

ГОУ ВПО “Саратовский государственный университет
им. Н.Г. Чернышевского”
Педагогический институт

**Реалии современного мира в зеркале
английской прессы**

Саратов
2011

УДК 802.0 (075.8)
ББК 81.2 Англ - 923

Рекомендуют к печати

Учёный совет факультета иностранных языков Пединститута СГУ им. Н.Г. Чернышевского
Кафедра английского языка Пединститута СГУ им. Н.Г. Чернышевского

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Р 74 Реалии современного мира в зеркале английской прессы: Учебно-методическое пособие на английском языке / Назарова Р.З., Присяжнюк Т.А., Александрова Т.Н. - 2-е изд., исправленное и дополненное. - Саратов: 2011. – 149 с.

Пособие предназначено для студентов старших курсов языковых факультетов высших учебных заведений, студентов, получающих дополнительную квалификацию по специальности «переводчик в сфере профессиональной коммуникации», а также лиц, изучающих английский язык с подготовкой выше среднего уровня (upper-intermediate or advanced).

Основная цель пособия – формирование у студентов навыков практического владения английским языком; обучение чтению прессы на английском языке и пониманию современных реалий, отражённых в газетных материалах; расширение кругозора студентов с учётом специфики их будущей профессии.

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Работа издана в авторской редакции

ISBN

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ПРЕДИСЛОВИЕ

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В основу пособия положены современные методики комплексного коммуникативного обучения иностранному языку.

Газетный материал, представленный в пособии, включает в себя большое разнообразие тем, каждая из которых сопровождается вокабуляром и соответствующим лексическим, стилистическим и лингво-культурологическим комментарием.

Пособие состоит из 11 уроков, каждый из которых содержит новостную газетную статью и упражнения, направленные на усвоение нового материала.

Каждый урок состоит из четырёх частей: I Read and Expand your Vocabulary; II Consider the Issues; III Stylistics in focus, IV Develop your Reading Comprehension Skills.

В первой части урока проводится работа с новыми словами из прочитанной статьи. Все упражнения данной части подчиняются одной цели – помочь студентам рецептивно овладеть определенным кругом слов, обеспечить качественное усвоение как можно большего количества языковых единиц, относящихся к данной теме. Лексические единицы, отработанные в упражнениях первой части урока, используются во второй части, что способствует их активному усвоению.

Во второй части урока содержатся упражнения, направленные на обсуждение социально-политических реалий, затронутых в прочитанной статье. Данная часть урока также содержит пояснения, касающиеся актуальных современных социальных, политических и культурных реалий Великобритании и США; необходимые сведения для адекватной интерпретации и обсуждения данной статьи; соответствующие данные справочного характера и вопросы для дискуссии.

В третьей части урока рассматриваются отдельные стилистические аспекты данного газетного текста. Далее на примере данной статьи водятся стилистические понятия, релевантные именно для этого урока, и анализируются определённые стилистические приёмы, характерные для изучаемой статьи и для газетного информационного текста в целом.

Четвёртая часть содержит задания, направленные на развитие навыков чтения и формирования читательской культуры. Студенты знакомятся с

различными стратегиями и стилями чтения – просмотрным (skimming), поисковым (scanning) и др., а также осваивают различные приёмы для овладения этими стратегиями.

Примечания авторов, сделанные непосредственно в тексте статьи или справочного материала, выделены курсивом и помещены в скобки.

Саратовский государственный университет имени Н. Г. Чернышевского

Unit 1

Press and Media

I Read and expand your vocabulary

Kate Middleton complains to PCC over photograph

Kate Middleton has made a formal complaint over alleged harassment to the Press Complaints Commission after the publication of a picture of her in *Daily Mirror* (29.03.2007).

After relying on private assurances from editors, lawyers for Ms Middleton have stepped up their campaign to protect her from a daily pursuit by paparazzi. Ms Middleton, who is the girlfriend of Prince William, objected to a picture that showed her clutching a take-away coffee cup and car keys as she headed to work.

The accompanying article suggested that a “stoney-faced” Ms Middleton was likely to be unhappy after the Prince had been photographed with other women during a night out in Bournemouth.

Lawyers for Ms Middleton, 25, are believed to be preparing a test case to protect her privacy and to stop what they regard as dangerous harassment by photographers.

Sir Christopher Meyer, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission (PCC), made an informal appeal to newspaper editors to “back off” Ms Middleton this year.

However, Harbottle & Lewis, solicitor for both Ms Middleton and the Prince of Wales, warned the media that any further breach of her privacy would result in an official complaint.

Gerrard Tyrrell, her solicitor, said: “My client strongly objects to having her photograph taken in a public place while going about her private business.”

The *Mirror* picture triggered an immediate complaint that the paper was guilty of a breach of Clause 4 (Harassment) of the PCC Code of Practice.

The commission said in a statement: “The complaint will now be investigated in the normal way and the commission will not be making any further statement on the subject until the matter has been dealt with.” Harbottle & Lewis claims to have “disturbing” film of photographers intruding on Miss Middleton’s privacy and potentially jeopardising her safety.

Paparazzi activity outside her London home reached a frenzy during her birthday in January. The PCC delivered a “final warning” to editors, reminding them that Ms Middleton remained a private individual. News International, owner of *The Times*, does not use paparazzi pictures of her.

If the commission's complaint is rejected, Miss Middleton's lawyers could use the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 against individuals. It is her first official complaint to the commission.

Royal aides revealed that Prince William wanted "more than anything" for photographers to stop harassing his long-term girlfriend. His concerns over the media come after the death of his mother, Diana, Princess of Wales, who was being pursued by paparazzi when she was killed in a car accident in Paris in 1997.

In 1996 the Princess, with the Duchess of York, reported the Daily Mirror to the commission over photographs of them on holiday with their children in France. She later dropped the case.

Three years earlier the same paper had published pictures of the Princess in a gym, wearing a leotard and using an exercise machine. She launched legal action and Bryce Taylor, the former owner of the gym, and Mirror Group Newspapers settled out of court.

In 1996 the Princess obtained a court injunction against Martin Stenning, a photographer, which banned him from going within 300 yards of her.

Clarence House last night refused to discuss Ms Middleton's case.

A spokesman for the *Mirror* said: "We will provide the necessary thoughts and comments to the PCC. We will not be commenting any further at this stage."

