



EDMONTON

Weekly Newscasts Lesson Plan

MAY 02, 2016

Newscasts are current news stories read at a slower pace than you might hear on the radio. These are prepared by CBC news editor Don Bell.

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase awareness of grammatical structures and functional language
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide a user-friendly, self-study tool for learners, as well as an ESL classroom resource for instructors

Contents:

Three news stories are featured in each weekly lesson plan. Each lesson contains vocabulary and listening comprehension activities. At the end of each lesson, you will find a complete transcript and an answer key. This lesson plan is aimed towards learners at an intermediate language level (i.e. Canadian Language Benchmarks 4-5 or equivalent).



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton, and the Government of Alberta. Lesson Plans prepared by Deidre Lake, [Communication4Integration Inc.](#)

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NEWSCAST 1

ALBERTA PARENTS CONVICTED IN TODDLER'S MENINGITIS DEATH



Parents convicted in toddler's meningitis death 1:42

Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/meningitis-trial-verdict-1.3552941>

LANGUAGE LEVEL: Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) **4/5** or equivalent

WARM UP QUESTIONS

Do you know what bacterial meningitis is? Did you hear about this story?

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Review the vocabulary below before listening to the newscast.

convicted	found guilty of a criminal offense
packed	crowded; full; well attended
erupted	broke out
accused	charged with an offense or crime
guilty	responsible for a wrongdoing
testified	claimed; stated
croup	infection causing difficulty breathing
naturopath	a person that practices alternative medicine based on a theory that diseases can be treated without drugs
remedies	treatment for diseases or injury
prompting	persuading; encouraging
prosecutor	lawyer who conducts the case against the accused

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio Clip 0:11)

Listen to the newscast for overall comprehension.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio Clip 0:11)

Listen to the newscast again. Fill in the blanks with the words that you hear.

A packed _____ in Lethbridge erupted with emotion on Tuesday afternoon, after two parents accused of _____ their son die from bacterial meningitis, were found _____.

David and Collet Stephan were _____ after their 19-month-old son Ezekiel died in March 2012, with " _____ to provide the necessities of life."

The couple _____ they believed Ezekiel had croup or flu. They sought _____ from a naturopath. They treated him for 2½ weeks with remedies that included hot _____, garlic, onions and horseradish.

He eventually stopped breathing, _____ the couple to call 911. Ezekiel was _____ to Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary where he died.

Lisa Weich, the prosecutor, said this case was "incredibly _____."
Weich said, "They definitely _____ their son, but unfortunately, sometimes love just isn't _____. Parents still have to follow the standard of _____ that is set by the criminal law."

LISTENING ACTIVITY 3

Now that you are familiar with this story, click play on the image to watch the video of this story.

CONCLUSION

What do you think of this story?

NEWSCAST 2

JOHN RIDSDDEL EXECUTION: TRUDEAU SAYS CANADA WON'T PAY RANSOMS 'DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY'



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/john-ridsdel-kidnapping-ransom-1.3553712>

LANGUAGE LEVEL: Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) **4/5** or equivalent

WARM UP QUESTIONS

Did you hear about John Ridsdel who was taken hostage and killed in the Philippines? A ransom is money paid for the release of a hostage or prisoner.

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Match the words with the correct meaning. Refer to the script to assist you if needed. The vocabulary is in bold. One is done for you.

terrorists	militants	captivity	insurgent
endanger	condemn	heinous	pursue

WORD	MEANING
	an awful act or crime
<i>insurgent</i>	a rebel or revolutionary
	put someone at risk or in danger

	imprisoned or confined
	disapprove of
	people who use terrorism for political reasons
	extremists; political activists
	follow someone in order to catch them

SCRIPT

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is making it clear that Canada "does not and will not" pay ransom to **terrorists**.

Trudeau was responding to questions about the death of Canadian John Ridsdel, who was killed Monday by Abu Sayyaf **militants** in the Philippines after more than six months of **captivity**.

The prime minister says ransom payments are a key source of funding for terrorist groups like Abu Sayyaf, a Muslim **insurgent** group.

He says they would also **endanger** the lives of the millions of Canadians who live, work and travel in various parts of the globe.

Trudeau **condemned** the "cold-blooded murder" of Ridsdel, a 68-year-old man who was a former Calgarian.

Trudeau says his government will work with the government of the Philippines and international partners to **pursue** those responsible for this "**heinous** act."

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio Clip 1:44)

Listen to the newscast while following along with the script.

CONCLUSION

Do you think Trudeau made the right decision? Why or why not?

