

The journalists' world (a worksheet)

Activity 1

Look at the pictures and discuss the questions:



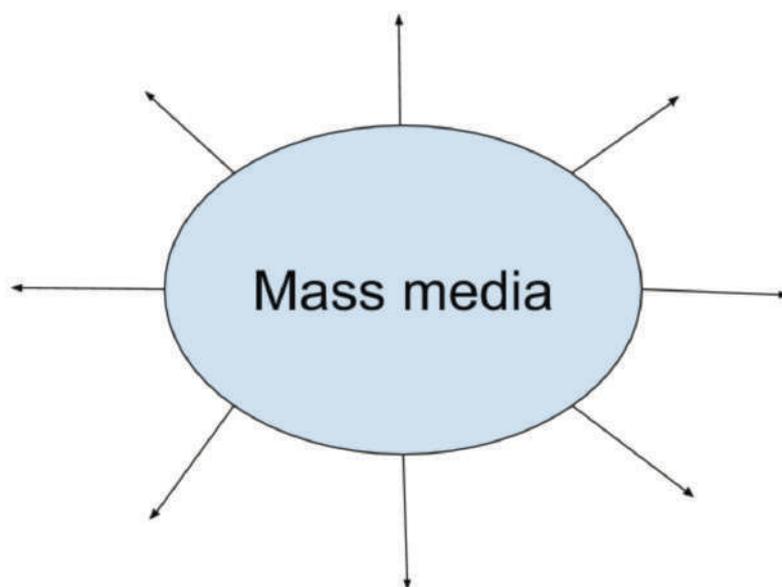
1. What are these people doing? Do they have the same or different working conditions?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of being a journalist?
3. What can you say about freedom of speech in your country?
4. If you were a journalist, which areas would you like to cover and why?
 - business
 - sport
 - weather
 - celebrities
 - computers and technology
 - health
 - politics
 - culture
 - medicine
 - economics
5. Do you agree or disagree with the quotation?

Great journalism will always attract readers. The words, pictures and graphics that are the stuff of journalism have to be brilliantly packaged; they must feed the mind and move the heart.
Rupert Murdoch



Activity 2

What words connected to mass media (newspapers, magazines) do you know?



Read the text. Look at the words in bold. Have you mentioned any of them?

Nowadays new words appear in English and we come across with such words as **a rag**, **the gutter press**, **a glossy**, but unfortunately people don't know their meaning in terms of journalism. So let's try to define them. A **rag** is an informal word for a newspaper and it suggests that it is not of very high quality. The **gutter press** is a disapproving term used about the kind of newspapers and magazines that are more interested in crime and sex than serious news. A **glossy** is an expensive magazine printed on good quality paper.

Journalists produce a copy, which has to be ready for a deadline. When everything is ready the newspaper **goes to press**. A very important story that comes in after going to press may find its way into a **stop press column**. A very new newspaper or story can be said to be **hot off the press**.

A story that is only to be found in one newspaper is **exclusive**. A **scoop** is a story discovered and published by one newspaper before all the others. A major story can be said to **hit the headlines** on the day it is published. At that time the story breaks or becomes public knowledge. If it is an important story it will receive a lot of **coverage** or space in the press. A newspaper may be taken to court for **libel** if it publishes an untrue story that harms a person's reputation. If you are doing research into a news event, you may want to get hold of some previous issues of newspapers, or **back copies**, and you may wish to make a folder of cuttings from the papers about the event.

Activity 3

Look at the words in bold in Activity 2. Match the definitions with the words given.



a rag; gutter press; a glossy; **to go to press**; to stop press column; hot off the press; **exclusive**; to hit the headlines; coverage; a scoop; libel/defamation of character; **back copy**.

	a newspaper or magazine that is considered to be of bad quality
	the type of newspapers that pay more attention to shocking stories about crime and sex than to serious matters
	a magazine printed on shiny, high-quality paper, containing a lot of colour photographs and advertisements, and usually about famous people, fashion, and beauty
	news that just been printed and often contains the most recent information about something.
	stop press refers to a particular space on the front or back page of a newspaper that contains very recent news added to the newspaper after the printing process starts
	a story or piece of news discovered and published by one newspaper before all the others
	to appear in the news suddenly or receive a lot of attention in news reports
	a piece of writing that contains bad and false things about a person
	the reporting of a particularly important event or subject
	a newspaper or magazine of an earlier date than the one now on sale

Activity 4

Discuss the questions:

1. Which kind of press do you prefer: gutter press or serious one? Why?
2. Do you read paper magazines or online versions? How can paper magazines survive today taking into account that people prefer online versions?
3. Do you like reading scoops? What is the latest scoop you have recently read?
4. Have you ever worked with back copies? What information did you try to find?
5. Do you know newspapers that contain libel in their articles? What would you do if a newspaper published information about you that is 100% defamation of character?
6. What can be a reason for a stop press column?

