

# Reading

**Name:** Using the news for reading

**Aim:** reading skills + vocabulary expansion and fluency

**Contexts:** general English / EAP

**Level:** B1 – C1

**Type of tool:** some kind of regular news service which your students can use, such as Newsmart

**Type of mats:** PUB

**Planning:** medium

## **Preparation:**

1. Subscribe to the service of your choice. In this example, we use [www.newsmart.com](http://www.newsmart.com). At the time of writing, you can take out a free trial for the purposes of this lesson sequence.
2. Select a suitable article from the current business news.

## **Procedure:**

### **1. In the classroom**

1. Choose useful vocabulary from your chosen article (e.g. ten items). Put these words or expressions on cards; students divide the cards into items they know, items they don't know and items they think they know. Then, pre-teach any new vocabulary items, and clarify any the students are unsure of.
2. Write the following words on the whiteboard: what / where / why / who. Tell students to answer these questions by scanning the article. Elicit feedback on student questions
3. Show students the exercises types they can do. In this example, grammar and vocabulary exercises are provided for each article. Students can double-click on a word to access a definition.
4. Finish the lesson sequence with students choosing an article of interest and which is relevant to them. Point out exercises are available at different levels – students can work at or above their own level. They will present their article in the next lesson.

### **2. Outside the classroom:**

Students read and summarise their article. Provide a template to follow e.g. title / key words + explanation / main points / invite questions.

### **3. In the classroom:**

Student mini-presentations. Encourage questions from the other students. Provide language feedback.

## **Variation:**

If students decide to subscribe create a competition between students based around Newsmart badges and other Newsmart profile information such as the number of activities tried and completed successfully and 'velocity'.

## **Notes:**

Newsmart is available as an app. The 'gamification' aspect is designed to encourage 'returners'. Although this service, like others, is primarily devised to provide free-standing self-study, a blended approach is likely to be more motivating in the long run i.e. linking students out-of-class, extensive reading to in-class activities, such as vocabulary review.