

11.2 Positive news

GOALS ■ Talk about news ■ Use reporting verbs

Vocabulary & Speaking talking about news

- 1a Work with a partner. Think of five stories that are currently in the news.
- b How many are 'bad news' stories? How many are 'good news' stories? Do you agree with the saying that 'good news doesn't sell newspapers'? Why might this be true?
- 2a Do you know any positive news sites?
- b Read the article and note down the theories about why bad news sells. Do you agree with them?

NEWS SOCIETY

And now for some good news...

It's a sad fact, but bad news attracts more readers than good news. Look at any major online news site or newspaper and you will find the majority of items are about conflict, violence, the economic crisis or someone's unfortunate death. Why is this so? Some might argue that reading about other people's suffering can make you feel better about your own life. Others suggest that it is a matter of conditioning and that people are used to a diet of bad news and want to be fed more and more. However, there are also plenty of us who are tired of reading disturbing and depressing stories. To meet this demand for something more inspiring, encouraging and uplifting, a number of positive news sites have been launched in recent years. These sites report on positive developments from around the world – medical breakthroughs, peace agreements and environmental campaigns – and take a solution-focused view on the challenges facing society.

- 3a Complete the table with the underlined words in the article.

Adjectives for positive news	Positive news topics
Adjectives for negative news	Negative news topics

- b Work with a partner. Check the meaning of the bold words in the headlines. Decide whether the news is positive or negative, or positive for some, negative for others.

- 1 new **cure** for blindness
- 2 \$50,000 stolen in **armed** robbery
- 3 **victory** for Bayern Munich
- 4 climber's **survival** of 300-metre fall
- 5 innocent man **wounded** in police shooting

- c Add the bold words to the table in exercise 3a.

- 4 **TASK** Write six more news headlines, three positive and three negative, using words from the table in exercise 3a. Compare with a partner.

Grammar & Listening reporting verbs

- 5a You are going to listen to three true positive news stories. Before you listen, look at the photos. With a partner, can you guess what each story might be about?



- b 11.1))) Listen and take notes on each story. How good were your predictions in exercise 5a? In what sense is each a positive news story?

- 6 **11.1**))) Listen again and complete the sentences with 1–5 words in each gap.

Story 1

- ... many supermarket buyers **refuse** to buy _____ and vegetables from farmers.
- Customers were **invited** to blind-taste both the _____ fruit and they **admitted** that they _____.

Story 2

- The local people **assured** the conservationists that the monkeys would _____ locate ...
- ... conservationists have **warned** that these monkeys were already on the _____ list.

Story 3

- The teenagers immediately called the police to **inform** _____ the money.
- Police have **praised** the teenagers for _____ but the teens **denied** _____ heroically ...

- 7 Match the reporting verbs in bold in exercise 6 to direct speech phrases a–h.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| a 'We won't do it ...' | f 'Well done for doing that ...' |
| b 'It's true that ...' | g 'You can be sure that ...' |
| c 'You should be aware ...' | h 'We want to give you some information ...' |
| d 'Would you like to ...' | |
| e 'We didn't do that ...' | |

- 8 Add the reporting verbs in bold in exercise 6 to the correct group in the Grammar focus box.

GRAMMAR FOCUS reporting verbs

- Instead of say, we often use specific reporting verbs to report speech.
- Reporting verbs are followed by different structures. Some verbs can be followed by more than one structure.

Reporting verb	Structure
1 _____, _____, <i>argue, add</i>	+ (that) + clause
2 <i>remind</i> , _____, _____	+ person + (that) + clause
3 <i>agree, promise, offer</i> , _____	+ to infinitive
4 <i>tell, persuade, encourage</i> , _____, <i>warn</i>	+ person + to + infinitive
5 _____, <i>suggest, admit</i>	+ -ing
6 <i>blame (sb.) for</i> , _____	+ person + prep + -ing

- With *deny, promise, report, tell sb.*, we can also use *that* + clause.
They denied doing it. (verb + -ing) OR They denied (that) he had done it. (verb + (that) + clause)

→ Grammar Reference page 157

- 9a **11.2**))) The following reporting verbs are used in the news stories. Listen and write sentences containing the verbs.

announce claim point out report

- b Add the verbs in exercise 9a to the correct group in the Grammar focus box.

- 10a How would these sentences be reported? Match sentences 1–5 to reporting verbs a–e.

- 'You acted very responsibly. Well done.'
- 'I promise you that this fruit juice tastes delicious despite its odd colour.'
- 'Look, someone's left their bag on the seat.'
- 'I never read that paper. It's full of rubbish.'
- 'Yes, we will give you a loan.'

- She refuses _____.
- He pointed out _____.
- She assured me _____.
- The bank agreed _____.
- He praised me _____.

- b Complete sentences a–e in exercise 10a using reported speech.

- a *She refuses to read that paper because it's full of rubbish.*

PRONUNCIATION weak syllables /ɪ/ and /ə/ in reporting verbs

- 11a **11.3**))) Listen and mark the stressed syllables in the reporting verbs.

admit announce assure confirm deny inform
invite persuade refuse remind report

- b **11.3**))) Listen again. Is the unstressed syllable pronounced /ɪ/ or /ə/? Mark the sound above the syllable. Practise saying the verbs.

/ə/
admit

- c **11.4**))) With a partner, listen to the sentences and say the correct reporting verb from exercise 11a.

You hear: 'Don't forget to email him.'

You say: *remind*

- d **11.4**))) Listen again and make sentences with the reporting verbs.

She reminded me to email him.

- 12 **TASK** You are going to read two more positive news stories. Student A, turn to page 131. Student B, turn to page 135.