft news stories can be very interesting and **entertaining**. One type of soft news is the **human-interest** story. Human-interest stories **deal with** things that humans (people) are interested in because the person (or people) that the story is about is interesting. Examples of human-interest stories are a funny **real-life** story, or a story about an interesting or unusual person. If the story is long, it is probably a **feature story**. Not every feature story is a human-interest story, though. A feature story might be about a social problem or some other **issue**. In that case, the feature story is closer to a hard news story.



Definitions:



1. **soft news** (n) News that is not so important; the opposite of hard news.

▶ A story about a fire or an accident is not soft news.

2. **entertaining** (adj) Interesting or amusing; fun.

▶ That movie was very entertaining.

3. **human-interest** (n) Something that people are interested in because of the person or people

▶ involved in the story.

People like to read human-interest stories.



4. **deal with** (phrase) To talk about; discuss.

That article deals with the topic of crime.

5. **real-life** (adj) True; taken from real life.

The book is about a real-life story.

6. **feature story** (n) A story that is longer than most

▶ other stories and filled with many details.

A good feature story takes a long time to write.



7. **issue** (n) An important topic or problem.

Newspaper articles often deal with important issues.

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Questions



- ★1 Which statement is true?
(A) Soft news is easier to read than hard news.
(B) Soft news is about things like fires and accidents.
(C) Soft news can be interesting and entertaining.
(D) Soft news is always very boring.

- ★2 What does “entertaining” mean?
(A) fun
(B) serious
(C) hard
(D) learning

- ★3 Which statement is true about human-interest stories?
(A) They are always significant.
(B) People are interested in them.
(C) They are called hard news.
(D) They are difficult to read.

- ★4 What does “human” mean?
(A) people
(B) animals
(C) story
(D) the world

- ★5 Which statement about feature stories is not true?
(A) They are usually long.
(B) They are sometimes about a social issue.
(C) They are sometimes about a human-interest story.
(D) They are usually short.

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Unit

4

Profiles



A profile is a feature story about a person, place or business.

This kind of story gives many **details** about the **background**, or history, of the subject. If the profile is about a person, it talks about his or her personality **traits**. Profiles **point out** the **highlights** of the subject - the most important things. For a person or a business, a highlight might be a big **accomplishment**. For a city, a highlight could be one of the best things to do there or the beautiful **scenery**, such as the mountains or forests.



Definitions:



1. **detail** (n) A piece of information.

▶ This story has many details about playing golf.

2. **background** (n) The history of a person, place or thing.

▶ That man has a very strange background.

3. **trait** (n) A characteristic or feature of a person or animal.

▶ Kindness is a good trait to have.

4. **point out** (phrase) To say; to mention; to point to.

▶ She pointed out that the bus was late.



5. **highlight** (n) The most important or best part.

▶ Becoming president was the highlight of his life.

6. **accomplishment** (n) An important or difficult thing someone has done.

▶ Being the best salesman in the company is a major accomplishment.

7. **scenery** (n) Nature (trees, mountains, rivers, etc.); surroundings.

▶ The scenery in Canada is very beautiful.

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Questions



- ★1 What is a profile?
(A) an article about anything
(B) any long story
(C) a story about a person, place or business
(D) a story in a newspaper

- ★2 Which word is closest to the meaning of “details”?
(A) information
(B) scenery
(C) accomplishment
(D) reading

- ★3 What word means the history of a person, place or business?
(A) details
(B) accomplishment
(C) background
(D) highlight

- ★4 What do you call something important you have done?
(A) a background
(B) a profile
(C) a detail
(D) an accomplishment

- ★5 Which statement is not true about profiles?
(A) They point out important details.
(B) They talk about the highlights of the subject.
(C) They are only about people.
(D) They sometimes talk about the scenery of a place.

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Unit

5

Investigative Journalism



Investigative reporting is a type of hard news that is very difficult for journalists to do. It involves a lot of hard work to **uncover** the true details of a story. Often the story is about a wrongdoing -bad or illegal things. People usually **deny**, or say they didn't do, the **wrongdoing**. The journalist might get a small amount of information, called a **lead**, about the wrongdoing. A person who gives information to the reporter is called a **source**. If the person only agrees to give the information if the reporter doesn't use that person's name, he or she is called an **anonymous source**.



