

Book

3

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 will be better able to understand the stories you see in the media. Happy reading!

*Yours truly,
Brian Foden*

NEWS FOR TODAY

..... Chapter **1** *Business Stories*

Imagine a world without money. It's pretty hard to do, isn't it? Stories about money, or how money is made, are business stories. Basically, anything to do with the **financial** world is a business story. Business stories often talk about the **economy** and how well the economy is doing. Many things **influence** the economy; for example, how many people are working or how much money people are spending. Business stories can be difficult to read because they sometimes use special words, words that have a specific meaning in the business world. After reading this chapter, you will have a better understanding of the world of business and business stories.



A composite image featuring a business meeting scene on the left and a close-up of a fountain pen on the right, set against a background of a network diagram and faint text.

Definitions:

1. **financial** (adj) About money.

▶ After Ben lost his job, he had many financial problems.

2. **economy** (n) All business activities of a country, city or larger area.

▶ Because of the poor economy, many businesses are not making much money.

3. **influence** (v) Have an effect on something; change the way something happens.

▶ Jane's father tried to influence her decision about who to marry.



NEWS FOR TODAY

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Unit

1

Advertising

ธงชาติ: เดนมาร์ก, เยอรมนี, สวีเดน, นอร์เวย์, เดนมาร์ก

The World Men's Collection

1 SUIT	} 149 {	1 SUIT
3 SHIRTS		1 DRESS
2 PANTS		1 BLOUSE
2 TIES		1 SCARF
		US \$

Advertising is the way companies **promote** their **products**. Businesses pay large amounts of money to get their **advertisements** in newspapers, on television and on the radio. An **ad** that is heard on the radio or seen on TV is called a **commercial**. A company aims to sell a product to a certain group of people; this is called the company's **target market**. People who buy products are called **consumers**. Consumers who buy products from a store are the **customers** of that store.



Definitions:

1. **promote** (v) To do something to increase the sales of a product.
▶ That company is trying to promote its new product.



2. **product** (n) Something that is made and sold.
▶ A department store sells many different products.

3. **advertisement/ad** (n) An announcement in a newspaper, in a magazine, on TV or on the radio that tells about a product.
▶ There are too many ads on television.



4. **commercial** (n) An ad on TV or radio.
▶ I've never seen that commercial before.

5. **target market** (n) The group of people whom a company most wants to sell a product to.
▶ The target market for that product is people who are 18 to 35 years old.

6. **consumer** (n) A person who buys things.
▶ Consumers hate to be cheated.



7. **customer** (n) A person who buys something from a particular store or company.
▶ Stores should try to make their customers happy.

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Questions



- ★1 How do companies promote their products?
(A) by selling
(B) by buying
(C) through consumers
(D) by advertising

- ★2 What is an ad on the radio or TV called?
(A) a customer
(B) a promote
(C) a commercial
(D) a consumer

- ★3 What is a “target market”?
(A) people whom a company most wants to sell a product to
(B) people who are consumers
(C) any customer
(D) any consumer

- ★4 Which statement is true?
(A) Ad is short for advertisement.
(B) A commercial is an ad in a newspaper.
(C) Businesses only pay a small amount of money on advertising.
(D) There are only a few consumers in the world.

- ★5 Which statement is not true?
(A) Advertising is the way companies promote their products.
(B) The people whom a company wants to sell a product to are the company’s target market.
(C) A commercial is seen or heard, not read.
(D) People who buy products from a store are called the consumers of that store, not customers.



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2

Jobs



When people have jobs, they are said to be **employed**. When people don't have jobs, they are said to be unemployed. When you read about the **unemployment rate**, you are reading about people who are unemployed. An unemployment rate of 5 percent means that 5 percent of the total **workforce** are not working. Stories about jobs can also be about **strikes**. Strikes are when **employees** stop working because they are angry about their **wages**. There are also stories about people getting **laid-off**.



Definitions:

1. **employed** (adj) Working; have a job.
▶ John is employed by a big company.
2. **unemployment rate** (n) The amount of people not working.
▶ A high unemployment rate means many people are not working.
3. **workforce** (n) The total number of people working or able to work in a country, company or other area.
▶ A country's workforce is all the people who can work.
4. **strike** (n) When workers stop working because they want more money or other improvements in their jobs.
▶ The workers at that company are on strike.
5. **employee** (n) A worker; a person who works for a company.
▶ How many employees does your company have?
6. **wages** (n) Money paid to employees for working.
▶ His wages are very low, so he wants to get another job.
7. **laid-off** (adj) When people become unemployed because a company can not or does not want to keep them employed.
▶ He doesn't have much money because he got laid-off from his job.



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- ★1 When people have jobs, they are _____.
(A) employed
(B) laid-off
(C) on strike
(D) unemployed
- ★2 What is the name for the amount of people not working?
(A) the working rate
(B) the wages rate
(C) the unemployment rate
(D) the strike rate
- ★3 The total number of people in a country who can work is called the _____.
(A) employees
(B) workers
(C) workforce
(D) unemployment rate
- ★4 What is a “strike”?
(A) when workers get laid-off
(B) when workers stop working because they are angry about wages or another part of their job.
(C) when workers work more
(D) when workers are employed
- ★5 Which statement is not true?
(A) People who don't have jobs are unemployed.
(B) If a person gets laid-off, it means he or she doesn't have a job anymore.
(C) Wages are the money people get paid to work.
(D) An employee is someone who is unemployed.



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Unit

3

Big Business



Stories about very large, successful companies are stories about big business. Many of these types of businesses are **multinational companies**, or **corporations**, and they have offices around the world. The place where their main office is located is called their **headquarters**. Smaller offices located in other places are often called **branch offices**. Branch offices are part of the same company, just as branches are part of the same tree. **Small business** is the name used to talk about smaller companies. The money that companies make is called **profit**. If a company loses money, it is called a **loss**.



Definitions:

1. **multinational company** (n) A company that has offices in many countries.

▶ A multinational company has many employees.

2. **corporation** (n) A large business or company.

▶ A corporation is a large company.

3. **headquarters** (n) The main office of a company or organization.

▶ They moved their headquarters to Paris, France.



4. **branch office** (n) An office that is part of a larger company.

▶ The corporation has 15 branch offices, including one in Spain.

5. **small business** (n) Small companies.

▶ In today's modern world, small business is struggling.

6. **profit** (n) Money made by a company.

▶ The company made \$300 million in profits last year.



7. **loss** (n) Money lost by a company.

▶ That company had a loss of \$200,000 last year.