By Adam Sherwin. (Filed: 30.03.2007)

<http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/law/article1588845.ece>

Word bank

to step smth. up (phrasal verb) – to increase the amount of an activity or the speed of a process in order to improve a situation: e.g. The health department is stepping up efforts to reduce teenage smoking.

breach (n.) – an action that breaks a law, rule, or agreement: e.g.

to back off (phrasal verb) – to stop threatening, criticizing or annoying somebody: e.g. I think you should back off for a while.

jeopardize (v.) – to risk losing or spoiling something important: e.g. Large-scale military offensives could jeopardize the UN peace process

frenzy (n.) – a state of great activity and strong emotion that is often violent or frightening and not under control (*безумие*): e.g. The speaker worked the crowd up into a frenzy.

to launch/take legal action against smb. – to start a court case to decide whether someone has done something wrong: e.g. They are threatening to launch legal action against the hospital.

to drop the case – to stop legal pursuit: e.g. New evidence was presented to the court and the case was dropped.

Work with essential vocabulary

1.1. Rewrite the sentences using the words from the word bank.

1. The United Nations described the invasion as 'a flagrant violation of international law'.
2. In a fit of hysteria, Silvia blamed me for causing her father's death.
3. In the run-up to the election, the US government has intensified activities in their war against terrorism.
4. Cheltzie Hentz begins legal proceedings against two fellow primary school pupils after they swore at her on a bus.
5. The pilot refused to endanger the lives of his passengers by making an unscheduled landing.
6. The press has agreed to leave the celebrity couple alone.
7. They decided to drop the charges against the newspaper and settle out of court.

1.2. Find in the article English equivalents to the following phrases. Make up your own sentences with English phrases.

судебный запрет, запретительная норма; на данном этапе;
с каменным лицом; прецедентное дело;
подать судебный иск; «последнее предупреждение»;
частное лицо; официальный иск;
опасные домогательства; решить дело вне суда, полюбовно;
адвокат, дающий советы клиенту и выступающий только в судах низшей инстанции.

1.3. Work with vocabulary related to the topic "Press and Media".

Match the words and phrases in bold on the left to their synonyms on the right.

article	circulation	photographer	the dailies
issue	periodicals	reporter	lead story
newsreader	editor	title	newscaster
journalist	main story	number of copies sold	number
editorial	the papers	monthlies & weeklies	report
commercial	headline	leader	advertisement
correspondent	reviewer	reporter	newspaper's boss
paparazzi		critic	

Match the definitions below with some of the words in bold from list above:

1. the number of copies a newspaper sells each day _____
2. an advertisement on television or radio _____
3. a reporter whose job it is to report local news from a distant area

4. someone who writes for a newspaper or magazine _____
5. the title of a newspaper report printed in large letters _____
6. the person who decides what goes in a newspaper or magazine _____
7. a piece of writing in a newspaper that gives the editor's opinion about something, rather than reporting facts _____
8. a piece of writing about a particular subject in a newspaper or magazine

9. people who follow famous people in order to take photographs they can sell to newspapers _____

II. Consider the issues

2.1. Read additional information about the modern press and answer the following questions.

1. How do newspapers affect the way people think?
2. How has the newspaper business changed in recent years in Britain and Russia?
3. Which British and Russian broadsheets sell the most copies?
4. What are the oldest British and Russian broadsheets?

More daily newspapers are sold per person in the UK than in almost any other country. While the more serious newspapers (quality papers or broadsheets) have a lot of home and international news, some of the more popular 'tabloids' (so called because of their size) concentrate on the more spectacular and scandalous aspects of life in Britain, providing numerous pictures and photos.

Helpful Expressions

The article deals with ...
The article describes ...; announces ...
The article informs readers about/of ...
The article considers/discusses/examines the implications of ...
The article comments on ...
The article criticizes ... strongly/sharply/heavily
The article opens with ...
The article ends with ...
... was pilloried in the article
The article raises political/social/economic/environmental issues
The issues addressed in the article

There are two types of journalists. General reporters write about a wide range of events while specialist journalists, like crime reporters, education correspondents or political staff, concentrate upon their own areas of expertise. Many papers also have columnists who describe issues or events from their personal and subjective points of view.

are thorny/vexed/complex/sensitive etc.
The reporter/journalist cites ..., quotes ...
Reader can easily infer something from the use of ... words
... words help readers to interpret implications correctly

Feature pages usually fall in the middle of the paper or in separate sections and provide in-depth coverage on a wide range of subjects from topical news issues to entertainment, the environment, health, education, women's issues, or fashion. The features are often commissioned from writers with specialist skills.

Some of the feature pages are prepared ahead of the news pages and are often ready up to two days in advance. Others are as up-to-the-minute and as reactive to events as the news pages.

(adopted from: News International Limited Fact Files, 2004;
Paul Harvey, Phodri Jones. Britain Explored. – Longman, 2002. – p.141-142)

2.2. Read the information about the Newspaper Code of Practice and then analyze the article in question from this perspective.

1. What is meant by “The Mirror is guilty of a breach of Clause 4 (Harassment) of the Press Complaints Commission Code of Practice”?
2. What is the Press Complaints Commission?

Fears about the threat of legislation, particularly on the privacy, pushed British newspapers and magazines into a code of practice. They drew it up and the Press Complaints Commission ratified it. The Commission, a non-statutory body supported by the industry, uses the code when considering complaints against newspapers.

The code is a simple document, a statement of principles and good behavior, a preamble and eighteen clauses. The three opening clauses are: “Accuracy”, “Opportunity to reply”, “Comment, conjecture and fact”.

There are also the keys to good journalistic writing: being clear, being correct and being factual, being neutral, being fair and being concise. If faithfully kept they enable journalists to cope sensibly with complex stories.

(based on: J. Wilson. Understanding journalism– London: Rutledge, 1996.

J.L. Pinson, B.S. Brooks. Working with words. A Concise Handbook for Media Writers and Editors – New York: St. Martin's Press, 1993).

2.3. Read the article below and discuss the following questions.

Mirror apologises over Kate Middleton picture

Kate Middleton has won a victory in her battle against harassment after the *Daily Mirror* admitted that it should not have published a picture of her taken in the street.