Definitions:



1. **investigative** (adj) Trying to find out all the information about something.
 - ▶ Investigative stories take a lot of work and time to complete.
2. **uncover** (v) To find out; to discover.
 - ▶ Sometimes it's hard to uncover the truth.
3. **wrongdoing** (n) Something against the law; criminal.
 - ▶ Crime is a type of wrongdoing.
4. **deny** (v) To say you did not do something.
 - ▶ He denied stealing the money.
5. **lead** (n) Information that leads the reporter to other information.
 - ▶ The reporter got a good lead on a story about some wrongdoing.
6. **source** (n) A person who gives information to a journalist.
 - ▶ A journalist always likes to get many sources for a story.
7. **anonymous source** (n) A source that will not allow the reporter to use his or her name in a story.
 - ▶ The reporter got a good lead from an anonymous source.



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Questions ?

- ★1 What does “uncover” mean?
(A) to steal
(B) to find out
(C) to deny
(D) to work hard

- ★2 What does “wrongdoing” mean?
(A) doing something bad or illegal
(B) making a mistake
(C) denying something
(D) forgetting to do something

- ★3 To say you didn't do something is to _____ it.
(A) wrongdoing
(B) uncover
(C) deny
(D) anonymous

- ★4 Which is true about anonymous sources?
(A) They are not real.
(B) They deny something.
(C) They don't want their names used.
(D) They are doing something illegal.

- ★5 Which statement is not true?
(A) A source gives the reporter information.
(B) A lead is a bit of information about something.
(C) Investigative reporting is hard to do.
(D) Investigative reporting is soft news.



Notes



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..... Chapter **2** *Natural Disasters*

The world is a wonderful place. It's full of beauty and excitement. We are amazed by the power and size of nature - a high waterfall, a giant mountain or a huge ocean. But sometimes nature can be very dangerous. To the media, stories about natural disasters are **big news**. In this chapter, you will read about many types of natural disasters, including **floods**, **tornadoes**, **hurricanes**, **earthquakes** and **tsunamis**. Sadly, stories about **natural disasters** very often involve many deaths and are therefore quite **tragic**.





Definitions:

1. **big news** (n) Important, significant news.
▶ Did you see the big news on TV today?
2. **flood** (n) A large amount of water that covers land that is usually dry.
▶ A huge flood in India killed a lot of people.
3. **tornado** (n) A very strong, circular wind that can cause much damage.
▶ Tornadoes can be very dangerous.
4. **hurricane** (n) A powerful wind similar to a tornado that is bigger and also brings heavy rain.
▶ A hurricane will hit Florida in a few days.
5. **earthquake** (n) Strong movements of the earth that can cause a lot of damage.
▶ The 921 earthquake killed more than 2,000 people.
6. **tsunami** (n) A huge ocean wave usually caused by an earthquake or volcano.
▶ There was a very big tsunami in December, 2004.
7. **natural disaster** (n) Much destruction caused by a force of nature.
▶ Natural disasters cause a lot of damage every year.
8. **tragic** (adj) Very sad, usually due to death or destruction.
▶ I read a story about a tragic accident.

NEWS FOR TODAY

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Unit

1

Floods



Water is one of the most important things to all life. Rain helps plants and animals live. But, sometimes, too much rain can be **deadly**. Floods from too much rain coming down too quickly are called **flash floods**. **Soil and plant life absorb** some of the rain. The rain that can't be absorbed runs into rivers and streams and is called **runoff**. Melting snow also causes runoff. Too much runoff makes rivers and streams **overflow**, and that floods the land.



Definitions:



1. **deadly** (adj) Very dangerous; something that can cause death.

▶ Guns and knives are deadly.

2. **flash flood** (n) A flood that happens very quickly because of heavy rain.

▶ A flash flood can kill many people.

3. **soil** (n) Dirt; earth; ground.

▶ Most plants need soil to grow.



4. **plant life** (n) Plants.

▶ There is a lot of plant life in the world.

5. **absorb** (v) When one thing takes something else into itself through one or more openings.