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Questions



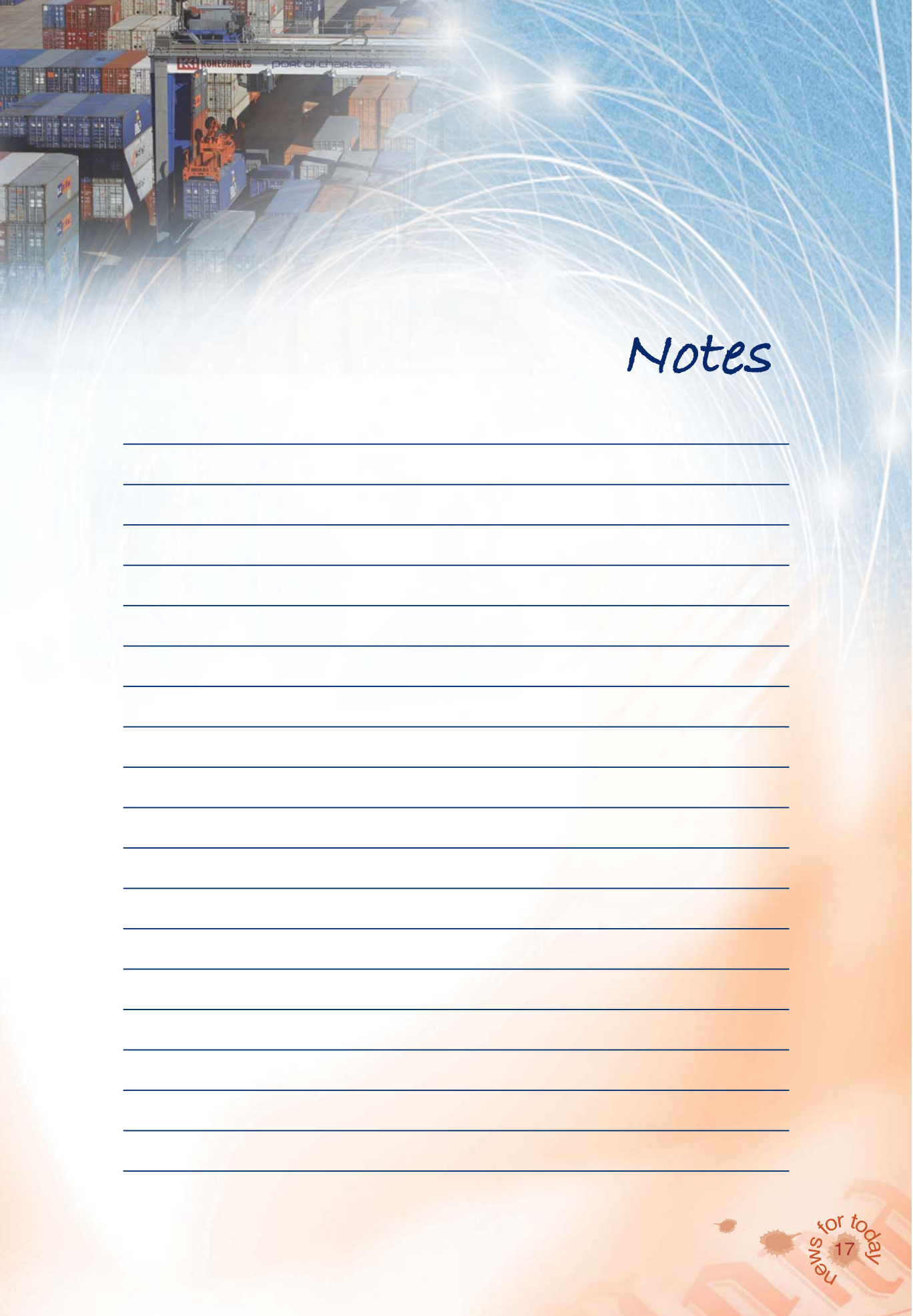
- ★1 “Big Business” means _____.
(A) small companies
(B) companies that make a profit
(C) large, successful companies
(D) every company

- ★2 What is a large company with many offices around the world called?
(A) multinational
(B) branch office
(C) headquarters
(D) small business

- ★3 What is the name of the place where the main office of a company is located?
(A) corporation
(B) branch office
(C) big office
(D) headquarters

- ★4 Which statement is true?
(A) A small business is the same as a branch office.
(B) A corporation is a large company.
(C) A profit is when someone loses money.
(D) A small office is sometimes called a tree office.

- ★5 What is a “loss”?
(A) when a company loses money
(B) when a company can't find something
(C) it is the same as a profit
(D) when a company makes money



Notes

Handwriting practice area consisting of 18 horizontal blue lines on a white background.

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Unit

4

The Economy

All businesses, business activity and business **transactions** are part of the economy. The economy **consists of** many different parts or **sectors**. One of these sectors is **manufacturing**. Manufacturing companies manufacture products. Another sector is the **service** sector. The service sector consists of businesses such as restaurants and hotels. A big part of the service sector is **tourism**. When **tourists** spend money, they help the economy.



Definitions:

1. **transaction** (n) A part of business, such as buying or selling.

▶ When someone buys something, it is called a sales transaction.

2. **consists of** (v) Has inside it; is made of.

▶ The company consists of a headquarters and five branch offices.

3. **sector** (n) A part or a section of a city or the economy, etc.

▶ The service sector is very important to the economy.

4. **manufacturing** (n) The activity of making products, usually in large amounts, using machines.

▶ There are many different types of manufacturing companies.



5. **service** (n) Doing something directly for a customer, does not involve making products.

▶ The person who cuts your hair is providing you with a service.



6. **tourism** (n) The business of providing services to people who are visiting a country, for example: hotels, restaurants and travel agents.

▶ Hotels and restaurants all make money from tourism.

7. **tourist** (n) A person visiting another city or country for fun.

▶ A tourist can easily get lost in another country.

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Questions



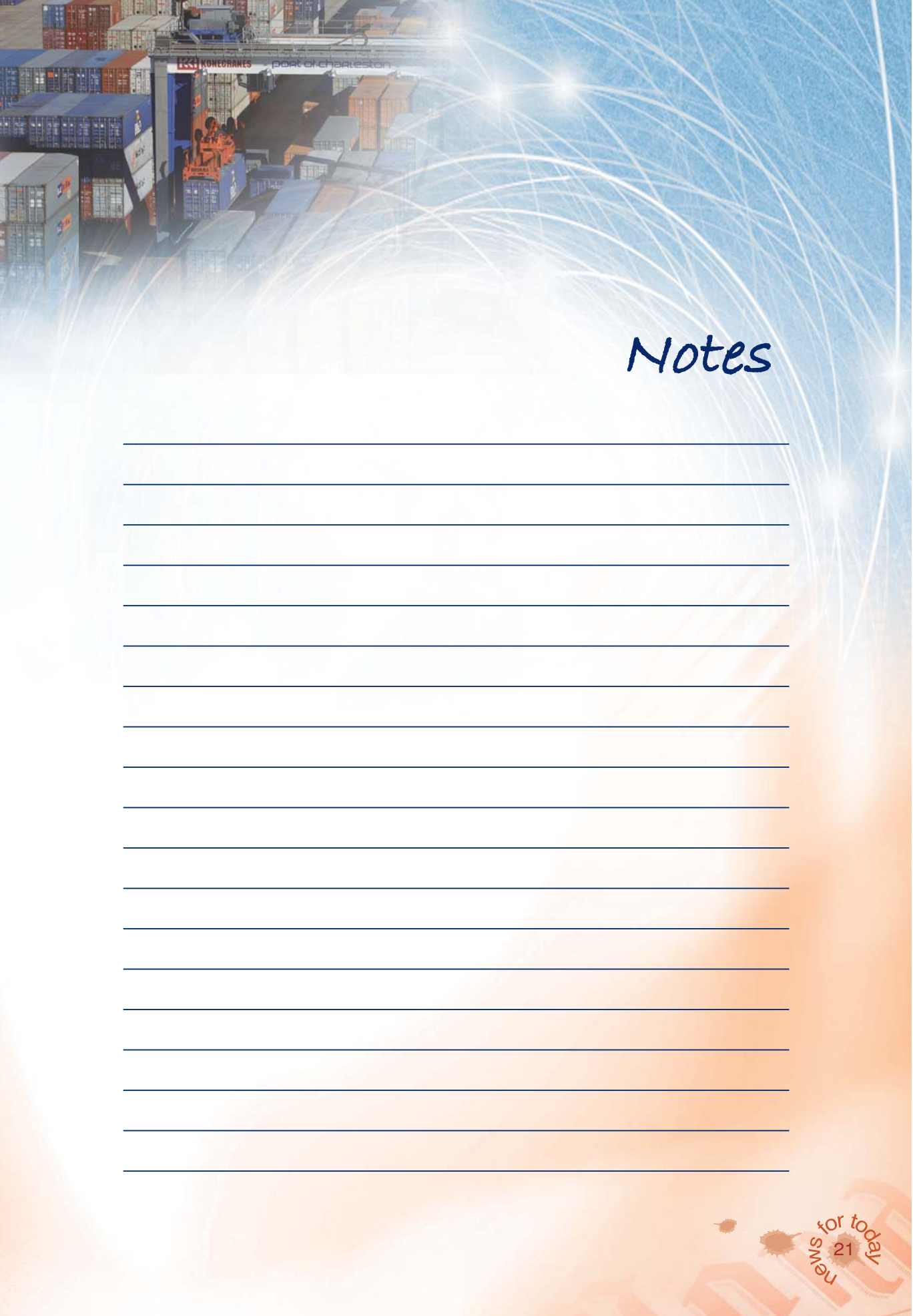
- ★1 One kind of business activity is called _____ .
(A) an economy
(B) a transaction
(C) a sector
(D) a tourist

- ★2 What does the economy consist of?
(A) tourists
(B) services
(C) manufacturing
(D) sectors

- ★3 Which sector makes things?
(A) service
(B) tourism
(C) manufacturing
(D) transaction

- ★4 What does “manufacture” mean?
(A) to make money
(B) to make a product
(C) to give a service
(D) to help tourists

- ★5 What is a “tourist”?
(A) someone who visits from another place
(B) someone who spends money
(C) someone who makes something
(D) someone who has a store



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5

Trade



Trading between countries is done through **imports** and **exports**. Importing is when a company in one country *buys* products or **raw materials** from a company in another country. Exporting is when a company in one country *sells* its products to a company in another country. Often governments put taxes, or **tariffs**, on products that are imported from other countries. The tariffs **assist** businesses in a country by making products from other countries more expensive. Sometimes, countries sign **free trade agreements** to take away those tariffs. Free trade makes buying items cheaper for consumers, but it sometimes hurts **domestic** businesses.



