

Quiz: Writing news

This is your chance to see just how much you know about writing a good news story.

Correct answers are shown in italics

Writing news

Q) Fill in the missing word.

"Journalists use language that is clear, _____ and correct."

1) *Concise*

2) Cool

3) Crafty

The answer is concise, which means short. When you're writing the news, it's important to keep your sentences short, so that people can understand what you are trying to tell them. It's also important that your report is not too long, otherwise people will switch off.

Writing news

Q) Journalists' language is simple. Which of the following phrases is the best example?

1) Fire fighters rushed to the scene of a massive blaze

2) *Riot police used shields to push demonstrators back*

3) The Prime Minister was hauled over the coals

Riot police used shields to push demonstrators back is the most clear because it simple and straightforward. No word is wasted.

Writing news

Q) Which of the following will add interest to your report?

1) Using italics and bold

2) *Quotations*

3) Exclamation marks

Quotations will add interest to your report. A quote is a great way to add some colour. Listen out for interesting or amusing quotes when you are interviewing people.

Writing news

Q) Which of these is most likely to annoy readers?

- 1) Jargon
- 2) Big chunks of text
- 3) *Inaccurate spelling and grammar*

Inaccurate spelling and grammar is most likely to annoy people, so double check before you publish. But long chunks of text and jargon are also irritating!

Writing scripts

Q) After you've written your script down, what's the first thing you should do?

- 1) Give it straight to the editor
- 2) *Read it aloud to make sure it sounds okay*
- 3) Move on to the next story

The first thing you should do is to read it aloud to make sure it sounds okay. It may feel a little weird to read something you've written out loud, especially when the people around you are quiet. But journalists who write for radio and TV are always told to read their scripts aloud to make sure there are no tongue twisters in it!

Writing headlines

Q) What is the golden rule for writing headlines?

- 1) Be as clever as possible
- 2) *Keep it short and bright*
- 3) Never let the facts get in the way of a good story

BBC NEWS ■ SCHOOL REPORT ■

A headline should be short and bright. It should grab people's attention but mustn't mislead them. Be clear and tell readers what the story is about.

Your Score

0 – 1 Keep working at it

2 -4 Good but could be better

5 -6 Well done!