

How the News Gets to You





Reading newspapers
is one way to learn
about the news.

Choices in the News

Long ago, people learned about the news by seeing something happen or talking to others. Today, you can learn what's happening by reading newspapers or Web sites. You can also hear the news on radio or TV.

Newspapers run hundreds of stories that tell more than just the main facts. Many stories run on the Web, too, but most people read only the first page they see.

Radio and TV news may run every hour, but they tell only about a few stories. Like Web sites, though, radio and TV stories can be changed as quickly as the news changes.

Key Notes:

What are three different ways you can learn about the news today?



Reporters ask about
what has happened.

Reporting the News

Reporters find out the news. They ask who, what, why, when, where, and how something happened. Reporters may report on a fire in your town, a new law that may be passed, or a war in another country.

No matter where their stories run, though, all reporters work in the same way. They talk to people who have seen something happen. They talk to or even travel with the police to learn about crimes. Some travel with the army to report on wars. These reporters sometimes put their lives in danger to tell people what is happening around the world.

Key Notes:

How do reporters find out the news?



News photographers
go where news is
happening.

Seeing the News

Photographs show the who and the where of the news. Photographers, or people who take pictures, go to where the news happens. Then, they take photographs or movies that show others what they saw. Their photographs or movies can affect how people think about the people and events that are in the news.

For example, some photographs taken in the 1960s showed people in the South who were being hurt by unfair laws. These photographs affected how people felt about others' rights, and they helped get laws changed. Photographs have also affected how people feel about wars.

Key Notes:

How do photographs help people learn about the news?



Ida B. Wells was a teacher and a reporter.

Ida B. Wells Reports

In 1885, Ida B. Wells was a teacher in the South. She was also a newspaper reporter who wrote about African Americans. Wells wrote that African Americans did not have the same rights as white people. When she wrote that her city did not give African American schools enough money, she lost her teaching job.

Next, Wells bought part of a newspaper. When she wrote about African Americans who were killed by whites, a white group broke her printing press and said she would be killed. Although Wells moved to another city, she never stopped reporting on African Americans' rights.

Key Notes:

What did Ida B. Wells report about?

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