Definitions:

1. **import** (n) A product that comes into a country from another country.

▶ An import is a product that comes from another country.



2. **export** (n) A product that is sold to another country.

▶ Coffee is an important export for some countries.

3. **raw material** (n) An item, such as wood in its natural state, which will later be used to make something else.

▶ The manufacturing sector uses many raw materials.

4. **tariff** (n) A tax on imports.

▶ Tariffs make imports more expensive.



5. **assist** (v) To help.

▶ The government is trying to assist farmers by putting tariffs on some imports.

6. **free trade agreement** (n) An agreement to lower or get rid of tariffs between countries.

▶ A free trade agreement takes away tariffs.

7. **domestic** (adj) From or in your own country; not international.

▶ A business in your country is a domestic business.

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Questions



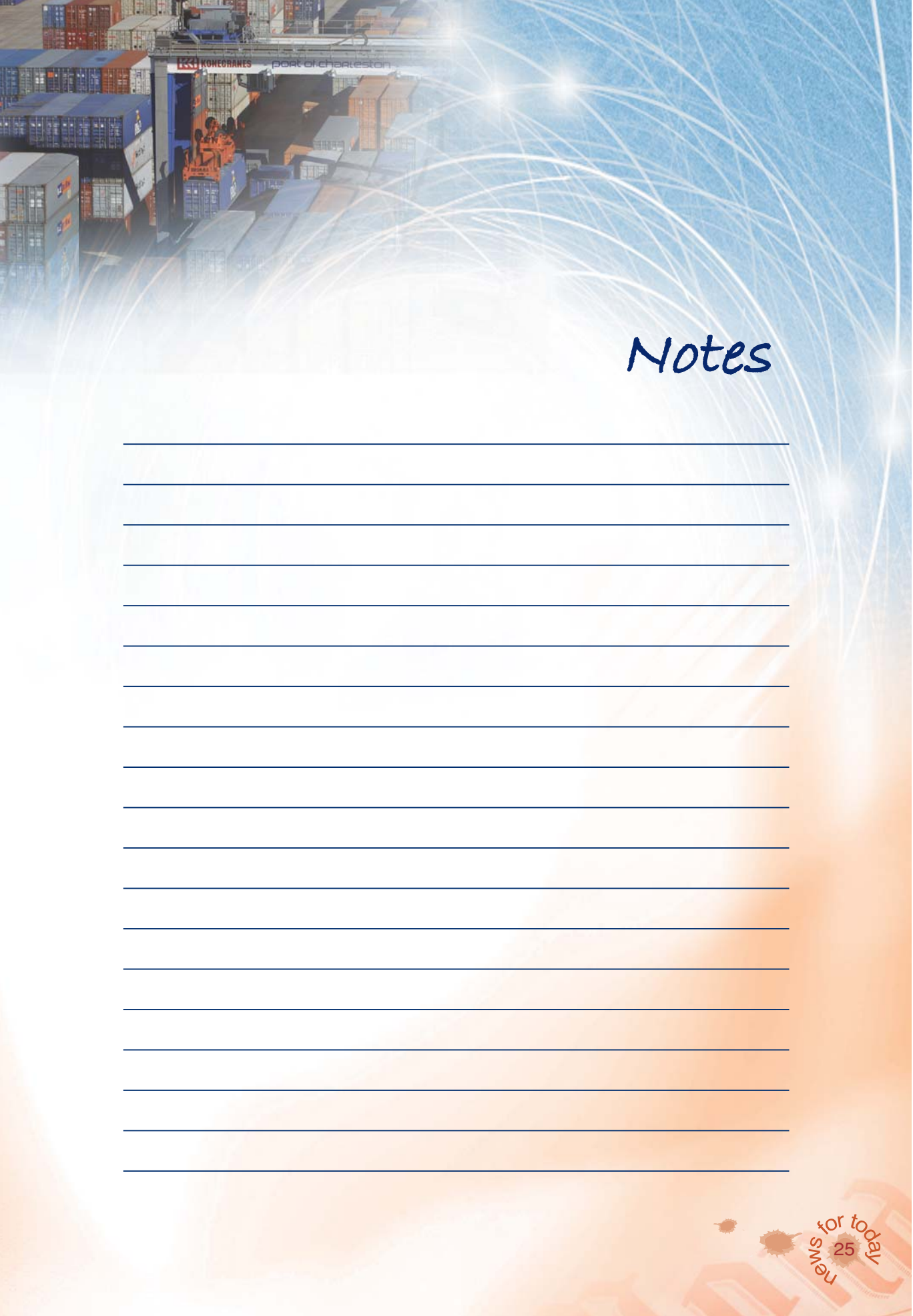
- ★1 How is trading between two countries done?
(A) raw materials
(B) importing
(C) exporting
(D) importing and exporting

- ★2 What is a “tariff”?
(A) a tax
(B) an import
(C) an export
(D) a country

- ★3 What does “assist” mean?
(A) to hurt
(B) to do business
(C) to help
(D) to make money

- ★4 Which kind of agreement takes away tariffs?
(A) a protect agreement
(B) a free trade agreement
(C) an export agreement
(D) a domestic agreement

- ★5 What does “domestic” mean?
(A) something from another country
(B) something that is imported
(C) something that is exported
(D) something from or in your own country



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Chapter

..... Chapter **2** *Political Stories*

Politics **affect** everyone. Stories about governments, or people in **government**, are **political** stories. Stories about government decisions or problems are also political stories. Political stories are important because government decisions affect people's lives. In this chapter, we will look at some specific vocabulary used in political stories, including **budgets** and **elections**. Sometimes a political story involves some kind of **scandal** that the government wants to **cover up**. Stories about scandals are interesting because they usually involve **hypocrisy**.



Definitions:

1. **affect** (v) To make something change in some way.
▶ I hope this problem won't affect our friendship.
2. **government** (n) The people who rule a country, city or other area.
▶ Do you think the government is doing a good job?
3. **political** (adj) Anything connected to governments or the ruling of a country or city.
▶ Some countries have a lot of political problems.
4. **budget** (n) A plan of how to spend money over a period of time.
▶ The government's budget included plans to spend \$4 billion next year.
5. **election** (n) When people vote to choose a president or another type of leader.
▶ The election to choose the next mayor will be held in December.
6. **scandal** (n) Something bad that shocks and makes people angry.
▶ Everyone wanted to read about the scandal involving the president.
7. **cover up** (v) To try to hide the truth about something.
▶ The government tried to cover up its mistakes, but reporters found out the truth.
8. **hypocrisy** (n) Saying one thing and then doing another; pretending to have qualities you do not really have.
▶ I really hate all the hypocrisy in the world.





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Unit

1



National Government

A national government controls a whole country. The person in charge of the country is usually called a president or a **prime minister**. Sometimes, a country has both a president and a prime minister. National governments are usually **divided** into **departments** or **ministries**. The person in charge of a department or ministry is called a **secretary** or **minister**. A secretary in government is different than a business secretary. The secretary in charge of health is called a health secretary in some countries and a health minister in others. National governments make big decisions about things such as health, education, taxes and other important **matters**.



Definitions:

1. **prime minister** (n) The leader of the government in some countries.

▶ Canada and England have prime ministers.



2. **divide** (v) To put something into smaller parts.

▶ The United States is divided into 50 states.



3. **department** (n) A section of a government or other organization.

▶ Schools are part of the Education Department.