Activity 5

Discuss the questions:

1. What are the ways the journalists get information?
2. Do you think it is appropriate for a journalist to get information in an illegal way?
3. Do you get information from social networking sites? Can it be a truthful source for journalists?



Watch the video and choose the correct options.

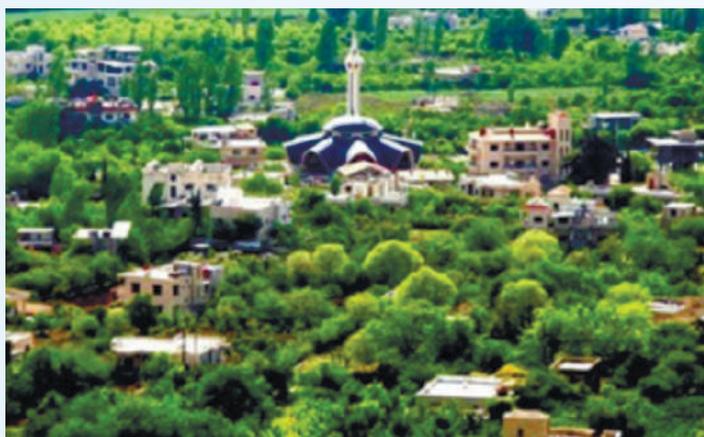
1. Debby Waldron signs up to Facebook groups because she ...
 - a. wants to get in touch with her colleagues.
 - b. can get information about what is going on.
 - c. can post interesting articles.
2. Journalists don't issue press releases because ...
 - a. it takes a lot of time to write it.
 - b. it is old-fashioned.
 - c. nobody reads them anymore.
3. People who post stories ...
 - a. make publicity for journalists as well.
 - b. post useless pictures.
 - c. are eager to become famous.
4. Facebook and Twitter ...
 - a. spread libellous information.
 - b. help journalist build their career.
 - c. are helpful for those who seek information.

Discuss the questions:

1. Do you agree with arguments presented in a video for using social networks?
2. Can we say, judging by this video, that all mass media elements are interconnected nowadays or they can function independently?

Activity 6

Some journalists work not in safe working conditions. Watch the [video](#) and answer the questions:



1. What happened to the reporter when she was in Zabadani?
2. Why did the reporters have an opportunity to come to Zabadani only now?
3. Have the hostilities finished in the city?
4. Are there still insurgents in the city?
5. How was the vehicle placed on the roof of the building?
6. What did the insurgents use sand for?
7. Why was that important for the Syrian army to conquer Zabadani back?

Additional information

an insurgent – someone who is fighting against the government in their own country

a rebel – a person who is opposed to the political system in their country and tries to change it using force

artillery – very large guns that are moved on wheels or metal tracks

to besiege – to surround a place, especially with an army, to prevent people or supplies getting in or out

a helmet – a strong, hard hat that covers and protects the head

an explosive – a substance or piece of equipment that can cause explosions

Discuss the questions:

1. Would you like to get to Syria to see what is going on there now/ Why/why not?
2. Do you know anyone who was in Syria as a journalist or a soldier?
3. Do you support the Russian government that decided to support and save innocent people in Syria? Why\Why not?

Activity 7

Express your opinion on the following issues.



1. Five features a person must have in order to be a successful journalist.
2. People hate journalists for...
3. The differences in working as a radio journalist and TV journalist.
4. The roles and responsibilities of journalists.
5. Magazines and newspapers wouldn't survive without scoops
6. Accuracy of information vs defamation of character.
7. Journalists should have governmental protection worldwide.

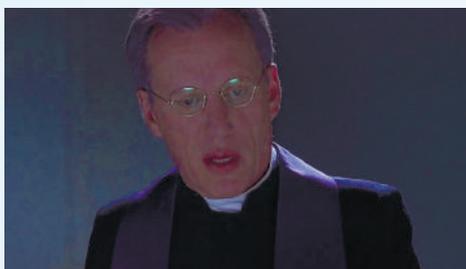
Activity 8

Read the beginning of the news reports and complete them.



1. Hansom's daughter in hostage terror

The 12-year-old daughter of a London millionaire was held hostage for ten hours yesterday by two masked raiders who broke into her home. The terrified girl and a maid were kept captive as the men lay in wait for her father, multi-millionaire Malcolm Hansom. When he returned home later in the afternoon...



2. Secret message for the Rev. Walton

When the Reverend Alan Walton was going to drive home after Sunday's sermon at Meadow Lane Church, Huntingdon, the boot of his car was badly smashed in and behind the windscreen wiper there was a note which said...



3. Foxes trapped in backyard

Early on Saturday morning when 10-year-old Jason Patel came down to have his usual bowl of porridge in the kitchen, he couldn't believe his eyes when looked into the backyard. Two foxes were running around the bushes, obviously trapped without any way of getting out. Jason...