

Weekly Newscast Lesson Plan



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with
CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton and the Government of Alberta



Calgary

April 10, 2017

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide an authentic learning resource

Contents:

- Three news stories
- Vocabulary building activities
- Listening comprehension activities
- Transcripts
- Answer keys

News story #1 Subway bombing in St. Petersburg, Russia (0:12)

Setting the Scene



People put flowers outside the Technology Institute subway station in St. Petersburg, Russia, to honour the people killed and hurt there (Anatoly Maltsev/EPA) (CBC file photo)

On Monday afternoon, a bomb went off in a subway station in St. Petersburg, Russia. More than a dozen people died, and many more were injured. This happened while Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, was visiting the city of St. Petersburg. The city's subway system was closed while officials searched other stations for signs of danger, too. The police have said that the bomb was a suicide attack. This means that a person caused a violent incident, knowing they would die in it.

Pre-listening Questions

Why do you think some people attack public places?

Large public spaces, like airports, often have security to keep people safe. What are some types of security that you've seen in different public spaces?

Is public security in Canada different from your home country? How?

Vocabulary

Matching

To help you better understand the words in the news story, match the words with their definitions.

Answers are in the appendix.

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
_____	behind (prep.)	a) causing harm or damage to the body
_____	citizen (n.)	b) the town or city where a person grew up
_____	tore (v.)	c) an idea that explains a situation or event
_____	injuring (v.)	d) person who is legally part of a country or state
_____	theory (n.)	e) showing a choice between options
_____	whether (conj.)	f) pulled or ripped something apart with force
_____	attack (n.)	g) responsible for an event or plan
_____	hometown (n.)	h) violent or harmful act against someone

Extra words to help you better understand the listening:

intelligence agents – government workers who collect political information

suicide bombing – an attack where a person sets off a bomb with the plan to kill him/herself

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_3bwuf1

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Task

Multiple Choice

Read the following sentences. Then listen to the audio and circle the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Russian intelligence agents say they think the subway bomber was _____ years old.	a) 32 b) 22
2. They think he was a _____-born citizen from _____.	a) Russian/Kyrgyzstan b) Kyrgyzstan / Russia
3. The bomb in a train car killed _____ people.	a) 14 b) 40
4. It also injured another _____ people.	a) 14 b) 40
5. _____ think that this was a suicide bombing.	a) Politicians b) Police
6. They don't know if the bomber was alone or _____.	a) part of a pair b) part of a group
7. The attack happened when President Putin was _____ the city.	a) voting in b) visiting
8. St. Petersburg is President Putin's _____.	c) hometown d) home office

Food for Thought

How do you think the people of St. Petersburg feel now?

How can police learn more about the attacker, if he or she is dead?

What do you think we can do to prevent attacks like these?

News story #2 NHL players will not play hockey in Olympics (1:04)

Setting the Scene



New York Rangers goaltender Henrik Lundqvist (*left*), expressed his disappointment on Twitter. NHL commissioner Gary Bettman (*right*) stands behind the announcement. (Getty Images) (CBC file photo)

NHL hockey players play hockey professionally in the North American league. In the past, players have also been allowed to play for their country in the winter Olympics hockey games. The winter Olympics happen during the NHL hockey season. Recently, the NHL announced that they will not allow players to play in the Olympics. This is a disappointment to many players. It is also a disappointment to fans, who like to cheer for their favourite players on Team Canada at the Olympics.

Pre-listening Questions

Do you watch hockey? Do you have favourite players in the NHL?

Do you watch the Olympics? What are your favourite sports to watch?

Do you prefer to watch the summer or winter Olympics? Why?