4. **ministry** (n) In some countries, the name for a government department.

▶ A ministry is like a government department.

5. **secretary** (n) The head of a government department in some countries.

▶ The Secretary of Defense is an important person.

6. **minister** (n) The leader of a government ministry in some countries.

▶ A minister is a person who is the head of a government or ministry.



7. **matter** (n) An event or situation.

▶ Let's talk about that matter later.

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Questions



- ★1 What is the government that controls a country called?
(A) the national government
(B) the natural government
(C) the local government
(D) the country government

- ★2 Governments are usually divided into _____ .
(A) countries or provinces
(B) secretaries and ministers
(C) presidents and prime ministers
(D) ministries or departments

- ★3 What is the name of the person in charge of a government department or ministry?
(A) the president or prime minister
(B) the king or queen
(C) the secretary or minister
(D) the health minister

- ★4 Which statement is true?
(A) A country can't have a president and a prime minister.
(B) A department or ministry is part of the government.
(C) The minister in charge of health is called the defense minister.
(D) National governments don't make important decisions.

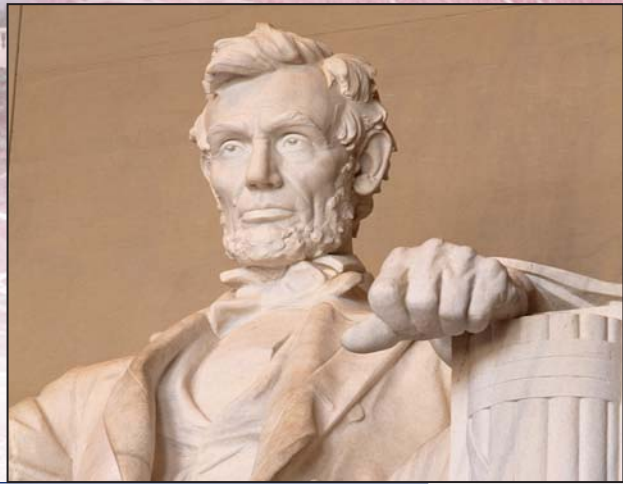
- ★5 Which statement is not true?
(A) A prime minister is the head of a country.
(B) Some countries have both a president and a prime minister.
(C) Local governments control a country.
(D) Health, taxes and education are important matters.

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Unit

2

Local Government



A local government controls a city or area. The **head** of a city is usually called the **mayor**. The mayor and **aldermen** are part of the **city council**. They are **in charge** of the city. The city council makes decisions about things such as local taxes, garbage collection and **providing** water to homes. Local governments can also be called **municipal** governments. The taxes they charge are called municipal taxes, and the services they provide are called municipal services.



Definitions:

1. **head** (n) A person who is a leader or in charge of something.

- ▶ The president of the United States is the head of the United States.

2. **mayor** (n) The leader of a city or town.

- ▶ The mayor is an important person.



3. **alderman** (n) A member of the city council; also called a councillor.

- ▶ An alderman is someone on the city council who is not the mayor.

4. **city council** (n) A group of people in charge of a city.

- ▶ There are seven people on the city council.



5. **in charge** (phrase) To be the leader or boss of something.

- ▶ Mr. Brown is in charge of this company.

6. **provide** (v) To supply.

- ▶ Local governments provide many services.

7. **municipal** (adj) Anything connected to local government.

- ▶ The municipal taxes are high in this city.



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Questions



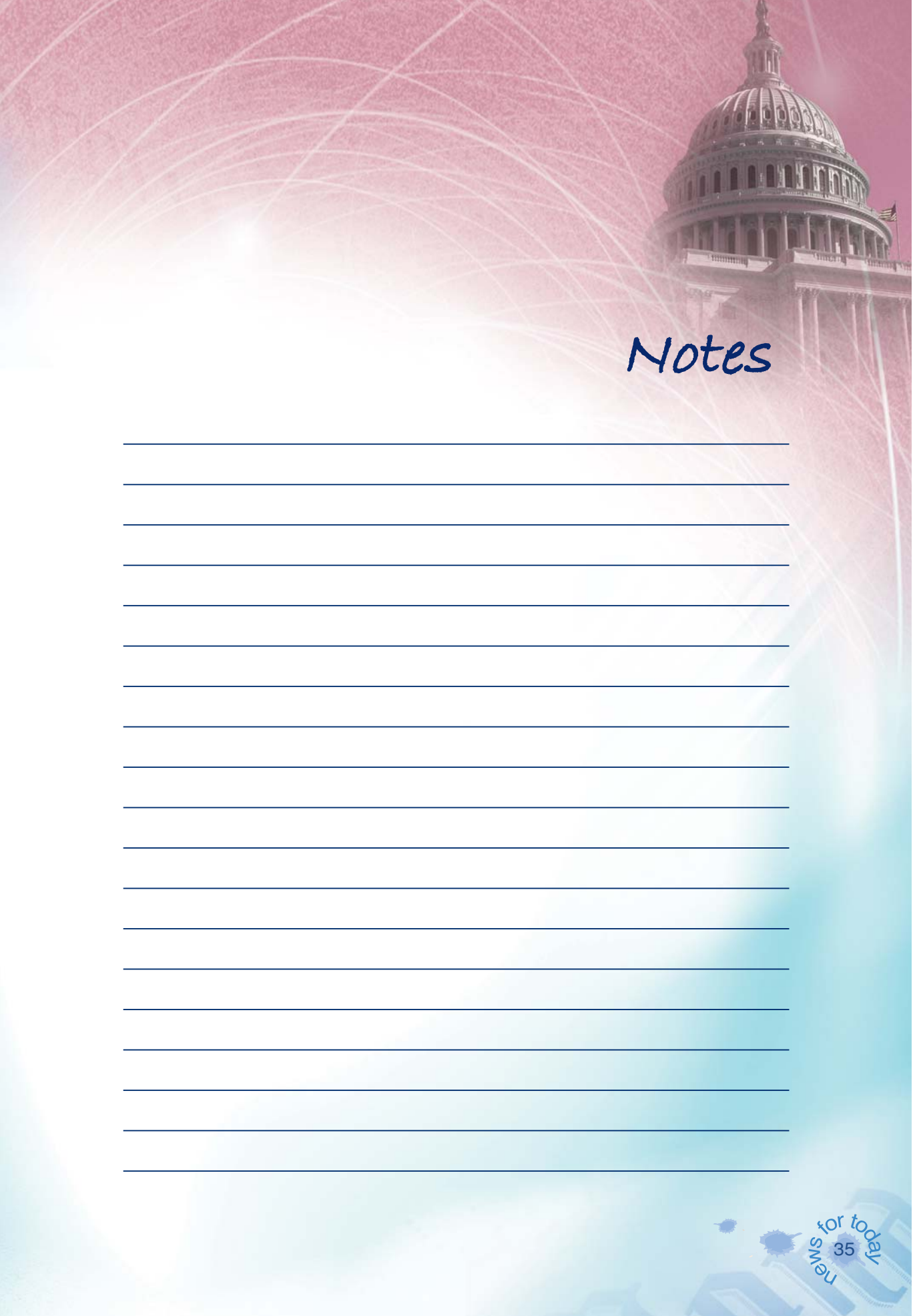
- ★1 What is the “head” of a city called?
(A) the councillor
(B) the alderman
(C) the mayor
(D) the policeman

- ★2 Who is not a part of city council?
(A) the mayor
(B) an aldermen
(C) a councillor
(D) a municipal

- ★3 What does “provide” mean?
(A) supply
(B) take
(C) leave
(D) money

- ★4 What kind of taxes do local governments charge?
(A) council
(B) municipal
(C) aldermen
(D) mayor

- ★5 Which statement is true?
(A) A mayor is not part of city council.
(B) A mayor is the same as a councillor.
(C) Local governments are municipal governments.
(D) Another name for councillor is mayor.



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Unit

3

Elections



In **democratic countries**, national elections are usually held every four or five years. The people who try to get **elected** are called **candidates**. Generally, the candidate who gets the most **votes** wins. If the election is very close, then the number of votes may be counted again. A national election is held to elect presidents or prime ministers. **Civic** elections are held to elect mayors and other city officials. **Voters** use **ballots** to write down their votes.