▶ A towel can absorb a lot of water.

6. **runoff** (n) Rain (or melted snow) that is not absorbed by the soil.

▶ Runoff is caused by heavy rain.



7. **overflow** (v) To flow or spill over the top because something is too full.

▶ If you put too much water in a cup, it will overflow.

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Questions



- ★1 Floods caused by too much rain happening too fast are called _____ .
(A) fast floods
(B) bad floods
(C) flash floods
(D) overflow

- ★2 What absorbs rain?
(A) animals and plants
(B) people and soil
(C) soil and people
(D) plants and soil

- ★3 Water that is not absorbed called _____ .
(A) runoff
(B) over rain
(C) flash floods
(D) heavy rain

- ★4 Too much water makes streams and rivers _____ .
(A) overflow
(B) absorb
(C) rain
(D) soil

- ★5 Which does not cause a flood?
(A) lots of rain
(B) runoff
(C) overflow
(D) plant life

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Unit

2

Earthquakes



Earthquakes are proof that the earth is a powerful, and sometimes dangerous, place. Movements inside the Earth can cause **devastation** on the **surface**. The strong shaking of the ground can make buildings **collapse**, possibly killing hundreds, or even thousands, of people. Earthquakes (often called **quakes**) can cause other problems, such as **landslides** and fires. Many times after a major quake, other smaller earthquakes are felt. These are called **aftershocks**. The center of an earthquake is called the **epicenter**, and it is where most of the damage happens.



Definitions:



1. **devastation** (n) A situation where many things are destroyed.

▶ Earthquakes and other natural disasters cause a lot of devastation.

2. **surface** (n) The top part or outer part of something.

▶ People live on the surface of the earth.

3. **collapse** (v) To fall down suddenly.

▶ A weak building may collapse during an earthquake.



4. **quake** (n) A shortened word for earthquake.

▶ Be careful when a quake hits.

5. **landslide** (n) A large amount of earth that falls from a mountain or cliff.

▶ A landslide can cover a whole town.

6. **aftershocks** (n) Smaller earthquakes that follow a larger one.

▶ Did you feel that aftershock?

7. **epicenter** (n) The exact center of an earthquake.

▶ The epicenter of an earthquake is a very dangerous place.

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Questions ?



- ★ **1** What causes earthquakes?
(A) aftershocks
(B) devastation
(C) movements inside the Earth
(D) landslides

- ★ **2** What does “collapse” mean?
(A) fall down
(B) shake
(C) problems
(D) damage

- ★ **3** What are earthquakes often called?
(A) shakes
(B) landslides
(C) quakes
(D) epicenter

- ★ **4** What are smaller earthquakes that happen after a major earthquake called?
(A) shocks
(B) quakes
(C) results
(D) aftershocks

- ★ **5** Where does the most damage occur during an earthquake?
(A) the epicenter
(B) the ocean
(C) the surface
(D) the equator

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Unit

3



Tsunamis

Many times when an earthquake happens in the ocean no damage occurs. But if the earthquake is very powerful, it can cause a tsunami. Tsunami (pronounced “soo-NAH-mee”) is a Japanese word that means “harbor wave.” An earthquake causes the ocean floor to move suddenly, and this can generate a huge wall of water. The ocean may rise less than a meter in deep areas. However, when the tsunami hits shallow waters closer to the shore, the massive wall of water can be more than 15 meters high! When a tsunami hits a coast, it can arrive with enough power to wipe out entire cities.



Definitions:



1. **harbor** (n) A calm area of water near land where boats can safely stay.
▶ I can see many boats in the harbor.
2. **ocean floor** (n) The bottom of the ocean.
▶ Some interesting sea life lives near the ocean floor.
3. **generate** (v) To make; to create.
▶ An earthquake can generate a lot of damage.
4. **shallow** (adj) Not deep.
▶ Very young children should only swim in a shallow pool.
5. **massive** (adj) Very big; huge.
▶ Many whales are massive.
6. **coast** (n) Where the land and sea meet.
▶ There are some nice beaches on the coast.
7. **wipe out** (phrase) Destroy; damage completely.
▶ The bomb wiped out the city.



