

News Report

- A news report should answer all or some of the 5 W's - *Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?*
- Key features of a news report are:

1. Headline: Headline should be catchy and concise and self-explanatory but summing up the story.

- Newspaper headlines have a special rule of grammar and are written in a special style which are different from the ordinary English.
- They are often not complete sentences; consist only of noun phrases without any verbs. Normally no full-stop mark is used. (E.g. *More price hikes again*)
- They often leave out articles *the, a/an* and verb *be* forms. (E.g. *Woman walks on moon*)
- The simple present tense is used for both present and past events. (E.g. *Mother abandons girl child at hospital*)
- 'To infinitive' forms are used to refer to the future. (E.g. *Industrialists to hold global summit*)
- Auxiliary verbs are omitted from passive constructions leaving only past participles. (E.g. *Man stabbed to death by friend*)

2. Byline: (Reporter's name, Day and Date, Time - optional) **3. Place line:** (Where the story occurs). **4. Lead:** (The opening section that gives most important information). **5. Body:** (Details of the story-most important comes first; simple and straight statements) **6. Quotations:** in direct speech what actually someone or witnesses said etc.

A catchy and concise headline

Peter John, Staff reporter {byline: reporter's name and date}
Sun, 10 Dec 2017

New Delhi: {place line} The opening section that gives most important information. Catches reader's interest. Introduces topic. Answers most of 5Ws- Who? What? When? Where? Why? {the lead}
Details of the story-most important comes first; simple and straight statements) Quote in direct speech - what actually someone or witnesses said etc. {body of the report}

Q 1: The Texas School finally decided to award the prestigious Scholarship Jacket to Martha. Prepare a newspaper report about it.

Martha wins Texas school Scholarship Jacket

J.Peter, Staff reporter

Wed 07 Mar 2018.

TEXAS: Martha, a 14 year old and eighth grade student of Texas school has won the scholarship jacket of the school this year.

The scholarship jacket is a prestigious award every year the school awards to the winner as a tradition, during the eighth grade graduation. It is a very beautiful green and gold jacket awarded to the valedictorian, the student who has maintained the highest grades for eight years.

The jacket was awarded to Martha by the Vice Chancellor of the Texas University in the presence of the school principal, teachers and students. "It is like my dream has come true which, I thought, once slipped between the cup and the lip", jubilant Martha said.

Q 2:

Mr. John Lives and Let Others Live

MKP, Staff Reporter

Wed, 13 Dec 2017

London: Mr. John, a resident of Kerala's capital city, shows the world how can a man live and let others live with his own life. He with his wife travels to different parts of the world to learn the methods employed in dealing with the cases of backward, sidelined and maladjusted youth and bringing them back to a normal life.

Mr. John once transgressed and led a loose life. He went after worldly pleasures, gambled and became a thief to find money for pleasures. Having lost everything, finally he attempted to commit suicide. He was saved by three people including the famous writer Dr. AJ Cronin. Now Mr. John and wife have been for more than 15 years in the field of the charity work. They take derelict adolescents from the juvenile courts and place them in a healthy environment, heal them in mind and body and send them back into the world.

"Once I was saved from the brink of death by three good people unknown to me; my life is their gift. Dr. AJ Cronin, the landlady of the lodge where I stayed and attempted to suicide and a police sergeant taught me the value of life. I want to pay the debt I owe to them by serving the society with the rest of my life", said John in his humble voice.

More sample questions from SCERT Question Pool:

1. Child labour is considered a crime. Imagine that you are a newspaper reporter and you happened to hear the story of Vanka. You decided to prepare a news report on this issue. What would the news report be?
2. The Film Club of your school conducted a one day film festival on Satyajit Ray's famous films. Almost 250 students participated in the festival. Prepare the news report of the film festival.
3. Imagine that the tiger in the memoir 'Project Tiger' did not turn back. Instead, it attacked a man and killed him. What would be the likely news that appears in the newspapers? Write the news report.
4. You are a newspaper reporter. You happened to hear the speech of Adichie. You prepared a news report to be published in the next day's newspaper. How would that news report be? Prepare the news report.
5. The Scholarship Jacket presenting ceremony was a unique event in the history of Texas school. Prepare a news report of the function.
6. A newspaper reporter happened to know about the discussion in the school about awarding the scholarship jacket. He prepares a news report about the change in the policy. How would it be? Prepare the likely news report.

7. A seminar was conducted in your school on the topic 'The World of the Wild' in the light of the lesson 'Adolf'. Prepare a news report.

Prepared /compiled by Mahmud K Pukayoor (englisheduspot.blogspot.com)