

Lesson Plan © Easy Access English

Current Affairs

EAE Learning objectives for this lesson

Practice discussing current affairs and learn and practice linking words to structure your opinion.
Learn and practice some idiomatic expressions.

Activity 1 - **Questions - Ask and answer** with your partner.

1 Did you watch/read the news today?
2 Do you like to keep up-to-date with current affairs in the world?
3 What was the last current affair you had a conversation about?
4 Using linking words, can you talk about something that is happening in the world right now that held your interest?
5 Have a conversation with your partner/teacher about a controversial issue, and try to look at both sides of the argument

Activity 2 - **Linking words**

These are very important for making conversation, in order to maintain the interest of the person you are speaking to and structure what you are saying.Have a look at the linking words. Are there any you don't understand?
Try to use some in sentences

For instance ***However*** ***Despite the fact that***
For example ***Otherwise*** ***Nevertheless***
In particular ***On the other hand*** ***Although***
Yet ***Therefore*** ***Not to mention***
Likewise ***Finally*** ***As a matter of fact***
Therefore ***In order to*** ***Besides***
It seems that ***Clearly*** ***Basically***
First of all ***Secondly*** ***Finally*** ***To sum up***

Activity 3 - **C**an you think about about anything new at your company/school or any recent events that have occurred that would be newsworthy?

What does your company/school usually communicate about? With your partner write a press release! Use some of the linking words.

Remember a press release has to answer the following questions: **Who, What, When, Why, Where?** It also has to have a headline which is going to attract the attention of the journalists you send it to, and make them think that it is newsworthy.

(worthy, worth, worth it, newsworthy)



Activity 4 - **Idiomatic expressions**
Match the currently used idiomatic expressions with the definition

In a nutshell	To be the subordinate or secondary role
Golden handshake	An important day
My hands are full	To make a speech
A case in point	To say in a few words or concisely
To have the floor	Big sum of money given to a retiring person
Stick one's neck out	To be very busy
To play second fiddle	A case connected to the subject of discussion
A red letter day	To take a risk
Bury the hatchet	To return after being down/defeated
Rise from the ashes	To make peace

Activity 5 - Use the expressions from Activity 4 in the correct sentence
One expression is not used - which one?

1. Trump and Kim Jong Un should just _____ but I don't think either of them like the idea of playing _____ to a higher power
2. The new Spiderman movie has _____, after a string of poorly received Spiderman movies
3. I would like to watch the news on TV more often, but my _____ ; I have too much work
4. It seems no one is going to _____ and try to impeach Donald Trump. _____ was that one senator already tried, but he didn't get enough supporters to back him.
5. Australia Post's recently departed chief executive, Ahmed Fahour got a $10 million _____ when he left his job!
6. When Mcgregor _____ during the interview about his boxing match with Mayweather, he really bragged and tried to insult Mayweather.
7. _____ the problem we are faced with climate change, is that so many people don't believe in it

Activity 6 - **True or false** for current affairs
Read each titbit that was recently in the news (or not) and say if it is true or false

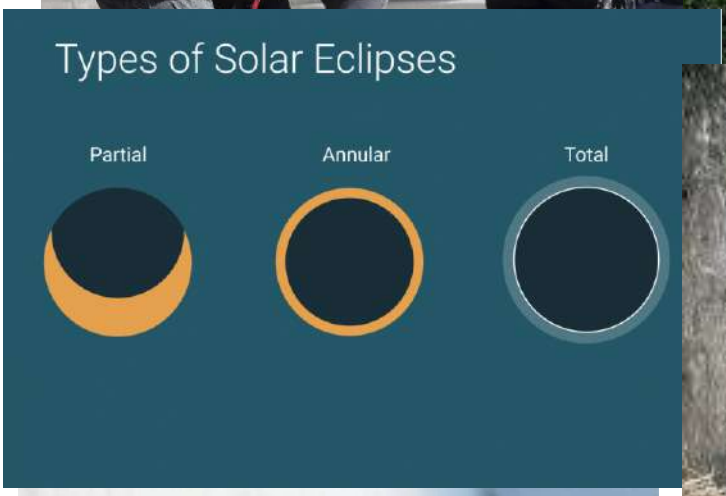
1. Brazilian footballer Neymar, was sold to PSG by Barcelona for a staggering 222 million euros.
2. Kim Jong Un joins facebook, and wants to be friends with Putin.
3. Montpellier touted as France's fastest-growing city.
4. France voted number 1 in the world for healthcare
5. A man in Canada was still allowed to board a plane after security confiscated a bomb found in his bag.
6. Actors Brad Pitt and Denzel Washington both backed Donald Trump, saying that he has helped unemployment.
7. Harambe, a dead gorilla, got over 15,000 votes for president of the united states.
8. France's former anti-drugs chief has been placed under formal investigation over allegations he aided and abetted narco-traffickers.



Activity 7 - Use linking words to talk about the current event that each picture represents. Also - talk about the result/outcome of each news item currently.

















Activity 8 - **Discuss** a current event that personally touched or affected you, or a current affair that you think will happen in the future that could have an effect on you (Use linking words!)

Activity 11 - **Role-plays**

1 You saw on the news that the French government is cutting costs by reducing teaching staff. You discuss it with the school director.
2 You overhear that a deadly heat-wave is going to arrive soon in France. You discuss with your friend a plan of action, and the legitimacy of the report
3 You hear rumours that Macron is involved in a scandal. You discuss with your work colleague about what it could possibly be.

Activity 10 - Fill in the gaps to the **song**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBIxScJ5rlY&list=PLpLQ47AqN9eGDUFAs1Mpx2ZgIElWCHMEl&index=1

John Mayer - Waiting on the world to change

Me and all my friends
We're all _____
They say we stand for nothing and
There's no _____ we ever could
Now we see everything that's going _____
With the world and those who _____ it
We just feel like we don't have the means
To rise above and _____ it



So we keep waiting (waiting)
Waiting on the world to change
We keep on waiting (waiting)
Waiting on the world to change
It's hard to beat the _____
When we're standing at a distance
So we keep waiting (waiting)
Waiting on the world to change

Now if we had the power
To bring our _____ home from war
They would have never missed a Christmas
No more _____ on their door
And when you trust your television
What you get is what you got
Cause when they _____ the information, oh
They can _____ it all they want

Chorus