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Questions



- ★1 “Tsunami” is a Japanese word that means:_____ .
(A) big wave
(B) earthquake
(C) water
(D) harbor wave

- ★2 What word does ~~not~~ mean “to generate”?
(A) create
(B) make
(C) destroy
(D) cause

- ★3 Which statement is true?
(A) An earthquake in the ocean never causes damage.
(B) An earthquake in the ocean sometimes causes a tsunami.
(C) An earthquake in the ocean always causes a tsunami.
(D) An earthquake in the ocean always causes damage.

- ★4 What is the opposite of deep?
(A) low
(B) high
(C) big
(D) shallow

- ★5 When a tsunami hits the shore, how high can it be?
(A) more than 15 meters
(B) less than a meter
(C) less than 15 meters
(D) shallow

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Unit

4

Tornadoes



Not only is the earth a powerful place - the air above us can be just as **mighty**. Often called **twisters**, tornadoes are **made up of** winds as strong as 800 kilometers an hour or faster. Tornadoes have a very **distinctive** appearance: a **funnel-shaped cloud**. While wind is invisible, the funnel cloud is **visible** partly because of dust that the tornado sucks up. Wherever the funnel touches the earth, **extensive** damage is likely to happen. Tornadoes are so powerful that they can tear roofs off houses and pick up cars and large animals.





Definitions:

1. **mighty** (adj) Strong, powerful.

▶ Lions are mighty animals.

2. **twister** (n) Another name (nickname) for a tornado.

▶ Twister is another name for tornado.

3. **made up of** (phrase) Has in it; is formed by.

▶ A book is made up of many chapters.

4. **distinctive** (adj) Something that is clearly different.

▶ That food has a very distinctive smell.

5. **funnel-shaped cloud** (n) The shape of a tornado; a roundish cloud wide at the top and smaller at the bottom.

▶ A tornado has a very distinctive funnel-shaped cloud.

6. **visible** (adj)

▶ Can be seen.

If something is invisible, it is not visible.

▶ **extensive** (adj)

Very large; widespread.

Very strong winds can cause extensive damage.

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Questions



- ★ **1** Tornadoes are also called _____ .
(A) twisters
(B) funnels
(C) windies
(D) clouds

- ★ **2** What does “mighty” mean?
(A) fast
(B) weak
(C) windy
(D) strong

- ★ **3** What are tornadoes not made up of?
(A) strong winds
(B) funnel clouds
(C) dust
(D) floods

- ★ **4** Which word does not mean “extensive”?
(A) large
(B) much
(C) weak
(D) massive

- ★ **5** How fast can the winds of a tornado be?
(A) less than 100 kilometers an hour
(B) 200 kilometers an hour
(C) 500 kilometers an hour
(D) 800 kilometers an hour or more

Notes

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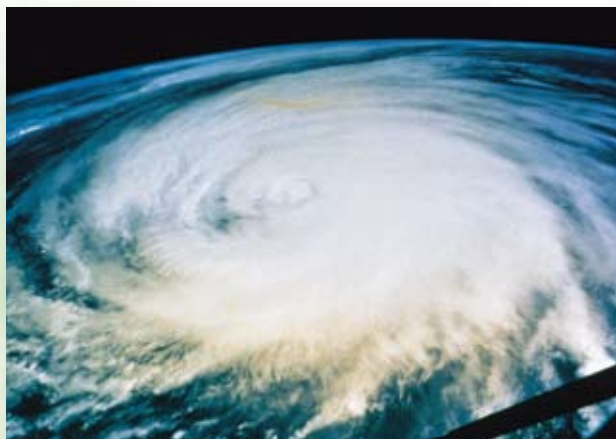
Unit

5

Typhoons and Hurricanes



Typhoons and hurricanes are similar to tornadoes - all three have strong, **circular** winds. Typhoons and hurricanes, however, do not have the funnel clouds that tornadoes **possess**. Typhoons and hurricanes are **identical**, except that they occur in different parts of the world. These strong storms **form** over the oceans. Typhoons occur in the Western Pacific Ocean, while hurricanes form over the Atlantic Ocean. The middle of a hurricane or typhoon is called **the eye**. The eye of the storm is very **calm**, but the other parts of the storm can be extremely **violent**.