Vocabulary

Synonym Matching

To help you better understand the story, choose the pair of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Synonym</u>
_____	discussions (n.)	a) group, council
_____	committee (n.)	b) growth, movement
_____	open (adj.)	c) topic, issue
_____	matter (n.)	d) upset, sad
_____	progress (n.)	e) talks, meetings
_____	disappointed (adj.)	f) choice, option
_____	decision (n.)	g) joining, sharing in
_____	participation (v.)	h) willing, agreeable

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: [https://quizlet.com/ 3bwuod](https://quizlet.com/3bwuod)

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Listening Activity

Short Answer

Read the questions below. Listen to the audio and answer the questions.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. NHL players will not play in the Olympics for the first time since what year?
2. Who took part in the discussions? *Check all that apply.*
 - ☐ International Hockey Players
 - ☐ International Olympic Committee
 - ☐ National Hockey League
 - ☐ South Korea Committee
 - ☐ Players (Association)
3. Where and when are the next winter Olympics?
4. Are the discussions still happening?
5. According to the NHL, why is the matter now closed?
6. What is the name of the players' group?
7. How do the players feel about the decision?

Food for thought

What are some reasons that the players should go to the Olympics?

What are some reasons that the players should stay with the NHL during the Olympics?

Who do you think will play for Team Canada in men's hockey at the winter Olympics?

News story #3 Calgary Flames president says team could move (1:32)

Setting the Scene



An image of what Calgary's new arena, CalgaryNEXT, might look like (Calgary Flames) (CBC file photo)

The City of Calgary is looking into building a new sports complex. This building would include an arena (for hockey), and a stadium and fieldhouse (for soccer or football). However, the city has not made a decision on the project. It involves many decisions about public money, location and involvement of sponsors (people who give money to projects). The Calgary Flames, the city's NHL hockey team, say they may move if the city can't build the new arena.

Pre-listening Questions

Do you follow hockey? What do you know about the Calgary Flames?

Does Calgary have any other local sports teams?

What kind of events can take place at a sports complex? Are they only for sports?

Vocabulary

Find the definition (Multiple Choice)

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Read the sentences below and choose the best definition for the words in **bold**.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. There are a few **possible** ways to go from Calgary to Edmonton: by car, bus, train or plane.
 - a. can happen
 - b. cannot happen
2. The school's recycling project had a good **outcome**. They saved 200kg of garbage last year.
 - a. result
 - b. risk
3. She made a **deal** with her boss to work late on Tuesday but leave early on Wednesday.
 - a. payment, fee
 - b. agreement, contract
4. When there are news stories about money or tax, sometimes an **economist** is interviewed.
 - a. someone who studies culture and sports
 - b. someone who studies business and trade
5. He said he would quit the team, but we knew he was **bluffing**. He loves hockey too much to stop playing it.
 - a. getting angry, shouting
 - b. pretending, misleading
6. To create a new law in Canada, councilors or members of parliament have to **vote** on it.
 - a. choose, elect
 - b. share, contribute
7. Most professional team sports are divided by gender. There is a **league** for men and a league for women.
 - a. a group of sports buildings
 - b. a group of sports teams
8. Buying tickets to a hockey game is an easy **process**. It only takes a few minutes online.
 - a. task, activity
 - b. problem, limit

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

CEO – chief executive officer; leader

on their own– alone, without help

taking part - participating, being part of

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: <https://quizlet.com/3bwutr>

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Listening Activity

Answering True/False questions

Read the following statements. While you listen to the story, decide whether the statements are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. ____ The Calgary Flames' president is also the CEO.
2. ____ Ken King says he will definitely move the team to another city.
3. ____ King wants a deal with the province on a new arena.
4. ____ Moshe Lander is a city economist.
5. ____ Lander says that King will not really move the team.
6. ____ Lander says the team cannot make the decision alone.
7. ____ Other hockey team players have to vote on a move.
8. ____ He says the NHL needs fewer Canadian teams.
9. ____ A new hockey arena might be built in Victoria Park.
10. ____ King says he does not want to be part of that process.

Food for thought

The Flames currently play in the Saddledome. Have you been there? What do you think of that arena?

What are some advantages and disadvantages of building a new sports complex?

If the sports complex was built in your neighbourhood, would you be happy? Why/why not?