Richard Wallace, the *Daily Mirror* Editor, said: "On Thursday we published an innocuous picture of Ms Middleton. It was taken by a freelance photographer in circumstances where we were later told she felt harassed. We got it wrong and we sincerely regret that."

By Adam Sherwin. (Filed: 30.03.2007)

http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/industry_sectors/media/article1593649.ece

1. Why did Kate Middleton make a formal complaint to the Press Complaints Commission?
2. Why is the royal family so sensitive about the matter?
3. Will the decision of the PCC stop paparazzi and reporters from intruding further on Kate's private life?
4. Does the ruling of the PCC in Kate's favor mean that the right to privacy is more important than the freedom of press?
5. To what extent should people watch the activities of others?

III. Stylistics in focus

3.1. Key concept: Bias

Newspapers have an important effect on public opinion. There are strong connections between British newspapers and political parties; it is believed that there is hardly an article in a newspaper written in an unbiased manner. Read a few definitions of bias and give your own definition based on the ones given below and the commentary above.

Bias is:

- an opinion about whether a person, group, or idea is good or bad which influences how you deal with it (e.g. political/gender/racial etc bias) (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English).
- a tendency to support or oppose a particular person or thing in an unfair way by allowing personal opinions to influence your judgment (Cambridge International Dictionary of English).

- a prejudice in a general or specific sense, usually in the sense for having a preference to one particular point of view or ideological perspective. However, one is generally only said to be *biased* if one's views could not be taken as being neutral or objective, but instead as subjective (<http://encyclopedia.thefreedictionary.com>).
- a strong feeling in favor of or against one group of people, or one side in an argument, often not based on fair judgment; to unfairly influence somebody's opinions or decisions (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary).

3.2. Read the commentary below about bias. Consider the role of vocabulary in expressing reporter's (or, in a wider sense, socio-political institution's) attitude and influencing recipients' judgment.

“The presentation of news has been of particular interest because of the way in which it can be seen to work ideologically. News coverage in the media is not simply “truthful”, but, on many occasions, is biased.

We can see that, using similar techniques, a topic can be presented to the public in very different lights; and it is up to us to judge to what extent this coloring is obscuring the truth of the situation.

There is always the danger of bias (conscious or otherwise) in newspaper writing: the attitudes of the writer (reporter) towards the subject tend to creep in. But by paying careful attention to the language vehicle he uses for these attitudes, we can take care we are not easily fooled.

Political news, the strongest area of newspaper partisanship, is notorious for bias wrapped up as a fact”.

(based on: L. Taylor, A. Willis Media studies.
Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1999. – p. 34-35.
D. Crystal, D. Davy Investigating English Style.
New York: Longman, 1995. – p. 190-191).

3.3. Now decide if this article is intended to merely inform readers about the Royal Family or if it has additional implications of some kind?

Give examples of word choice in the article to prove your opinion.

IV Develop your reading comprehension skills

Information Box

Mastering reading comprehension skills suggests the ability to use different styles of reading in different situations. These styles are scanning, skimming and detailed reading.

Skimming is used for getting the gist of something.

The technique you use when you're going through a newspaper or magazine: you read quickly to get the main points, and skip over the detail. It's useful to skim:

- to preview a passage before you read it in detail
- to refresh your understanding of a passage after you've read it in detail.

Use skimming when you're trying to decide if a book in the library or bookshop is right for you.

4.1. Key concept: Main Idea

Selecting **the main idea** for the paragraph or for the whole text is a very useful technique for developing **skimming** (reading for the gist). The following tasks will help you to develop this skill.

4.2. Read the first part of the following article and select the main idea for the paragraphs.

The Royal Pejorative

Fans of Diana will attack TV depictions of her life, but tolerate biographies which are just as intrusive

- A** The oddest moment in the recent row over the doctoring of the BBC's royal documentary was when Helen Mirren intervened on American television to complain that the person she won an Oscar portraying should never have been treated in this way.
- B** The fact that this remark was widely treated as if the star of The Queen were speaking on behalf of Elizabeth II – although objectively it had no more weight than Roger Moore or Sean Connery commenting on staffing levels at MI6 – confirms the extent to which film, though initially seen as risky in dramatized living members of the royal family to an extent previously unknown in Britain, has come to be seen as a winning bit of spin for the monarchy.
- C** Buckingham Palace, though, does have another film to worry about. The long-held conventions of respect towards the Windsors have rapidly been

retreating from British broadcasting, an irreverence exemplified by ITV1's *Whatever Love Means*, depicting the Charles-Diana-Camilla triangle. But, even given that history, *Diana: Last Days of a Princess*, to be screened by Channel Five on Monday, marks a startling advance towards treating Britain's titular rulers just like any other public figures.

D The Channel 4 bosses who spent a week facing calls for their heads over the use of a carefully cropped photograph of the Paris crash scene – including a letter from Princes William and Harry – will be even more bemused at the reaction to their cautious documentary when they see this fully dramatized recreation of the princess's final romance and death.

E Even I, who have consistently argued that William and Harry have no more right to prevent media depictions of their mother than Caroline Kennedy has to suppress the footage of her father's exploding brain, wonder whether they should be asked to endure this.

- A**
1. Hellen Mirren won an Oscar.
 2. There was a row on American Television.
 3. Helen Mirren took part in the recent row over the doctoring of the BBC's royal documentary making a speech on American television.
 4. The BBC's royal documentary was shown on American television.

- B**
1. The film has appeared to be risky for the monarchy, because it has revealed some secrets of the royal family.
 2. The film *The Queen* has appeared to be to the monarchy's advantage to a large extent.
 3. The star of the *Queen* spoke on behalf of Elizabeth II.
 4. The star has much weight in the British society.

- C**
1. The members of the royal family are treated like any other public figures.
 2. The film *Whatever Love Means* demonstrates the loss of conventions of respect for the royal family.
 3. *Whatever Love Means* is the film Buckingham Palace is to worry about.
 4. The film *Diana: Last Days of a Princess* is something the royal family is concerned about, because they fear to lose people's

respect.

- D**
1. The Cannel 4 bosses will be bewildered when they see the film Diana: Last Days of a Princess.
 2. The Cannel 4 bosses used a photograph of a Paris crash.
 3. The recreation of the Princess's final romance and death will have a success.
 4. The recreation of the Princess's final romance and death is fully dramatized.
- E**
1. William and Harry have no right to prevent media depictions of their mother.
 2. It will be painful for William and Harry to watch the film.
 3. The Media have the right to depict people's private life.
 4. The Media do not have the right to depict people's private life.