Definitions:

1. **circular** (adj) Having a round shape.

▶ That bottle is circular.

2. **possess** (v) To have.

▶ He possesses a nice car and a big house.

3. **identical** (adj) Exactly the same as something else.

▶ Those two clocks are identical.



4. **form** (v) To take shape; be created.

▶ The hurricane formed over the Atlantic Ocean.

5. **the eye** (n) The center of a storm.

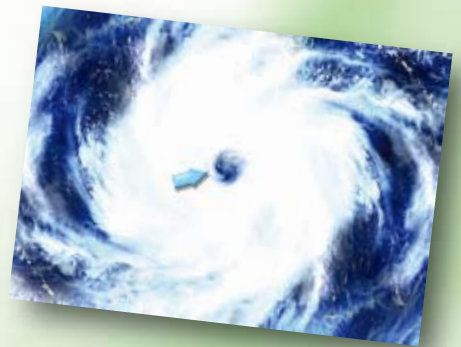
▶ The eye of the hurricane is very quiet.

6. **calm** (adj) Very little or no movement; quiet; peaceful.

▶ He is a very calm person.

7. **violent** (adj) Using strong force.

▶ A violent storm can do extensive damage.



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Questions



- ★ **1** Tornadoes, hurricanes and typhoons are similar because _____ .
(A) they all happen in the same part of the world.
(B) they all have strong, circular winds.
(C) they all have funnels.
(D) they all form over the Pacific Ocean.

- ★ **2** How are hurricanes and typhoons different?
(A) A hurricane is faster than a typhoon.
(B) A typhoon has a funnel cloud.
(C) Only hurricanes form over oceans.
(D) They occur in different parts of the world.

- ★ **3** What does “identical” mean?
(A) the same
(B) similar
(C) different
(D) almost the same

- ★ **4** What is the eye of a storm?
(A) the strongest part
(B) the middle part
(C) the edge
(D) the bottom

- ★ **5** If a hurricane or typhoon causes a lot of damage, it is _____ .
(A) violent
(B) calm
(C) slow
(D) strange



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..... Chapter **3** *Science Stories*

The word “science” can have different meanings to different people. If you say the word “science” to some people, they think of space. Other people might think of **biology**, while others may be reminded of the **environment**. Of course, to many people, science means **technology**. Science is all around us, in nearly every area we can think of. We see it when we go into hospitals (**medical** science). We see it in computers, mobile phones and televisions (technology). Science is **fascinating** but also usually difficult to understand. Let's take a look at the wonderful world of science stories.



Definitions:

1. **biology** (n) The science of life and all living things.
▶ When I go to university, I want to study biology.
2. **environment** (n) The world around us; nature.
▶ We should take better care of our environment.
3. **technology** (n) The use of science in practical ways, especially in business and industry.
▶ New technology can be hard to understand.
4. **medical** (adj) Related to illness and injury and their treatment.
▶ My grandmother has some kind of medical problem.
5. **fascinating** (adj) Very interesting.
▶ I'm reading a fascinating book these days.

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Unit

1

Space



The **universe** is full of **mystery** and excitement. Stories about planets, stars and **black holes** are always interesting to read. Powerful **telescopes** and **probes** help us learn more about other **distant** planets and stars. Probes travel for millions of kilometers and send pictures back to Earth. With this kind of information, we can understand more about our **solar system**. Stories about space are usually very difficult to read, but reporters try to make them as easy to understand as they can.



Definitions:

1. **universe** (n) Everything, everywhere - including space, the stars and planets.

▶ The universe is very big.

2. **mystery** (n) Something you can't understand or explain.

▶ There are many mysteries in the world.

3. **black holes** (n) Areas in space where there is no light.

▶ We still know very little about black holes.

4. **telescope** (n) A round tube with special glass inside that lets people see the stars and planets more easily.

▶ To look into space, you need a powerful telescope.

5. **probe** (n) A machine used to find out about things.

▶ The probe sent back pictures from Saturn.

6. **distant** (adj) Far away from other things.

▶ The Sun is very distant from Earth.

7. **solar system** (n) The sun and the planets that move around it.

▶ Earth is the third planet from the Sun in our solar system.



