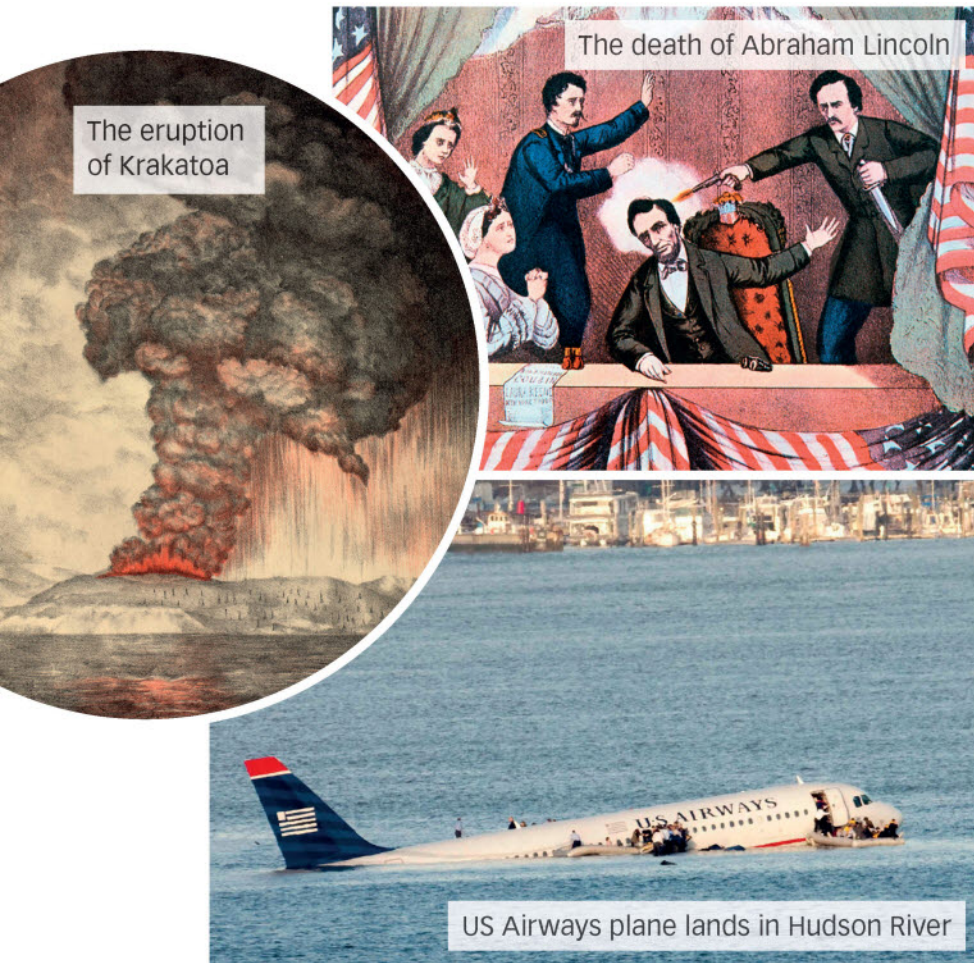


# 11.2 Breaking news

GOALS ■ Talk about past habits and situations ■ Talk about the news

## Grammar & Reading *used to*

- 1 Work in a group and discuss the questions.
  - 1 How often do you read, listen to or watch the news?
  - 2 Do you prefer to get news from the television, radio, newspapers or online? Why?
- 2 In your group, look at the three pictures of news events from the past. What do you know about them? How long do you think it took for news of each event to travel to the other side of the world?



- 3 Quickly read the article and check your answers for exercise 2.
- 4 Read the article again and match each paragraph to a heading a–e. There is one heading which you don't need.
  - a From the still to the moving image
  - b From the few to the many
  - c From professional reporter to citizen journalist
  - d From local to national
  - e From weeks to minutes

## Media milestones

1 \_\_\_\_\_

The first newspapers appeared in the 17th century, but ordinary people didn't use to buy them often because they were expensive. This changed in the 1850s with the invention of powerful printing presses, which could print 10,000 papers per hour. As a result, newspaper prices came down and more people could afford to buy them. Thanks to another new invention, the photograph, it was also the first time that newspapers contained pictures as well as **articles**.