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	APRIL WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi. I'm Ron Nicolson, and this is learning English with the CBC for April 10 th , with stories that made news over the past week.	0:00
Story 1	Russian intelligence agents say they think that the man behind Monday's subway bombing is a 22-year-old Russian-born citizen from Kyrgyzstan. The bomb tore through a train car in St. Petersburg, killing 14 people and injuring 40. Police say they have a theory this was a suicide bombing. But it's not clear whether the bomber was working alone or whether he was part of a group. The attack came while President Vladimir Putin was visiting the city, which is his hometown.	0:12
Story 2	For the first time since 1994, NHL players will not take part in the Winter Olympics. Discussions between the National Hockey League, the Players and the International Olympic Committee, about the 2018 games in South Korea, have ended. The NHL says it was open to discussing the Olympics, but the matter is now closed because there has been no progress. The Players Association says players are very disappointed and strongly disagree with the NHL's decision to not continue their participation in the Olympics.	0:54
Story 3	The Calgary Flames' president and CEO, Ken King, says moving the team to another city is one of the few possible outcomes -- if they can't get a deal with the city on a new arena. A sports economist, Moshe Lander, thinks King is bluffing and that teams can't just move on their own. He says other team owners have to vote on it. He also says the NHL needs Canadian teams in order to keep the league strong. The team and the city continue to discuss a possible new arena in Victoria Park. Ken King says he's taking part in that process.	1:32

Answer keys

News story 1 Subway bombing in St. Petersburg, Russia (0:12)

Vocabulary

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
<u>g</u>	behind (prep.)	a) causing harm or damage to the body
<u>d</u>	citizen (n.)	b) the town or city where a person grew up
<u>f</u>	tore (v.)	c) an idea that explains a situation or event
<u>a</u>	injuring (v.)	d) person who is legally part of a country or state
<u>c</u>	theory (n.)	e) showing a choice between options
<u>e</u>	whether (conj.)	f) pulled or ripped something apart, with force
<u>h</u>	attack (n.)	g) responsible for an event or plan
<u>b</u>	hometown (n.)	h) violent or harmful act against someone

Listening

1. Russian intelligence agents say they think the subway bomber was _____ years old.	a) 32 b) 22
2. They think he was a _____-born citizen from _____.	a) Russian/Kyrgyzstan b) Kyrgyzstan / Russia
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News story 2

NHL players will not play hockey in Olympics (0:54)

Vocabulary

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Synonym</u>
<u>e</u>	discussions (n.)	a) group, council
<u>a</u>	committee (n.)	b) growth, movement
<u>h</u>	open (adj.)	c) topic, issue
<u>c</u>	matter (n.)	d) upset, sad
<u>b</u>	progress (n.)	e) talks, meetings
<u>d</u>	disappointed (adj.)	f) choice, option
<u>f</u>	decision (n.)	g) joining, sharing in
<u>g</u>	participation (v.)	h) willing, agreeable

Listening

1. NHL players will not play in the Olympics for the first time since what year?
1994
2. Who took part in the discussions? *Check all that apply.*
☐ International Hockey Players
☒ International Olympic Committee
☒ National Hockey League
☐ South Korea Committee
☐ Players (Association)
3. Where and when are the next winter Olympics?
South Korea; 2018
4. Are the discussions still happening?
No – they have ended
5. According to the NHL, why is the matter now closed?
because there has been no progress
6. What is the name of the players' group?
The Players Association
7. How do the players feel about the decision?
disappointed; strongly disagree with the decision

News story 3

Calgary Flames president says team could move (1:32)

Vocabulary

1. There are a few **possible** ways to go from Calgary to Edmonton: by car, bus, train, or plane.
a. can happen
b. cannot happen
2. The school's recycling project had a good **outcome**. They saved 200kg of garbage last year.
a. result
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a. a group of sports buildings
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Listening

1. T The Calgary Flames' president is also the CEO.
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