4.3. Read the rest of the article and formulate the main idea for each paragraph.

So far, films and novels about Diana's death released in Britain have obeyed two unspoken rules. One is that the princes are not depicted. The other is that the princess herself is sparingly involved in the fictions inspired by her death. The Queen uses only a few news images, while, in David Baddiel's novel Whatever Love Means, Diana is an offstage figure, referred to in the conversation of fictional characters.

main idea: _____

In one of two Diana-related thrillers published to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the car crash, Tom Cain's The Accident Man, she is again present mainly by implication. The other novel - Eoin McNamee's 12:23: Paris. 31st August 1997 - does attribute thoughts and actions to Diana but sparingly, with the distancing trick of calling her "Spencer".

main idea: _____

It's a measure of how powerful the unofficial cordon sanitaire around the boys has been that, even 10 years later, fictionalists still approach the subject in white gloves. Next week's TV drama, though, pokes its fingers right into the story. Conversations between Diana and Dodi, and between the princess and her

sons, are imagined and dramatised. Some of it seems so unlikely - Diana keeps banging on about "security", when she had notoriously dispensed with her special branch bodyguard in the summer of her death - that you immediately question the rest.

main idea: _____

Yet, tendentious and sentimental as the Five drama is, it raises the question of whether our culture operates a double standard with regard to the depiction of dead celebrities. The main line of criticism against the Channel 4 documentary and now the Five biopic is that the princes should not have to put up with this.

main idea: _____

However, Tina Brown's new biography of Diana, handsomely publicised and serialised, would surely be at least as upsetting for the princes. At one point, that book even takes us inside their parents' honeymoon suite and reveals an indelicate sexual detail. The traditional defense of biography over the biopic is that prose can be clearer about the distinction between fact and fiction - using the distancing verbs "seems", "may", "claimed" - but Brown's prose narrows the gap so that she frequently seems to enter a subject's head with a novelist's omniscience.

main idea: _____

By Mark Lawson,
from The Guardian, Friday July 27, 2007

Unit 2

Politics

I Read and expand your vocabulary

Tories risk another period of disaster, warns Maude

The Conservatives risk repeating the "disastrous" period when Iain Duncan Smith was leader and damaging their prospects at the next election if they deny MPs the final say on who should succeed Michael Howard, Francis Maude, the party chairman, has warned.

In a sign of growing alarm that his plans to strip party members of the decisive vote could be rejected in a ballot, Mr. Maude urged the voluntary party, MPs, MEPs (*Members of the European Parliament*) and peers to support the plan to ensure the next leader has the backing of the parliamentary party.

Referring to Mr. Duncan Smith's two-year period in charge, Mr. Maude said: "We have lived through the consequences of a leader elected under the current rules who did not carry the support of the parliamentary party.

"It was a miserable period. Everyone knows that it was a completely miserable period both if you were in parliament or in the voluntary party. I have never seen so many long faces in the Conservative Party in parliament and outside than during that time."

His remarks came as two of the front-runners for the leadership, Kenneth Clarke and David Cameron, went head to head in rival campaign speeches.

Mr. Clarke's supporters will welcome Mr. Maude's intervention. The former Chancellor's chances of winning the leadership rest heavily on the rule change being passed as he is more popular among MPs than rank and file Tories, who disapprove of his pro-European views.

Mr. Maude insisted that despite a recent backlash against the reform plans, led by a minority of local Tories and MPs, they enjoyed majority support among grass-root party members.

"Most people have now agreed that there are inherent flaws in the current system which can lead to a situation - as in the only time it was used - that was disastrous for us," he said. "As we have seen it can be very bad. It was very damaging to us."

Mr. Duncan Smith was elected leader in 2001 under the one-member-one-vote system introduced by his predecessor William Hague as part of plans to make the party more democratic. But leading Tory MPs and heads of the voluntary party

agreed last year that it needed to be changed to ensure there could be no repeat of the debacle.

Rejection of the rule change, Mr. Maude said, would not "inevitably" lead to a crisis for the party - as it would revert to the existing system and could elect a popular and successful leader - but there remained a risk.

Working with the existing rules would also, he said, mean the top job remaining vacant for another four months while the lengthy process of balloting 300,000 party members was carried out.

As the Tories were expecting Gordon Brown to take over from Tony Blair in about two years and then call a snap election to win his own mandate, the delay could cost them dear, Mr. Maude said. ...

The plans did not represent a power grab by MPs. "I cannot emphasise too strongly that no one would have gone down this path unless there was pretty strong evidence that this was what the voluntary party wanted. It is not a case of us trying to hijack it."

Ballot papers were sent out last week to the 1,133 members of the party's "constitutional college" who will vote on the rule change. They include MPs, MEPs, peers, and leading members of the voluntary party.

To be passed the plan must receive the backing of 50 per cent of all those eligible to vote and 66 per cent of MPs and the voluntary party.

By Toby Helm, Chief Political Correspondent (Filed: 02.09.2005)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/09/02/ntory02.xml>

Word bank

backlash (n.) – a strong negative reaction by a number of people against recent events, especially against political or social developments: e.g. The attacks have sparked a bitter backlash against the revolutionary forces.

debacle (n.) – an event or situation that is a complete failure, especially because of bad planning and organization: e.g. A political debacle laid the groundwork for progress.

rank and file (n.) – the ordinary people in an organization, rather than the leaders: e.g. The policy will now have to be approved by the rank and file.

rank-and-file (adj.) E.g. the rank-and-file members of the trade union

front-runner (n.) – the person or thing that is most likely to succeed in a competition: e.g. David Davis, the home affairs spokesman, has emerged as the clear front-runner.

head to head – competing directly with another person or group: e.g. Courier companies are going head-to-head with the Post Office.

long faces – a sad or disappointed expression on someone's face: e.g. What's the long face for?

cost smb. dear – (*written*) to make someone suffer a lot or to lose something important. E.g. Carolyn's marriage to Pete cost her dear.

power (land etc.) grab – the act of getting something quickly, especially in a dishonest way: e.g. That was a shameless power grab to eliminate opposition.

