

Newspapers

WORKSHEET A

It is probably true to say that the majority of literate people around the world receive (1) _____ from newspapers almost every day of their lives. As well as the hundreds of millions who buy a daily paper, there must be at least as many who get the chance to read a paper (2) _____ by someone else, or who just glance at the headlines as they walk past a newspaper stand.

Of course there are many different (3) _____ of newspaper, from those that only contain 'serious' news to those that fill their pages with scandals and gossip, often involving the personal (4) _____ of celebrities. However, most of them contain some political and economic news, along with a section giving opinions on recent events. Of course, the (5) _____ between fact and opinion is not always clear, as the choice of which stories to include and how to report them often reflects the (6) _____ perspective of the newspaper in question.

Most historians agree that the first newspapers that looked similar to today's versions (7) _____ in Europe in the early 17th century. However not many people read them; the majority of the population was (8) _____, and in any case the technology to print a large number of copies per day did not yet exist. One of the first papers to become available to a mass audience by using a printing machine capable of printing more than a thousand sheets of paper per hour, was Britain's *The Times* in 1814.

In many countries there is a lot of (9) _____ between different newspapers, and their editors constantly try to come up with new ideas that will increase their readership. One of the world's biggest selling national newspapers is *Yomiuri Shimbun* in Japan, with a circulation of well over ten million copies a day. The most (10) _____ daily newspaper in Europe is reported to be *Bild* in Germany, which sells almost four million copies a day.

With competition from the internet as well as from television and radio, some media experts say newspapers face a difficult future. It is certainly true that the circulation of many major national newspapers has been falling, and that there are now some newspapers that only (11) _____ online.

There is no sign, however, that newspapers are going to disappear from our lives in the near future, and perhaps they never will. After all, reading a paper is a different physical experience from using a computer. Even if everyone were able to receive news from the internet, it is quite easy to imagine that many people would still prefer to have physical (12) _____ with the printed page rather than look at a screen.

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WORKSHEET B

Part A

Fill the twelve gaps in the text on Worksheet A with the correct words from the box below. There are four words that you will not need to use.

popular	illiterate	circulation	exist
line	information	appeared	bought
paper	reading	contact	buy
types	competition	lives	political

Part B

Below are eight quotes on the subject of newspapers. Can you work out what the missing words are?

1. 'The man who reads n _ _ _ _ _ a _ l is better educated than the man who reads nothing but newspapers.' (Thomas Jefferson, 1743-1826, 3rd President of the United States)
2. 'It's amazing that the _ _ _ _ _ t of news that happens in the world every day always just exactly fits the newspaper.' (Jerry Seinfeld, American comedian)
3. 'A _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ts ... contain the only truths to be relied on in a newspaper.' (Thomas Jefferson)
4. 'Jo _ _ _ _ _ m largely consists of saying "Lord Jones is dead" to people who never knew that Lord Jones was alive.' (G. K. Chesterton, 1874-1936, English writer)
5. 'I would rather ex _ _ _ _ _ than read a newspaper.' (Kim Alexis, American model)
6. A good newspaper ... is a nation t _ _ _ _ _ g to itself. (Arthur Miller, 1915-2005, American playwright)
7. 'Once a newspaper touches a story, the f _ _ _ s are lost forever...' (Norman Mailer, 1923-2007, American writer)
8. 'I think a newspaper should be p _ _ vo _ _ t _ v _ .' (Rupert Murdoch, Australian-American media executive and owner of many newspapers)