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Questions



- ★ **1** Which one is the biggest?
(A) Earth
(B) the universe
(C) a black hole
(D) the solar system

- ★ **2** What does “distant” mean?
(A) close
(B) space
(C) mystery
(D) far

- ★ **3** Something that travels millions of kilometers and sends back pictures is called a _____ .
(A) probe
(B) distant
(C) black hole
(D) space

- ★ **4** What is one thing that people use telescopes to look at?
(A) planets
(B) the ocean
(C) probes
(D) black holes

- ★ **5** Which statement is not true?
(A) Telescopes and probes help us understand the universe.
(B) A mystery is something that people don't understand.
(C) Reporters try to make space stories difficult to read.
(D) Probes can travel for millions of kilometers.

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Unit

2

Technology



Technology is all about using science in **practical** ways that people can use. Stories about technology sometimes report about **inventions**. Technology keeps changing and improving every year. Technology stories are often put in the business section of a newspaper because they are often **related** to business, especially if the technology is connected to computers. **High-tech** (also hi-tech) is a phrase used frequently to mean technology. Technology has brought the world many **advances**, such as **robotics** and other types of **automation**. Today, technology is involved in almost everything.



Definitions:

1. **practical** (adj) Useful; realistic; involving real things instead of just ideas.
 - ▶ He is a very practical person.
2. **invention** (n) Something made that has never been made before.
 - ▶ The TV was a great invention.
3. **related** (adj) Connected in some way; about.
 - ▶ This lesson is related to science.
4. **high-tech/hi-tech** (adj) Using very modern ways and equipment, especially with computers.
 - ▶ A company that makes computers is a high-tech company.
5. **advance** (n) Improvement; progress.
 - ▶ Science brings us many advances.
6. **robotics** (n) The science of making and using robots.
 - ▶ Robotics is used a lot in making cars.
7. **automation** (n) Using machines instead of people to do work.
 - ▶ Many factories use automation.



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Questions



- ★1 Technology uses science in what way?
(A) easy
(B) hard
(C) practical
(D) automation

- ★2 Which one is not an “invention”?
(A) the TV
(B) the computer
(C) the car
(D) A, B and C are all inventions.

- ★3 What does “related to” mean?
(A) about or connected to
(B) almost or not complete to
(C) high-tech or practical to
(D) every or complete to

- ★4 Which phrase is related to technology?
(A) take off
(B) related to
(C) hard to
(D) high-tech

- ★5 “Robotics” and “automation” are types of _____ .
(A) cars
(B) advances
(C) factories
(D) A and B

Notes

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Unit

3

The Environment



The world around us, known as the environment, is also a very interesting subject. Newspapers, television and radio often have stories about **global warming** and other problems that hurt the earth. **Pollution** is a big problem. **Emissions** from cars and other **vehicles** and from **factories** keep causing a lot of pollution. However, there is some good news. Many people **recycle** things such as plastic, newspaper, glass and cans. By recycling, people can help **reduce** the amount of garbage in the world.



Definitions:



1. **global warming** (n) An increase in the world's temperature because of some gases.

▶ Global warming is a big problem.

2. **pollution** (n) Making the air, water or land dirty and dangerous; things that cause the air, land or water to be dirty and dangerous.

▶ Too much pollution in the air can make you sick.

3. **emission** (n) Something (usually a gas) that is sent out into the air.

▶ Emissions from cars and buses cause a lot of pollution.

4. **vehicle** (n) A car, bus, truck or other machine that takes people from one place to another (especially on land).

▶ Cars, trucks and buses are different types of vehicles.

5. **factory** (n) A building where large amounts of things are made.

▶ That factory makes shoes.



6. **recycle** (v) To use something again.

▶ People should recycle as much as they can.

7. **reduce** (v) To lower; to make something less or smaller.

▶ We must try to reduce pollution.