Work with essential vocabulary

1.1. Match each sentence from part A with the sentence from part B that contains a synonym to a word in bold from part A. Translate both of the sentences.

Part A.

1. Perhaps he will hold back, not least for fear of the international **backlash** such a violation of democracy would trigger.
2. The bankruptcy of the company was described as the greatest financial **debacle** in US history.
3. The charity is backed by staff from **the rank and file** to directorate level.
4. In a sign of growing alarm that his plans to strip party members of the **decisive vote** could be rejected in a ballot, Mr. Maude urged the voluntary party to support the plan.
5. The survey of Tory MPs says that Mr. Clarke, the best-known and most experienced of the contenders, is losing allies to David Davis, **the front-runner**.
6. Never-ending telly, Mum's **long face**, and a turkey dinner that nobody wanted to eat, not even Henry.
7. Missing the train **cost me dear** for I missed an extremely important meeting.
8. Hamilton's actions were nothing more than a **power grab** within the company.

Part B

1. Worst of all, his sad-looking face was more contorted than ever in the fury of self-pity.
2. None is big enough or bold enough to offset the negative effects of the financial collapse.
3. Then a howl went up among conservative critics of the court that it was usurping the role of the legislature.
4. I can't work for an employer who constantly gives negative feedback on my work.
5. Retaining the existing one-member, one-vote system would almost certainly favour David Davis, the shadow home secretary and leadership winner-to-be.

6. That was too big a price Nicholson had to pay for his momentary weakness – the scandal ruined his career.
7. But other MPs gave warning that grassroots Tories, angered at their loss of power, could still mount a final campaign against the plans over the summer.
8. The parliamentary party voted by 127 to 50 to strip local Tories of the final say over the choice of leader and return the power to MPs at Westminster.

1.2. Fill each of the blanks with a suitable word or phrase from the word bank.

1. David Cameron, 38, the shadow education secretary, is thought to compete head to head with Mr. Clarke - another _____ for the leadership of the Conservative party.
2. A couple of missed chances in the first half of my life _____.
3. In partial deference to that potential _____, current incumbents did not actively seek committee endorsement.
4. A new law requires companies to offer comparable health benefits to top executives and _____ workers.
5. He was in his early thirties with dark skin. He always had _____ from which protruded a sharp, aquiline nose.
6. It was a general _____ of the presidential elections, the candidate failed to persuade the electors.
7. Officials denounced the settlers' land _____.

II. Consider the issues

2.1. Read the information below and then answer the following questions.

1. What is a one-member, one-vote electoral system?
2. What is the essence of the debate on how to elect a successor to Mr. Howard, Conservative Party's leader?

The leader of a party is elected by the majority of party members at the party conference. Though recently the parliamentary party voted by 127 to 50 to strip local Tories of the final say over the choice of leader and return the power to MPs at Westminster.

Although to be passed the change to the party constitution must go before its ruling of the constitutional college.

Under the proposed system, any MP can stand for leadership if he or she secures the support in writing of at least five per cent of the parliamentary party (10 MPs).

The names of candidates will then be submitted for a "consultation" among members of the voluntary party, members of the European Parliament, councillors, peers, members of the Scottish Parliament and Welsh and London assemblies.

Each constituency will be allowed to nominate two choices. The candidates will be ranked according to the number of votes received from constituencies across the country but their preferences will not bind MPs, who will have the final, decisive ballot.

The current rules, under which MPs decide their favourite candidates and then local Tories, in a one-member, one-vote system, have the final vote, were introduced by William Hague after the 1997 election to bring more democracy to the party.

(based on the article "Tory MPs wrest back the power to choose leader"
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/07/21/ntory21.xml>)

2.2. Explain the meaning of the following sentences (using the information in the commentary above), paying attention to the words in bold

1. Over recent weeks most Tory MPs, even those with reservations about **depriving** local Conservatives of power to choose the leader, realized that they **could not dither any longer** over deciding how to choose the leader.
2. The Conservatives risk repeating the **"disastrous" period** when Iain Duncan Smith was leader and damaging their prospects at the next election if they **deny MPs the final say** on who should succeed Michael Howard.

2.3. Compare the one-member, one-vote electoral system in the United Kingdom with the electoral system in Russia. In what way do they differ?

III. Stylistics in focus

3.1. Key concept: Lexical Choice in Media

Read the abstract below devoted to the issue of lexical choice in media reporting.

"It is clear that the vocabulary of reporting is not without significance. Lexical choices are as significant as syntactic patterns and, indeed, tend to be the items which attract most attention.

The following descriptive scheme for the recognition of **core newspaper vocabulary** and **non-core newspaper vocabulary** can allow us to see the relationship between lexis and ideology.

Core vocabulary is used to describe those elements in the lexical network of a language which are unmarked. **Core words** often:

- have clear antonyms (e.g. fat-thin, hot-cold, emaciated - ?);
- are generally characterized by collocational frequency (e.g. fat man, fat salary, fat cheque etc. compare with chubby or corpulent);
- do not carry especially marked connotations or associations (e.g. compare thin and skinny).

Recognition of core newspaper vocabulary can enable us to identify the kinds of **non-neutral (non-core) expressive vocabulary** which will be marked for bias or for “ideological” connotations”.

(R. Carter, W. Nash Seeing through language.
A guide to styles of English writing.
Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1995. p. 61-64)

3.2. Consider the language of this particular article from the perspective of the degrees of neutrality or bias which are inscribed in the choice of lexis which the reporter makes.

Find a few examples of words belonging to core vocabulary and non-core vocabulary.

3.3. Find words that indicate the following.

- the reporter’s attitude to the reforms;
- Francis Maude’s attitude to the reforms.

IV Develop your reading comprehension skills

Information Box

Scanning: for a specific focus

The technique you use when you're looking up a name in the phone book: you move your eye quickly over the page to find particular words or phrases that are relevant to the task you're doing.

It's useful to scan the following parts of texts to see if they're going to be useful to you:

- the introduction or preface of a book
- the first or last paragraphs of chapters
- the concluding chapter of a book
- context clues.