Definitions:

1. **democratic country** (n) A country where elections are held to choose leaders.

▶ Countries such as Canada and the United States are democratic.



2. **elect** (v) To choose a leader.

▶ He was elected president.

3. **candidate** (n) A person who wants to be elected or chosen for something.

▶ There are five candidates for prime minister.



4. **vote** (n) In an election, a vote is the choice for which candidate a person wants.

▶ The election was close, so the votes were counted again.

5. **civic** (adj) Related to a city or town; municipal.

▶ National elections are larger than civic elections.

6. **voter** (n) A person who votes.

▶ Voters decide who gets elected.

7. **ballot** (n) In an election, the piece of paper used by a person to vote.

▶ The candidates' names are on the ballot.

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- ★1 Countries that hold elections are called _____ .
(A) civic
(B) national
(C) democratic
(D) voting

- ★2 How often are national elections usually held?
(A) every one or two years
(B) every two or three years
(C) every four or five years
(D) every six or seven years

- ★3 What are people who try to get elected called?
(A) presidents
(B) prime Ministers
(C) voters
(D) candidates

- ★4 What are elections for mayors and city officials called?
(A) civic elections
(B) national elections
(C) democratic elections
(D) ballot elections

- ★5 Which statement is not true?
(A) Voters write on ballots.
(B) A voter is a person who votes.
(C) A civic election is held to elect presidents or prime ministers.
(D) If an election is close, votes may be counted again.

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Unit

4

Budgets

Governments spend a lot of money. Every year, they prepare large budgets. Budgets give **specifics** about **expenditures**; in other words, information about where money will be spent. Also, budgets talk about the money that the government will receive, which is called **revenue**. Revenue can come from many things, but it mostly comes from **taxes**. Before the final budget is **approved**, an early or **preliminary** budget is made. If a government spends less money on something than it did before, it is called a **cutback**.



1. **specifics** (n) Details of a certain topic; specific information.

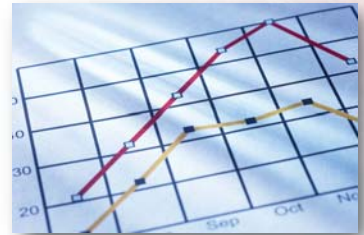
▶ He gave many specifics about his new job.

2. **expenditure** (n) An amount of money that is spent.

▶ Buying a house is a big expenditure.

3. **revenue** (n) Money that a government, company or person earns.

▶ The company earned a lot of revenue last year.



4. **tax** (n) Money that people must pay to the government.

▶ She forgot to pay her taxes.

5. **approve** (v) To agree to something.

▶ Because there were many problems, the plan was not approved.

6. **preliminary** (adj) Something that is done first, before another thing that is more important.

▶ This report is not the final one, it is just a preliminary report.

7. **cutback** (n) A reduction of something; spending less money.

▶ The cutback means less money for some programs.



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Questions



- ★1 What is an expenditure?
(A) money that is spent
(B) money that is saved
(C) any kind of money
(D) money that is lost

- ★2 "Specifics" are _____.
(A) budgets
(B) taxes
(C) information
(D) money

- ★3 Money that people pay to the government is called _____.
(A) cutback
(B) expenditure
(C) preliminary
(D) taxes

- ★4 What is a budget that is not finished called?
(A) preliminary
(B) final
(C) approved
(D) complete

- ★5 Which statement is true?
(A) A cutback is the same as an expenditure.
(B) Approve is similar to saying yes or agreeing to something.
(C) Preliminary is the same as finished.
(D) Revenue means spending money.

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5

Scandals

Scandals often involve **bribes**, which are illegal **payments**. People sometimes give bribes so that they can **benefit** from a government decision. For example, a businessman might pay a politician so that the government will give the businessman some money for a project. One type of bribe is called a **kickback**. A kickback is when some of the money paid by the government to the businessman goes back to the politician. We call politicians who do these illegal things **corrupt**. Other scandals are based on **rumors**: things said about people, but not proven. Talking about rumors is called **gossip**.



Definitions:

1. **bribe** (n) Money, or something else, given to someone so that they will do something for the person who gives the bribe.

▶ Paying a bribe to a politician or policeman is illegal.

2. **payment** (n) An amount of money paid.

▶ The man made several payments on his house.

3. **benefit** (v) To help or improve something.

▶ Eating fruits and vegetables can benefit your health.



4. **kickback** (n) Like a bribe; money illegally given to someone.

▶ The politician went to jail because he took a kickback.

5. **corrupt** (adj) Doing illegal or dishonest things; crooked.

▶ You cannot trust a corrupt politician.

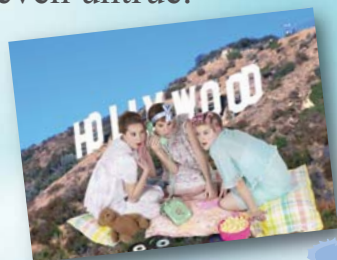
6. **rumor** (n) Something that many people are talking about, but may or may not be true.

▶ That is just a rumor; it might not be true.



7. **gossip** (v) To talk about other people's lives, often about things that are unkind or even untrue.

▶ Many people like to gossip about movie stars.



NEWS FOR TODAY



Questions



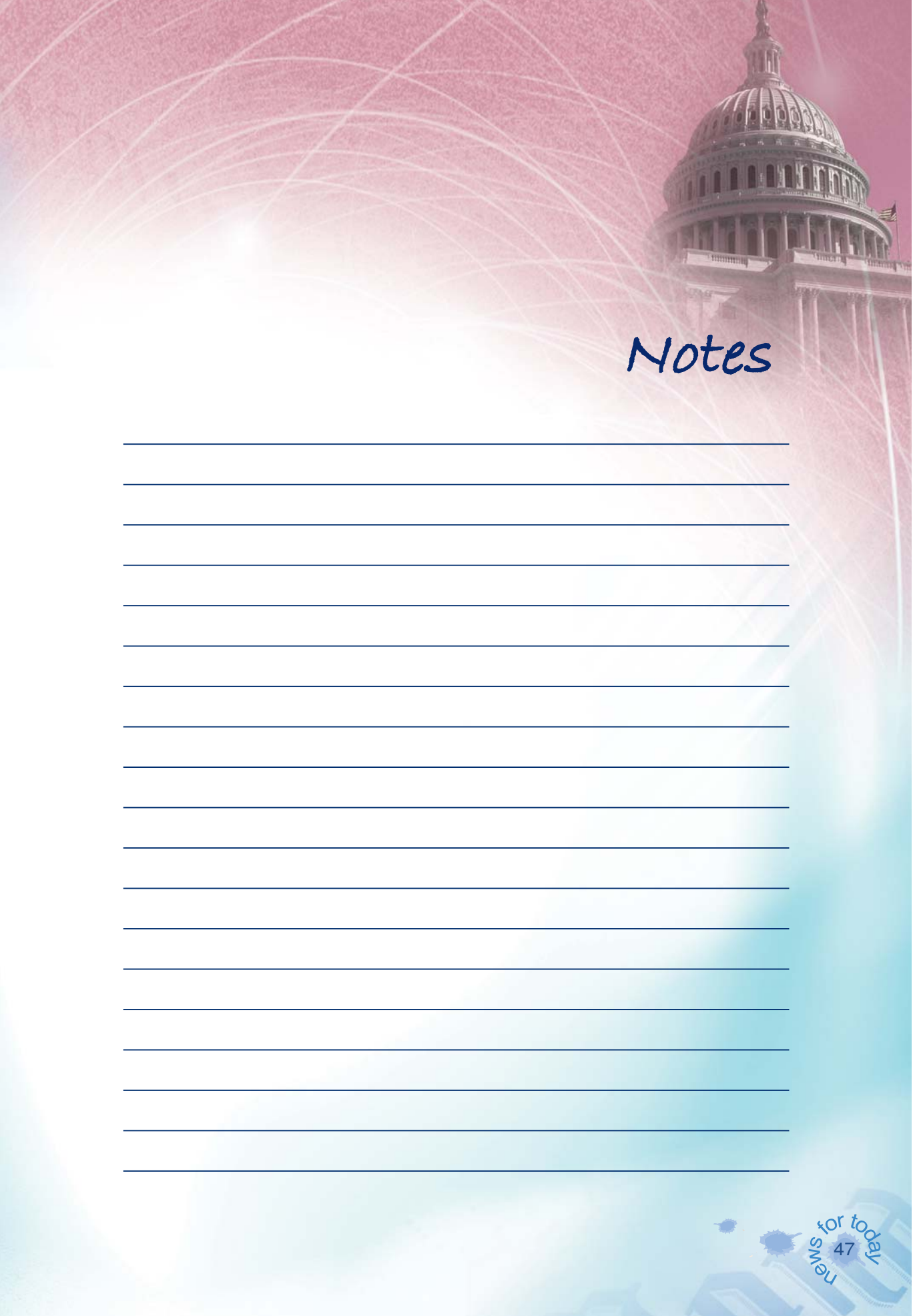
- ★1 Money that is paid illegally to someone is called _____ .
(A) a payment
(B) a bribe
(C) a rumor
(D) a gossip