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Questions



- ★1 What is the world around us called?
(A) global warming
(B) the environment
(C) emissions
(D) pollution

- ★2 When the world gets hotter because of pollution, it is called _____ .
(A) cooking
(B) emissions
(C) science
(D) global warming

- ★3 Cars, buses and trucks are kinds of _____ .
(A) pollution
(B) vehicles
(C) factories
(D) environment

- ★4 What is pollution from cars and factories called?
(A) emissions
(B) global warming
(C) recycling
(D) dirt

- ★5 What does “recycle” mean?
(A) throw away garbage
(B) pollution
(C) use something once
(D) use something again

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Unit

4

Medical Science



Because medical science is about helping people live better lives and finding **cures** and better **treatments** for illness and disease, it usually involves both biology and technology. Medical science stories are sometimes about an important **discovery**, which can be described as a **breakthrough** if the discovery is **revolutionary**. Medical **research** is done most often in a **laboratory** (or lab, for short). It can take many years for a doctor or a research scientist to come up with an important discovery or a new cure.



Definitions:

1. **cure** (n) A medicine or treatment that makes an illness go away.
 - ▶ Researchers are trying to find a cure for cancer.
2. **treatment** (n) Something that is done or given (often medicine) to help a sick person.
 - ▶ She is getting treatments for her illness.
3. **discovery** (n) Something that is new and has been found out through research.
 - ▶ A scientist who makes a big discovery may become famous.
4. **breakthrough** (n) An important discovery or advance.
 - ▶ When a breakthrough is made, many people can be helped.
5. **revolutionary** (adj) Completely different; bringing many changes.
 - ▶ He made a revolutionary discovery.
6. **research** (n) Information that has been learned from studying and finding out about something.
 - ▶ A lot of research must be done before a breakthrough is made.
7. **laboratory** (n., lab for short) A room or building used for tests, usually by scientists.
 - ▶ The scientist is busy in the laboratory.



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Questions



- ★1 Medical science involves finding _____ .
(A) better cures and treatments
(B) poor diseases and illnesses
(C) more research and problems
(D) better scientists and laboratories

- ★2 What is a cure?
(A) something that causes an illness
(B) something that makes an illness go away
(C) something that know one knows
(D) something that causes a problem

- ★3 What can an important discovery be called?
(A) a break
(B) a breakthrough
(C) a breakout
(D) a breaker

- ★4 What does “revolutionary” mean?
(A) a little change
(B) no change
(C) something different
(D) a big change

- ★5 Where is medical research usually done?
(A) in the home
(B) at the office
(C) in a laboratory
(D) outside

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Unit

5

Human Life



Stories about human life and other types of life (plant, animal, etc.) are about **biology**. Biology, like space, can be very difficult to understand and very **scientific**. When a biology story includes a lot of technology, it is usually called **biotechnology** (or biotech, for short). Much of what we know about human life is because of our knowledge of **genes**. Because we know so much about genes and **DNA**, we can do many **experiments** involving life. One type of experiment is called **cloning**, which means making an exact copy of another living thing.



Definitions:

1. **biology** (n) The science of all life.
▶ Biology is the study of life.
2. **scientific** (adj) Related to science.
▶ I can't understand this newspaper story; it's too scientific.
3. **biotechnology** (n) The science that uses both biology and technology.
▶ Biotechnology is a word made from biology and technology.
4. **genes** (n) The parts of your body that control how you look and grow.
▶ A person has many genes in his body.
5. **DNA** (n) The material that makes our genes.
▶ We understand a lot about DNA.
6. **experiment** (n) A scientific test.
▶ Scientists do many experiments.
7. **cloning** (n) Making an exact copy of another animal or plant.
▶ Do you think cloning is a good thing?



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Questions



- ★ **1** What are stories about life called?
(A) people stories
(B) animal stories
(C) biology stories
(D) scientific stories

- ★ **2** Biotechnology stories are about _____.
(A) biology and space
(B) the environment and science
(C) space and technology
(D) biology and technology

- ★ **3** What we know about human life comes from _____.
(A) DNA and genes
(B) genes and space
(C) ctechnology and cloning
(D) cloning and experiments

- ★ **4** What is making an exact copy of a living thing called?
(A) genes
(B) DNA
(C) cloning
(D) biology

- ★ **5** Which statement is not true?
(A) Biology stories are often very scientific.
(B) Biology stories are only about human life.
(C) Biotech is short for biotechnology
(D) Cloning is an experiment with some type of life.