

WRITING A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Writing a newspaper story isn't like writing any other story. Here are ten steps to help you:

- 1** Decide what your story will be about.
- 2** Carry out the following research:
 - Interview the people involved.
 - Write down exactly what they say (you can use these quotations later).
 - Check your facts are correct.
 - What is interesting about the story?
 - What are the main points?
 - How long should it be?
- 3** The first sentence should summarise the story or get the reader's attention by using an opening sentence which is a question or something unexpected. Here's an example of a sentence that summarises the story: **Fire teams rescued a cat from a tree in Ferndale Road yesterday.**
- 4** The first paragraph should explain the story in more detail. Try to answer: *Who? What? When? Where? and Why?* As you give the details, include quotations from the people you interviewed.
- 5** Don't write in the first person – using *I* or *me*. Instead, write in the third person – using *he*, *she*, *it* or *they*.
- 6** Use active verbs to get the reader interested in your story. Which is better?
 - “He was running away awkwardly.”
 - “He ran away awkwardly.”
 - “He scrambled away.”
- 7** Try to finish your final sentence or paragraph with a catchy phrase or a quotation.
- 8** Read your story through carefully to ensure that it makes sense.
- 9** Check your story's spelling and grammar is correct.
- 10** Decide what pictures or photographs would go well with your story.