2 \_\_\_\_\_

When a volcano erupted on the Pacific island of Krakatoa in 1883, it killed 36,000 people. It was one of the worst **natural disasters** in history. It was also significant because it was the first time that news could travel around the world in minutes, using undersea electrical telegraph wires. Before the telegraph was invented, it used to take weeks for news to travel to a different continent. News of Abraham Lincoln's death, for example, took nearly two weeks to **reach** Europe in 1865.

3 \_\_\_\_\_

In the early 20th century, before televisions became popular, people used to go to the cinema to watch the news. Ten-minute films called 'news reels' contained moving images of four or five top news stories. The news reels were changed **weekly**, not daily, so the news wasn't always **up to date**. Nowadays, they are important as historical documents, as they provide the only audiovisual records of those times.

4 \_\_\_\_\_

At the start of the 21st century, developments in smartphone technology and the growth of **social media** like Twitter, Facebook and Instagram have completely changed the way that we get our news. Now anybody can **report** news. This is sometimes called 'citizen journalism'. One of the first and most famous examples of it happened in New York in 2009 when a plane carrying 150 passengers landed in the Hudson River after a flock of birds flew into the plane's engine. People who saw the **crash** posted comments and photos on Twitter and the news **spread** around the world in minutes. Professional **journalists** didn't arrive at the scene until 15 minutes later.

SHARE TWEET EMAIL



- 5 Look at these sentences and answer the questions.
- a People used to go to the cinema to watch the news.  
b Ordinary people didn't use to buy newspapers very often.
- Do people go to the cinema to see the news now?
  - Did they go to the cinema once or more than once?
  - Do people buy more newspapers now?
  - How do we make the negative form of *used to*?
- 6 Complete the rules in the Grammar focus box with the words *did*, *not* and *once*.


### GRAMMAR FOCUS *used to*

- We use *used to* + infinitive to talk about habits and situations that were true in the past but are <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ true now.  
*It used to take weeks for news to travel to a different continent.*
- We can't use *used to* to talk about something which only happened <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.  
*In 2009 a plane crashed in the Hudson river.*  
NOT ~~*In 2009 a plane used to crash in the Hudson River.*~~
- We use the auxiliary verb <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ in negative sentences and questions.  
*In the past people didn't use to send texts. How did people use to get their news?*

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- 7 Rewrite the sentences with *used to/didn't use to* where possible.
- Mobile phones didn't have cameras.
  - In the 1940s, people listened to the radio to get the latest news.
  - Jack Dorsey, who started Twitter, sent the world's first tweet in 2006.
  - Before the 1850s, newspapers didn't contain photos.
  - Newspaper apps became popular in the early 21st century.
  - Before the telegraph, it took ten days by horse to deliver news across the USA.
- 8 Work with a partner. Talk about how your lives have changed, using the ideas below or your own ideas. Whose life has changed the most and why?
- A *I used to live in Paris.*  
B *When did you live there?*  
A *In 1995.*  
B *And where do you live now?*  
A *Madrid. I moved because of my job.*
- the people you live with
  - the way you spend your weekends
  - the place where you live
  - the music you listen to
  - the things you worry about
  - the books you read
  - the clothes you wear
  - the things you spend your money on

## Vocabulary & Speaking the news

- 9 Complete the sentences. Use the **highlighted** words in exercise 4.
- The news you get on \_\_\_\_\_ sites such as Twitter is always \_\_\_\_\_.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ like floods and forest fires affect thousands of people every year.
  - I read a couple of interesting \_\_\_\_\_ in today's newspaper about science and technology.
  - There was a car \_\_\_\_\_ on the motorway this morning, but nobody was hurt.
  - A \_\_\_\_\_'s job is to find and \_\_\_\_\_ news as quickly and correctly as possible.
  - How long did it take Apollo 11 to \_\_\_\_\_ the moon?
  - International news \_\_\_\_\_ very slowly before the telegraph was invented.
  - I used to read a newspaper every day. Now I read a \_\_\_\_\_ paper, on a Sunday.
- 10 Complete the sentences to make them true for you. Then compare your ideas with a partner and ask each other questions to find out more.
- If I want up-to-date news I ...
  - I think \_\_\_\_\_ has very interesting articles.
  - I think/don't think ordinary people should report the news because ...
  - I sometimes/never use social media to share articles and photos with friends because ...
  - I read/don't read a weekly newspaper because ...
- 11 Divide the words and phrases in the box into the following categories.
- a natural disasters      b man-made news events
- flood election forest fire hurricane robbery  
transport strike
- 
- 12 **TASK** Work in a group. Choose one recent news story each. Explain what happened and why it interested you.