4.1. Key concept: Context Clues. Synonyms and Antonyms.

Context clues are parts of the text assisting to identification of meanings of new, unfamiliar words and peculiar expressions. **Antonyms** and **synonyms** are very helpful in this respect. **Synonym** is a word with the same meaning as another word in the same language, e.g. 'shut' is a synonym of 'closed'. **Antonym** is a word that means the opposite of another word, e.g. 'shut' is an antonym of 'open'.

The following exercises will help you to use antonyms and synonyms as an effective technique for deciphering meanings of new words and developing your reading skills.

4.2. Using the synonym clues identify the meanings of the italicized words in the following sentences.

1. The book of logic contained many *conundrums* - mind-exercising puzzles.

Using the synonym clue, the word **conundrums** in this sentence means

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> A pictures | <input type="radio"/> C answers |
| <input type="radio"/> B stories | <input type="radio"/> D puzzles |

2. Jackie was filled with *mortification*, or shame, because of her careless remark.

Using the synonym clue, the word **mortification** in this sentence means

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> A proud | <input type="radio"/> C confident |
| <input type="radio"/> B shame | <input type="radio"/> D happy |

3. His *rancor*, or hatred, of his brother has caused him to live his life as a lonely person.

Using the synonym clue, the word **rancor** in this sentence means

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> A love | <input type="radio"/> C tolerance |
| <input type="radio"/> B generous | <input type="radio"/> D hatred |

4. The events for the conference were listed in *chronological* order. They began with the first event of the day and ended with the closing ceremonies in the evening.

Using the synonym clue, the word **chronological** in this sentence means

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> A out of order | <input type="radio"/> C messed up |
| <input type="radio"/> B broken | <input type="radio"/> D in order |

5. There was crazy *pandemonium* as people were trying to leave the rock concert.

Using the synonym clue, the word **pandemonium** in this sentence means

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> A silence | <input type="radio"/> C order |
| <input type="radio"/> B craziness or chaos | <input type="radio"/> D peace |

6. The man was sent to the *penitentiary*, or prison, for stealing cars.

Using the synonym clue, the word **penitentiary** in this sentence means

A paradise

C prison

B hotel

D heaven

4.3. Using the antonyms clues identify the meanings of the italicized words in the following sentences.

1. Although Tom was anxious about the test, Tina was not worried at all.

Using the antonym clue, the word **anxious** in this sentence means

A forgetful

C calm

B worried

D not worried

2. Two new girls started school this week. Beth has a gregarious personality. Jenna is rather quiet.

Using the antonym clue, the word **gregarious** in this sentence means

A shy

C timid

B bashful

D outgoing

3. If you don't conquer your fears, they will beat you.

Using the antonym clue, the word **conquer** in this sentence means

A lose

C talk about

B win

D forget

4. While Lily was careful not to be seen as she peeked out the window, Phil was not as cautious and was seen!

Using the antonym clue, the word **cautious** in this sentence means

A careful

C risky

B not careful

D trouble

5. Although the princess is familiar to those in London, she is unknown to the rest of the world.

Using the antonym clue, the word **familiar** in this sentence means

A pretty

C old

B smart

D well-known

6. Although Mary was willing to play in the snow, Jack was reluctant because he was so cold.

Using the antonym clue, the word **reluctant** in this sentence means

A ready

C not willing

B willing

D excited

4.4. Identify the meanings of the italicized words from the following text and say what context clues help to identify them.

Electronic voting not safe, warns election watchdog

Trials designed to increase turnout in local elections this year by allowing telephone and internet voting had a "significant and unacceptable" security risk, the Electoral Commission says today.

According to the elections watchdog, the government should halt pilots of telephone and internet voting until they are more secure. Trials went ahead in May's local polls in Rushmoor, Sheffield, Shrewsbury and Atcham, South Buckinghamshire and Swindon. "There was *insufficient*, not enough time available to implement and plan the pilots, and the quality assurance and testing was undertaken too late and lacked sufficient depth," the commission says in an evaluation.

Broadly, the trials were a success, it says, but there were problems including accessibility, public understanding of the process and technical problems, especially in Swindon, where many voters could not be connected properly.

The commission says that no further e-voting should be commissioned until the government introduces "a comprehensive electoral modernisation strategy, outlining how *transparency*, or clearness, public trust and cost effectiveness can be achieved".

There were also problems with electronic counting systems. In three of the six places they were piloted this year - Breckland, Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick - the electronic count was abandoned in favour of a *manual* one, and in two others, Bedford and South Buckinghamshire, there were serious problems: "Testing was undertaken too late and lacked sufficient depth."

By Will Woodward, chief political correspondent
from The Guardian, Thursday August 2, 2007

Unit 3

Health and Environment

I Read and expand your vocabulary

Will pub profits go up in smoke?

Landlords gear up to beat the ban.

MOST lunchtimes, Ken Monk, an 86-year-old former prisoner of war, strolls into The Goodrest Inn in Worcester for a pint and to catch up with the other regulars.

Monk has been popping into his local for 25 years. As he sips his pint of Banks's bitter, he also likes to puff on a King Edward cigar.

But from next summer, if Ken wants to smoke at the pub, he will have to sit outside.

David Pickford and his wife Kerry, the landlords at the Goodrest, have invested several thousand pounds to build a new seven meter by five meter covered smoking area at the back of the pub, complete with decking, wooden tables and chairs and a wall mount to put up a wide-screen television on match days.

In the few weeks since it was built, say the Pickfords, customers have given the area a cautious thumbs-up. Ken declares the ban "unreasonable". As a veteran of the Second World War, he is philosophical enough to accept he has endured far worse than having to sit outside to have a smoke.

The consequences for the pub industry, though, could be much more severe. The introduction of the smoking ban is the biggest change in more than 20 years; and far from taking it on the chin, pub owners are scrambling to ensure they will cope with the ban when it comes into force in England and Wales summer 2007.

The nation's biggest landlords — including Punch Taverns, Enterprise Inns and Greene King — have announced spending of more than £100m to equip pubs with facilities to offer smokers somewhere pleasant outside to enjoy a drink and a cigarette.

Despite their best efforts, casualties appear to be inevitable. The British Beer and Pub Association estimates several hundred pubs could close as a result of a downturn in business because of the ban.

But the long-term outlook may not be entirely gloomy. James Ainley, analyst at JP Morgan, said: "We think that there is a risk of some downturn in sales in the short term, but expect that the longer-term impact on the trade could actually be positive."

