

Conversation Lesson - News

Task 2: Vocabulary

News on any one day can be about a very wide range of things. Unfortunately, most television channels do not put the **focus** on good news. They are more interested in telling us about **natural disasters** and **scandals**, you know, the depressing stories. And then you can't believe a lot of what they say. The news is like films and general TV, some people think it is a form of entertainment, so the media tends to **sensationalise** stories to get, and keep, people's attention.

It could also be said that there is a lot of **censorship**. Maybe this is a good thing, but not everybody agrees. Some people think the press should not be **restricted**, that a free press is an important part of a free society. Other people think that the media should not be allowed to say what they want.

Finally, a lot of the criticism of the news comes from the fact that many newspapers and TV channels are too interested in **human interest stories**, for example David Beckham's new hairstyle and Britney Spears' marriage problems. It might be interesting to some people, but it's not **current affairs**.

Task 6: Broadcasting order

You are a television news editor. All these events have happened today. Your job is to decide on the order to report them in on the national TV news at 6:00. There won't be time for everything, you will only be able to broadcast six things. Decide what, and say why:

- A local boy has bought a new bike from the shop (red with 18 gears)
- The President of your country has been involved in a road accident. He is hurt but his life is not in danger
- An old woman from a small village on the sea has won \$10,000,000 on the national lottery
- A cat has scratched its owner's sofa
- A company from your country has won a multi-million pound contract to supply car parts to Ferrari
- There is a train workers' strike which has resulted in there being no train services all day
- Weathermen predict that severe weather will hit the capital tomorrow
- The national economy may go into recession if the government does not solve the unemployment problem
- A group of schoolchildren have painted pictures of the school dog
- Your country has won the World Team Darts Championship
- The national health service advises people not to eat cheese because of a food scare. A bacteria can be found in certain cheese which should be avoided until the problem can be solved
- A local film maker has been nominated for an Oscar