NEWSCAST 3

83% OF MUSLIMS ARE “VERY PROUD” TO BE CANADIAN AND ATTACHED TO CANADA



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/grenier-muslim-canadians-environics-1.3551591>

LANGUAGE LEVEL: Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) **4/5** or equivalent

WARM UP QUESTIONS

Which country do you feel attached to? If you live in Canada, how integrated do you feel?

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio Clip 3:00)

The newscast is based on the findings of a survey of 600 Canadian Muslims conducted by the Environics Institute following the last federal election.

Listen to the newscast for overall comprehension. Use the space below to take notes about the survey findings.

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Match the word with the correct definition. The first one is done for you.

ANSWER	VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
E	1. overwhelming	A. name; identification; ID
	2. majority	B. unfair treatment; racism; bias; inequality
	3. attachment	C. discussion; argument; conflict
	4. identity	D. negative; cynical; suspicious
	5. pessimistic	E. massive; strong; large number of
	6. discrimination	F. be the most important thing in
	7. dominated by	G. primitive; unsophisticated; cruel; brutal
	8. debate	H. bond with; closeness to; fondness for; loyalty to
	9. niqab	I. veil; face and head covering; cloth; head scarf
	10. barbaric	J. strike; blow; criticism
	11. knock	K. more than half; most

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio Clip 3:00)

Listen to the newscast again. While you listen, check whether the statements below are true (T) or false (F).

STATEMENT	TRUE	FALSE
The majority of Muslims feel that Canada is heading in the right direction		
Young Muslims are not as attached to their religious identity as older Muslims		
The Environics Institute conducted the survey just before the federal election		
The Conservatives proposal to establish a tip-line to report “barbaric cultural practices” was seen as aimed at Muslims		
The survey found that 83 % of Muslims reported being “very proud” to be Canadian, an increase of 20 points since 2006		
One-third of Muslims said what they liked least about Canada is the weather		
Three-in-five could not name anything they disliked about Canada		

LISTENING ACTIVITY 3 (Audio Clip 3:00)

Listen to the newscast again. While you listen, follow along with the script below. After you listen recheck your answers (True/False) for the statements.

SCRIPT

An **overwhelming majority** of Muslim Canadians have a strong **attachment** to their country and feel that Canada is heading in the right direction, according to a new survey.

But the survey also finds that young Muslims are more attached to their religious **identity** than older Muslims and are more likely to be concerned and **pessimistic** about **discrimination**.

These are the findings of a survey of 600 Canadian Muslims conducted by the Environics Institute that began in the weeks following the last federal election.

A large portion of the election's campaign was **dominated by** the **debate** about Muslim women's right to wear a niqab as well the Conservative proposal to establish a tip-line to report what they called "**barbaric** cultural practices" that was widely seen as aimed at Muslims.

The survey found that 83 per cent of Muslims reported being "very proud" to be Canadian, an increase of 10 points since 2006.

The biggest **knock** against Canada was the weather. Just under one-third of Muslims said that was what they liked least about Canada. Another nine per cent highlighted discrimination and the treatment of Muslims. One-in-five could not name anything they disliked about Canada.

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 1
ALBERTA PARENTS CONVICTED IN TODDLER'S MENINGITIS DEATH

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio Clip 0:11)

Listen to the newscast again. Fill in the blanks with the words that you hear.

A packed **courtroom** in Lethbridge erupted with emotion on Tuesday afternoon, after two parents accused of **letting** their son die from bacterial meningitis, were found **guilty**.

David and Collet Stephan were **charged** after their 19-month-old son Ezekiel died in March 2012, with "**failing** to provide the necessities of life."

The couple **testified** they believed Ezekiel had croup or flu. They sought **advice** from a naturopath. They treated him for 2½ weeks with remedies that included hot **peppers**, garlic, onions and horseradish.

He eventually stopped breathing, **prompting** the couple to call 911. Ezekiel was **flown** to Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary where he died.

Lisa Weich, the prosecutor, said this case was "incredibly **sad**." Weich said, "They definitely **loved** their son, but unfortunately, sometimes love just isn't **enough**. Parents still have to follow the standard of **care** that is set by the criminal law."