Adrian Fawcett, chief operating officer at Punch, has been overseeing the company's preparations for the ban. He has been encouraged by the response to a DVD the firm sent to all its landlords that illustrates what has been done in Scotland and Ireland, where smoking bans are already in force.

"It's a bit of a shock-and-awe approach," said Fawcett. "The disc shows people saying that if you don't do something now, you're going to be in trouble." The company has adopted the slogan "No Action, No Option".

Pub bosses should know that by now. The smoking ban was introduced on March 26 in Scotland, and they have had eight months to assess its impact. So far, things have not been as bad as they first feared. "At the moment, the ban has not had the impact people thought it would and it looks like it has been benign rather than malign. But it is very early days," said one leading leisure analyst.

Most in the industry are reluctant to draw too many conclusions from the first few months of the Scottish ban, in case the trading figures have been flattered by a warmer than expected summer.

It is the issue of food that gives most pub industry executives hope for the longer-term health of the sector.

It is a fact that has not been lost on his rivals. Fawcett said Punch had been encouraging all its tenants to "turn their food up a notch", and had formed a partnership with catering firm Brakes to encourage them to do so. Under the scheme, pubs which now sell no food should explore the possibility of offering food; those already serving food should broaden their menus.

The argument runs that about three-quarters of Britain's population does not smoke; of those, there will be a hefty proportion who might be tempted to frequent pubs once they become smoke-free, and that serving good food is the obvious way of getting them there.

Preparing for the ban need not cost the earth. In some cases, the "smoking solution" has cost just a few thousand pounds – the price of decking, a giant umbrella — known as a jumbrella — and some patio heaters. Sales of these pieces of kit are booming. ...

By Matthew Goodman (Filed: 26.11.2006)

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2095-2471792_2,00.html

Word bank

take something on the chin – to accept a difficult or unpleasant situation without complaining (*used to show approval*)

to give smth. (the area, film, food etc.) thumbs up (down) – used to show that something has been accepted /rejected or that it is not a success: e.g. Their proposals were given the thumbs down.

to cost the earth – to cost a very large amount of money: e.g. Your new car must have cost the earth!

casualty (n.) – someone or something that suffers as a result of a particular event or situation: e.g. She became a casualty of the reduction in part-time work.

downturn (n.) – a fall in the amount of business that is done; a time when the economy becomes weaker: e.g. a downturn in sales, trade, business.

benign (adj.) – (*formal*) kind and gentle; not hurting anybody: e.g. He shook his head in benign amusement.

malign (adj.) – (*formal*) causing harm: e.g. a malign force, influence, effect.

hefty (*proportion, sum of money etc.*) (adj.) – large; larger than usual or expected: e.g. They sold it easily and made a hefty profit.

tenant (n.) – a person who pays rent for the use of a room, building, land, etc. to the person who owns it (*арендатор*): They evicted their tenants for non-payment of rent.

Work with essential vocabulary

1.1. Find sentences in the article which use words from the word bank and rewrite them using their synonyms.

1.2. Collocate verbs on the left with appropriate prepositions (in the middle) and words from the article (on the right). Translate these word combinations into Russian.

to put	on	with the other regulars
to puff	up	to beat the ban
to catch	into	a wide-screen television
to pop	up	a King Edward cigar
to gear	up	local pub

1.3. Find in the article English equivalents to the following phrases. Make up your own sentences with English phrases.

долгосрочные перспективы;
введение запрета на курение;
«акция устрашения»;
согласно (приведённому) доводу;
сдержанная поддержка;
вступать в силу;
коммерческие показатели были улучшены.

вскоре;
не падать духом;
очень дорого;
по плану;
аналитик в сфере досуга;
поднять на достойный уровень;

II. Consider the issues

2.1. Read the following article and see if this situation is applicable to your country. Then consider the questions below the article.

A council leader was forced to apologize after he became the most high-profile offender yet to breach Scotland's strict ban on smoking in enclosed public places.

Jim McCabe, the Labour leader of North Lanarkshire council, one of the largest local authorities in Scotland, smoked three cigarettes during an interview in his council office with a magazine journalist.

The Times has learnt that Mr. McCabe asked the journalist "Do you mind?" as he took out a packet of cigarettes. When she said that she didn't mind but warned him that he was breaking the law, he shrugged and carried on.

Council officials say that they have to fine their leader. ...

The ban on smoking in enclosed public places was introduced in Scotland last March and people caught smoking in banned areas face a £50 fixed penalty fine. Any organization not enforcing the ban can face a fine of up to £2,500.

Mr. McCabe said: "I accept that I was in the wrong and I apologize."

(based on the article: "Council boss says sorry for flouting smoking ban"
The Times. January 16, 2007)

1. Do you think that the ban restricts personal freedom for people like Jim McCabe and Ken Monk (see the first article)?
2. What are the pros and cons of the ban? Consider the information in both of the articles.
3. Should cigarette smoking be also banned in public places in your country? If so, in which places?

2.3. The British Beer and Pub Association (BBPD) is mentioned in connection with the smoking ban. Read the information below and determine whether BBPD has the right to meddle in the smoking ban business.

BBPD's Mission Statement:

- To promote and represent the business interests of the UK's brewing and pub sectors.
- To ensure that the economic and social value of beer and pubs is appreciated, recognized and supported by Government and opinion leaders in the UK and Europe.
- To ensure that the image and reputation of the industry is enhanced.

(http://www.beerandpub.com/content.asp?id_Content=73)

III. Stylistics in focus

3.1. Key concept: Neologism

In the article in question we see a neologism – jumbrella – being used. Neologisms often become popular by way of mass media. After being coined, neologisms invariably undergo scrutiny by the public.

Read the additional information about neologisms and indicate the reasons for using neologisms. Why is the word jumbrella used in the article instead of “big umbrella” or “giant umbrella”?

A **neologism** (from Greek νεολογισμός "νέος" [neos] = new; "λόγος" [logos] = word) is a word, term, or phrase which has been recently created ("coined") — often to apply to new concepts, to synthesize pre-existing concepts, or to make older terminology sound more contemporary (*so called genuine neologisms*). Neologisms are especially useful in identifying inventions, new phenomena, or old ideas which have taken on a new cultural context (e.g. e-mail).

Neologisms can also refer to an existing word or phrase which has been assigned a new meaning (*so called semantic neologisms*).