- ★2 What is a “benefit”?
(A) something that helps someone
(B) something that hurts someone
(C) something that is not proven
(D) something that is a rumor

- ★3 Which one is a kind of bribe?
(A) gossip
(B) scandal
(C) kickback
(D) rumor

- ★4 If something is a rumor it is _____ .
(A) true
(B) not true
(C) proven
(D) not proven

- ★5 If people gossip, what do they do?
(A) They talk about things that must be true.
(B) They talk about rumors.
(C) They talk about the government.
(D) They talk about money.



Notes



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..... Chapter **3** *Other Stories*

In this chapter, you'll find five other types of stories that are common in the media **these days**. One type of story is about people who try to cause fear and **panic**. Another type of story is about war and the people who fight in war. Other stories included in this chapter are about schools, **farming** and the weather. Right now, you might not know what these kinds of stories are called; however, after reading this chapter you should be able to name them easily.





Definitions:

1. **these days** (phrase) Recently; about now.
 - ▶ I have been reading a lot of books these days.
2. **panic** (n) A strong feeling of fear that makes you unable to think clearly.
 - ▶ There was a lot of panic when the big earthquake occurred.
3. **farming** (n) Working on the land, growing food, and/or raising animals.
 - ▶ Farming is an important part of the economy.





NEWS FOR TODAY

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Unit 1

Terrorism



Unfortunately, stories of **terrorism** have become more common than before. Stories of terrorism are about people who use **violence** to scare **the public**. These people are called **terrorists**. The violence is often created with weapons such as guns or bombs, or even by **hijacking** a plane. Terrorists often make **demands**: things that they want before they will stop doing the terrorism. Most governments refuse to give the terrorists what they want. They believe that giving the terrorists what they want will only **encourage** them to do more terrorism.



Definitions:

1. **terrorism** (n) Using violence, making threats, and killing people, usually for a political reason.

▶ There is too much terrorism in the world.

2. **violence** (n) Actions that hurt or kill.

▶ Children shouldn't watch too much violence on television.



3. **the public** (n) People.

▶ The public is very worried about terrorism.

4. **terrorist** (n) A person who uses violence to scare the public.

▶ The terrorists said they will kill many people.

5. **hijack** (v) When a plane or other vehicle is taken over by force.

▶ Hijacking a plane is one kind of terrorism.



6. **demand** (n) Something that one person or group says must be done.

▶ The terrorists gave the government many demands.

7. **encourage** (v) Saying or doing something to help someone do better.

▶ The father encouraged his daughter to study hard.

NEWS FOR TODAY

Questions



★1

Which is an example of terrorism?

- (A) someone who robs a bank
- (B) someone who kills his wife
- (C) someone who scares the public
- (D) someone who steals a car

★2

What word is similar to “violence”?

- (A) scare
- (B) hurt
- (C) steal
- (D) encourage

★3

Another term for people is _____.

- (A) a terrorist
- (B) the government
- (C) a demand
- (D) the public

★4

You know what terrorism and a terrorist are. What do you think “terror” is?

- (A) happiness
- (B) encouragement
- (C) news
- (D) fear

★5

Which statement is not true?

- (A) Terrorists use violence to scare the public.
- (B) Hijack means to take a vehicle by force.
- (C) Encourage means to stop someone.
- (D) A demand is something somebody wants.



NEWS FOR TODAY

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Unit 2

Military



When people talk about the **military**, they mean anything that has to do with the army, navy or air force. Stories about war are military stories. Military stories often use special vocabulary. For example, when a country **deploys** its **troops**, it means the soldiers are sent somewhere to get ready to fight. During war, a fight is called a **battle**. Armies use **tactics**, or special plans, to try to beat the enemy. The place closest to the enemy is called the **front line**. When an army is losing a battle, they might **retreat**.



Definitions:

1. **military** (n) The army, navy, air force and soldiers of a country.

- ▶ There are many soldiers in the military.



2. **deploy** (v) To put soldiers and weapons in a place where they can be used to fight.

- ▶ They deployed more soldiers to the front line.

3. **troops** (n) Soldiers.

- ▶ The troops are very tired because of the fighting.

4. **battle** (n) A fight between groups of people.

- ▶ That battle lasted for two days.



5. **tactic** (n) Special plans that you use to try to win or get something.

- ▶ The army that uses the best tactics will win.

6. **front line** (n) The front part of a battle where enemies are closest to each other and fight each other.

- ▶ It is very dangerous near the front line.

7. **retreat** (v) To go back, to run away.

- ▶ The soldiers had to retreat 10 kilometers.

NEWS FOR TODAY

Questions



★1

What is the military?

- (A) the army
- (B) the air force
- (C) the army, navy and air force
- (D) the army and air force

★2

What word is closest to “deploy”?

- (A) kill
- (B) fight
- (C) military
- (D) send

★3

Special plans that someone uses to try to win are called _____.

- (A) tactics
- (B) retreat
- (C) battle
- (D) deploy

★4

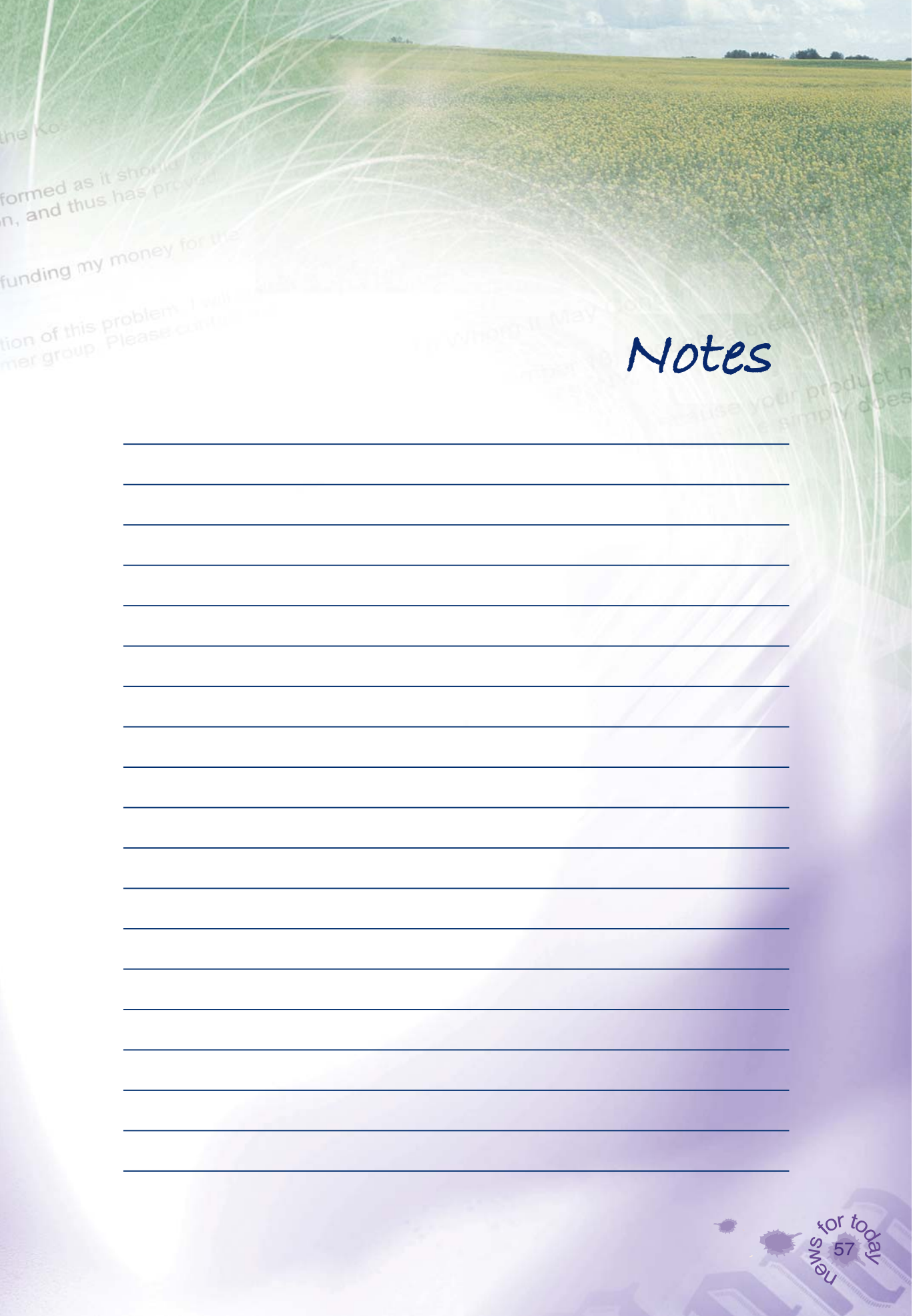
What does it mean to retreat from the front line?