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 2

JOHN RIDSDDEL EXECUTION: TRUDEAU SAYS CANADA WON'T PAY RANSOMS 'DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY'

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

terrorists	militants	captivity	insurgent
endanger	condemn	heinous	pursue

WORD	MEANING
heinous	an awful act or crime
insurgent	a rebel or revolutionary
endanger	put someone at risk or in danger
captivity	imprisoned or confined
condemn	disapprove of
terrorists	people who use terrorism for political reasons
militants	extremists; political activists
pursue	follow someone in order to catch them

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 3

83% OF MUSLIMS ARE “VERY PROUD” TO BE CANADIAN AND ATTACHED TO CANADA

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

ANSWER	VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
E	1. overwhelming	A. name; identification; ID
K	2. majority	B. unfair treatment; racism; bias; inequality
H	3. attachment	C. discussion; argument; conflict
A	4. identity	D. negative; cynical; suspicious
D	5. pessimistic	E. massive; strong; large number of
B	6. discrimination	F. be the most important thing in
F	7. dominated by	G. primitive; unsophisticated; cruel; brutal
C	8. debate	H. bond with; closeness to; fondness for; loyalty to
I	9. niqab	I. veil; face and head covering; cloth; head scarf
G	10. barbaric	J. strike; blow; criticism
J	11. knock	K. more than half; most

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio Clip 3:00)

STATEMENT	TRUE	FALSE
The majority of Muslims feel that Canada is heading in the right direction	T	
Young Muslims are not as attached to their religious identity as older Muslims		F (more)
The Environics Institute conducted the survey just before the federal election		F (after)
The Conservatives proposal to establish a tip-line to report “barbaric cultural practices” was seen as aimed at Muslims	T	
The survey found that 83 % of Muslims reported being “very proud” to be Canadian, an increase of 20 points since 2006		F (10)
One-third of Muslims said what they liked least about Canada is the weather	T	
Three -in-five could not name anything they disliked about Canada		F (one)

TRANSCRIPTS OF WEEKLY NEWSCASTS

	WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi. This is Don Bell. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of May 2nd.	0:00
Newscast 1 (Local) http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/meningitis-trial-verdict-1.3552941	<p>A packed courtroom in Lethbridge erupted with emotion on Tuesday afternoon, after two parents accused of letting their son die from bacterial meningitis, were found guilty.</p> <p>David and Collet Stephan were charged after their 19-month-old son Ezekiel died in March 2012, with "failing to provide the necessities of life."</p> <p>The couple testified they believed Ezekiel had croup or flu. They sought advice from a naturopath. They treated him for 2½ weeks with remedies that included hot peppers, garlic, onions and horseradish.</p> <p>He eventually stopped breathing, prompting the couple to call 911. Ezekiel was flown to Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary where he died.</p> <p>Lisa Weich, the prosecutor, said this case was "incredibly sad." Weich said "They definitely loved their son, but unfortunately, sometimes love just isn't enough. Parents still have to follow the standard of care that is set by the criminal law."</p>	0:11
Newscast 2 (International) http://www.cbc.ca/news/john-ridsdel-kidnapping-ransom-1.3553712	<p>Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is making it clear that Canada "does not and will not" pay ransom to terrorists.</p> <p>Trudeau was responding to questions about the death of Canadian John Ridsdel, who was killed Monday by Abu Sayyaf militants in the Philippines after more than six months of captivity.</p> <p>The prime minister says ransom payments are a key source of funding for terrorist groups like Abu Sayyaf, a Muslim insurgent group.</p> <p>He says they would also endanger the lives of the millions of Canadians who live, work and travel in various parts of the globe.</p> <p>Trudeau condemned the "cold-blooded murder" of Ridsdel, a 68-year-old man who was a former Calgarian.</p> <p>Trudeau says his government will work with the government of the Philippines and international partners to pursue those responsible for this "heinous act."</p>	1:44

<p>Newscast 3 (National)</p> <p>http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/grenier-muslim-canadians-environics-1.3551591</p>	<p>An overwhelming majority of Muslim Canadians have a strong attachment to their country and feel that Canada is heading in the right direction, according to a new survey.</p> <p>But the survey also finds that young Muslims are more attached to their religious identity than older Muslims and are more likely to be concerned and pessimistic about discrimination.</p> <p>These are the findings of a survey of 600 Canadian Muslims conducted by the Environics Institute that began in the weeks following the last federal election.</p> <p>A large portion of the election's campaign was dominated by the debate about Muslim women's right to wear a niqab as well the Conservative proposal to establish a tip-line to report what they called "barbaric cultural practices" that was widely seen as aimed at Muslims.</p> <p>The survey found that 83 per cent of Muslims reported being "very proud" to be Canadian, an increase of 10 points since 2006.</p> <p>The biggest knock against Canada was the weather. Just under one-third of Muslims said that was what they liked least about Canada. Another nine per cent highlighted discrimination and the treatment of Muslims. One-in-five could not name anything they disliked about Canada.</p>	<p>3:00</p>
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