- (A) go towards the enemy
- (B) fight the enemy
- (C) run away from the enemy
- (D) stay where you are

★5

Which statement is not true?

- (A) “Troops” is another name for “soldiers.”
- (B) A battle is a kind of fight.
- (C) The front line is closest to the enemy.
- (D) Deploy is the same as retreat.



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NEWS FOR TODAY

..... Unit **3**

Education



Stories about schools, teachers and students are all stories about education. A common word in these stories is "graduate." This can be a verb meaning to finish a school program or a noun meaning a person who graduates from a program. After a student graduates from high school, he or she can go to college for a **bachelor's degree**. After completing a bachelor's degree, the student may **enroll** in a **post-graduate** program to get a **master's degree**. After a master's degree, the student may enroll in a **Ph.D.** program, which is also called a **doctorate**.



Definitions:

1. **graduate** (n; v) A graduate (n) is someone who finishes an educational program; To graduate (v) means to finish an educational program.

▶ She graduated (verb) from high school last year.
She is a high school graduate (noun).



2. **bachelor's degree** (n) A degree given by a college or university, usually after four years.

▶ After graduating from high school, he went to college for a bachelor's degree.



3. **enroll** (v) To become a member of a school or other program.

▶ He enrolled in college this year.

4. **post-graduate** (adj) A post-graduate program is a program after a bachelor's degree.

▶ After university, Bob will enroll in a post-graduate program.

5. **master's degree** (n) A degree after a bachelor's degree; a post-graduate degree.

▶ I have a master's degree in English.

6. **Ph.D.** (n) A higher degree than a master's degree; given after a lot of research into a subject.

▶ He is studying for his Ph.D.



7. **doctorate** (n) The highest degree offered by a university; a Ph.D.

▶ It takes a long time to finish a doctorate.

NEWS FOR TODAY

Questions



★1

Which word means to finish an educational program?

- (A) enroll
- (B) diploma
- (C) graduate
- (D) degree

★2

Which one is in the right order?

- (A) High-school diploma, doctorate, master's degree
- (B) Bachelor's degree, high school diploma, Ph.D.
- (C) High-school diploma, bachelor's degree, master's degree
- (D) High-school diploma, PhD, master's degree

★3

What phrase is closest to "enroll in"?

- (A) go into
- (B) finish
- (C) graduate from
- (D) complete

★4

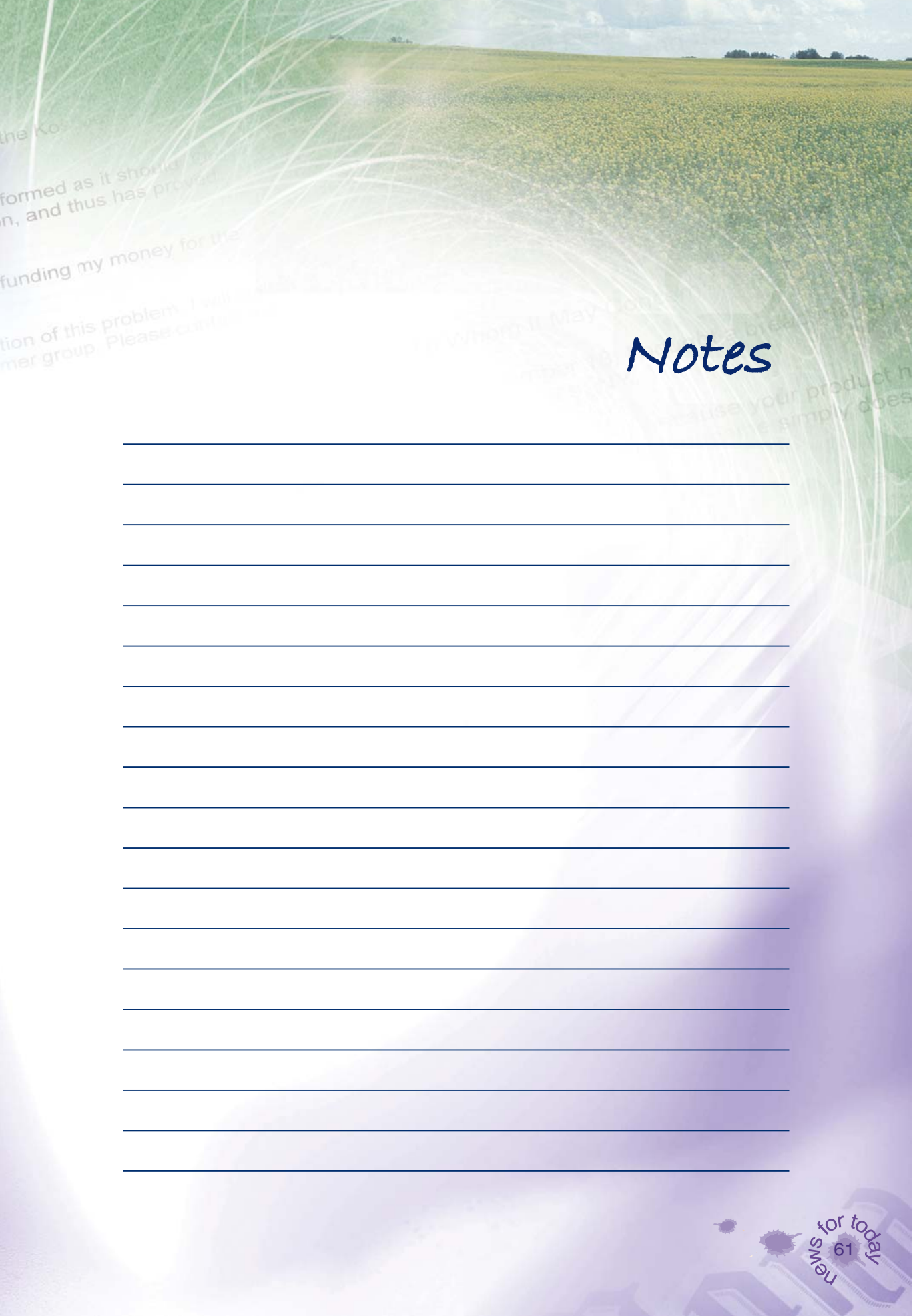
Which one is a doctorate degree?

- (A) Master's
- (B) Bachelor's
- (C) Ph.D.
- (D) High school diploma

★5

Which statement is true?

- (A) A bachelor's degree is higher than a master's.
- (B) A high-school graduate is someone who is still in high school.
- (C) When you graduate from high school you get a bachelor's degree.
- (D) A master's degree and a Ph.D. are post-graduate degrees.



Notes

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NEWS FOR TODAY

..... Unit **4**

Agriculture



When you read stories about farmers and farming, you are reading stories about **agriculture**. Farmers grow **crops** such as corn, **wheat**, rice and many other types of food. Each year, farmers **harvest** their crops. A harvest is when the farmers collect their crops. The life of a farmer can be hard. They work long hours and their crops are sometimes destroyed by **drought**, **hail** or even **pests**.



Definitions:

1. **agriculture** (n) Farming; growing food and raising animals such as cows and pigs.

▶ Agriculture is important to the economy.



2. **crop** (n) Something grown by farmers and later sold.

▶ What crops does he grow?



3. **wheat** (n) A type of crop that is used to make some types of food, especially bread.

▶ Wheat is used to make bread and spaghetti.



4. **harvest** (v) Cutting down and collecting crops so they can be stored and later sold.

▶ Soon, the farmer will harvest his crops.

5. **drought** (n) A long period of time without rain.

▶ The drought lasted 46 days.



6. **hail** (n) Small balls of ice that fall from the sky like rain.

▶ Hail can cause a lot of damage to a farm.

7. **pest** (n) An insect or small animal that damages crops.

▶ Many insects are pests.

NEWS FOR TODAY

Questions



★1

What is food that is grown on a farm called?

- (A) pests
- (B) harvest
- (C) crops
- (D) hail

★2

Which one is not something a farmer grows?

- (A) wheat
- (B) crop
- (C) rice
- (D) pest

★3

What is a drought?

- (A) a period of no rain
- (B) a period of harvest
- (C) a period of pests
- (D) a period of a lot of rain

★4

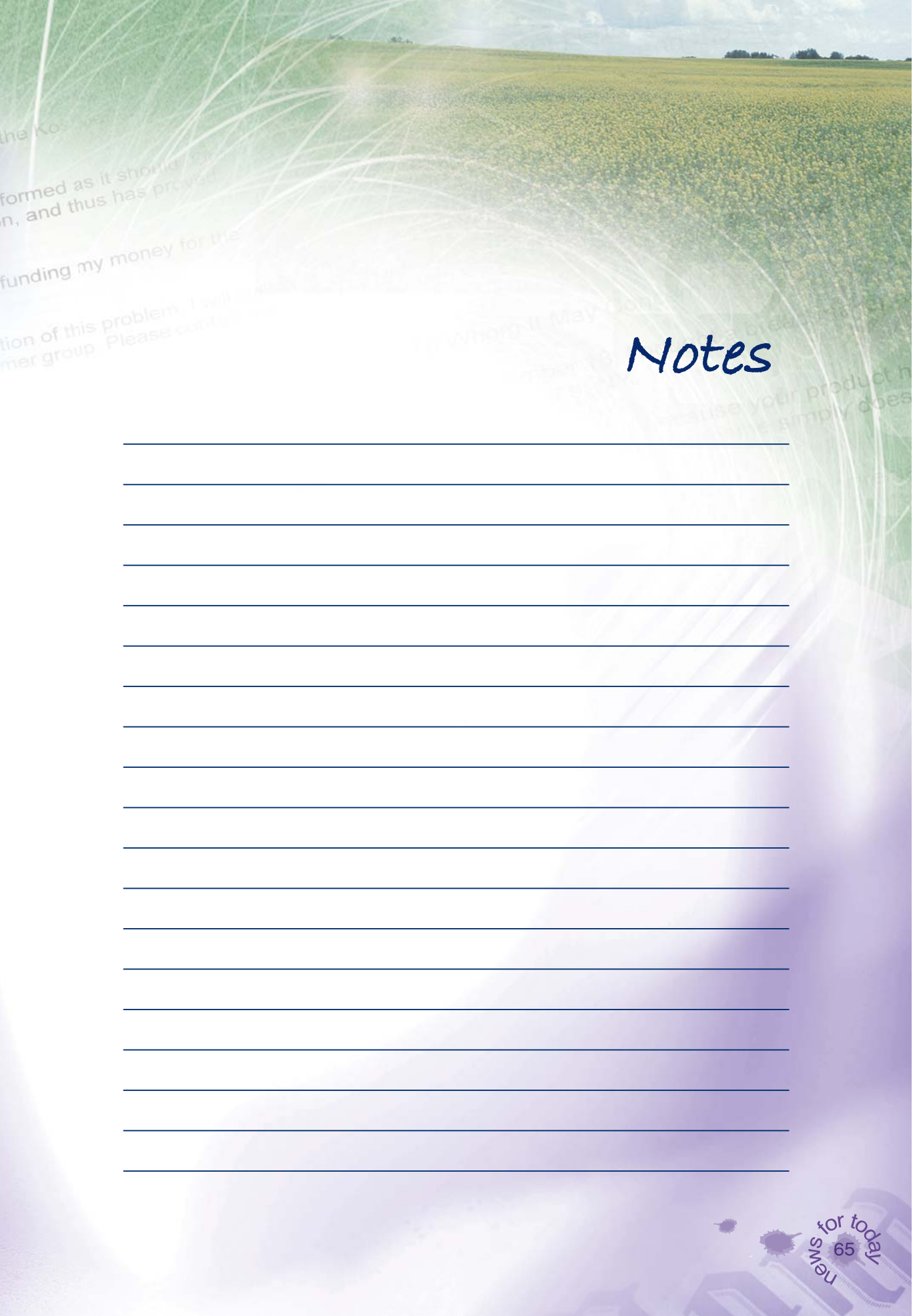
Which one does not hurt crops?

- (A) harvest
- (B) drought
- (C) pests
- (D) hail

★5

Which one is not about agriculture?

- (A) farming
- (B) harvest
- (C) crops
- (D) war



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Unit 5

Weather



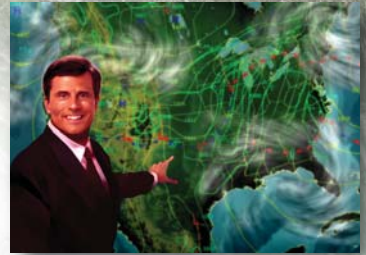
The weather may seem like a simple thing, but actually there is a lot of vocabulary used to write and talk about it. **Meteorologists** are people who **forecast** the weather or say what the weather will be. Meteorologists often talk about **weather systems**. One type of system is a **cold front**, which brings cold air. Meteorologists also talk about **precipitation**. Precipitation usually means rain, but it can also mean snow or hail. If rain is extremely heavy, it can be called **torrential**. A cloudy sky is also called an **overcast** sky.



Definitions:

1. **meteorologist** (n) A person who is trained to forecast what the weather will be in the future.

▶ The meteorologist said the weather will be good tomorrow.



2. **forecast** (v) To say what you think will probably happen in the future; predict.

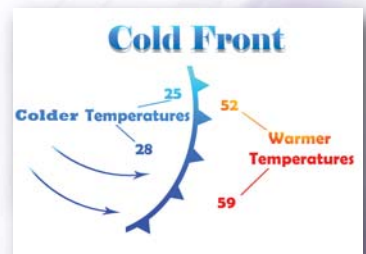
▶ Is that meteorologist good at forecasting the weather?

3. **weather system** (n) A type or pattern of weather.

▶ There are many different types of weather systems.

4. **cold front** (n) The front part of a large amount of cold air that meets warmer air.

▶ There is a cold front coming, so tomorrow's weather will be poor.



5. **precipitation** (n) Rain, snow or hail.

▶ We get a lot of precipitation in winter.

6. **torrential** (adj) Very heavy and violent; used to talk about very heavy rain.

▶ Torrential rains can cause floods.

7. **overcast** (adj) Cloudy.

▶ The sky is very overcast today.



NEWS FOR TODAY

Questions



★1

What do meteorologists do?

- (A) make the weather
- (B) forecast the weather
- (C) write about space
- (D) listen to the weather

★2

Which means “forecast”?

- (A) read about something
- (B) listen to something
- (C) predict something
- (D) say something is good

★3

What is torrential rain?

- (A) a lot of rain
- (B) no rain
- (C) small amount of rain
- (D) an average amount of rain

★4

Which one is not precipitation?

- (A) rain
- (B) overcast
- (C) snow
- (D) hail

★5

What is another word for cloudy?

- (A) cold front
- (B) forecast
- (C) torrential
- (D) overcast