Neologisms are often created by combining existing words (e.g. *manny*) or by giving words new and unique suffixes or prefixes (e.g. *trifecta*). Those which are portmanteaux (языковая контаминация, слово-гибрид) are shortened (e.g. *motel* = *motor* + *hotel*). Neologisms can also be created through abbreviation or acronym, by intentionally rhyming with existing words, or simply through playing with sounds.

Evolution of neologisms:

- Unstable - Extremely new, being proposed, or being used only by a very small subculture (also known as *protologism*).

- Diffused - Having reached a significant audience, but not yet having gained widespread acceptance.
- Stable - Having gained recognizable and probably lasting acceptance.

(based on: <http://encyclopedia.thefreedictionary.com/Neologism>;

J.L. Pinson, B.S. Brooks Working with words.

A Concise Handbook for Media Writers and Editors.

New York: St. Martin's Press, 1993)

3.2. Try to match neologisms with their meanings. Which words in the definitions helped you guess the right meaning of the neologisms? The first one has been done for you.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| <u>e</u> 1. to greenwash | a. people who are easily persuaded and tend to follow what other people do |
| __ 2. bouncebackability | b. the situation of having three major achievements in a profession, sport, or other pastime |
| __ 3. sheeple | c. a piece of information, especially a newspaper article or headline, that is very shocking or exciting |
| __ 4. jumbrella | d. a piece of information about a film, book or electronic game which can spoil the enjoyment of someone experiencing it for the first |
| __ 5. manny | e. to try to convince people that you are doing something which is good for the environment by being involved in small, environmentally-friendly initiatives, especially as a way of hiding your involvement in activities which are damaging to the environment |
| __ 6. spoiler | f. expressing political ideas in such a way that only a specific group of voters properly understand what is being said, especially in order to conceal a controversial message |
| __ 7. marmalade dropper | g. the ability to be successful again after a period of failure |
| __ 8. dog-whistle politics | h. a male nanny. |
| __ 9. trifecta | i. a giant umbrella installed outside a pub or a café for weather protection |

Which neologisms from the list above are genuine and which are semantic?

Classify them into core and non-core newspaper vocabulary categories.

IV Develop your reading comprehension skills

Information Box

Detailed reading: for extracting information accurately

This reading style suggests reading every word, and work to learn from the text.

In this careful reading, you may find it helpful to skim first, to get a general idea, but then go back to read in detail. Use a dictionary to make sure you understand all the words used. You may also use the following techniques for detailed reading: detecting context clues, inferences, understanding multiple meaning words.

4.1. Key concept: Context Clues. Examples and explanation sentences

Explanations and example sentences are powerful context clues. The following exercises will help you to use them as a technique in developing your detailed reading skill.

4.2. Identify the meaning of the italicized words using the example clues.

1. *Projectiles* include those items that are shot forward such as a cannon shell, bullet, or rocket.

Using the example clue, the word **projectiles** in this sentence means

- A things put down C things hurt
 B things shot forward D things broken

2. The professor was a favorite among the students at the college. His *sagacity* was helpful to them as they pursued their degrees. The professor was known to use his experience, insight, and common sense to help students pursue their education.

Using the example clue, the word **sagacity** in this sentence means

- A silliness C wisdom
 B thoughtlessness D negligence

3. Famous *conquistadors* include Cortes, who conquered Aztec Mexico and Pizarro, who conquered Inca Peru.

Using the example clue, the word **conquistadors** in this sentence means

- A geographers C victims
 B losers D conquerors

4. A *sleuth*, such as Sherlock Holmes, can be very helpful in solving crimes.

Using the example clue, the word **sleuth** in this sentence means

- A senior citizen C pilot
 B man D detective

5. Zack was a good at many sports. He excelled in swimming, running, horsemanship, fencing, and target shooting. He decided to compete in the *pentathlon* rather than having to choose one of the events.

Using the example clue, the word **pentathlon** in this sentence means

- A competition with two events C competition with ten events
 B competition with eight events D competition with five events

4.3. Identify the meaning of the italicized words using the explanations.

1. Katie appeared *infallible* in math class because she had never gotten a problem wrong.

Using the explanation clue, the word **infallible** in this sentence means

- A never wrong C wrong
 B mistaken D incorrect

2. The tornado *annihilated* the whole town to the point that nothing was left standing.

Using the explanation clue, the word **annihilated** in this sentence means

- A destroyed C created
 B saved D constructed

3. We could tell by the rotten smell, that something *putrid* was in our trash can.

Using the explanation clue, the word **putrid** in this sentence means

- A ample C rotten
 B alive D appealing

4. Phyllis felt *elated* when she won the race.

Using the explanation clue, the word **elated** in this sentence means

- A sick C tired
 B miserable D happy

5. The *insidious* burglar was able to sneak into the house without being heard or seen.

Using the explanation clue, the word **insidious** in this sentence means

- A strong C clumsy
 B loud D sneaky

6. The voters were so upset about the outcome of the election that a *skirmish* broke out and the police had to break it up.

Using the explanation clue, the word **skirmish** in this sentence means

- A fight C hurricane
 B sunshine D creature

4.4. Write down the meanings of the italicized words from the following text and the context clues that help to identify them.

Dry, like Alice: town calls time on public drinking

The Australian town of Alice Springs, blighted by violent and drunken antisocial behaviour, has been declared dry. Under restrictions that came into force at midnight, police will now be able to issue on-the-spot fines to anyone found drinking in a public place, and repeat **1) offenders** will risk jail terms.

meaning: _____

context clues: _____

Time was called on public drinking at the request of the local council, who say large groups of people, mostly Aborigines, binge drink in "full view" of other residents and tourists. The ban supersedes **2) restrictions** which prohibited consumption of alcohol near a licensed establishment in town. Police could tip out alcohol from bottles and ask drinkers to move on, but they struggled to enforce the measures.

meaning _____

context clues _____

As part of the intervention in **3) indigenous communities**, led by the prime minister, John Howard, the rules will be in addition to a six-month ban on alcohol consumption affecting the 21 town camps surrounding Alice Springs, where about 3,000 Aborigines live.

meaning _____

context clues _____

The restrictions do not affect Alice Springs' 90 licensed clubs, hotels or restaurants, and an exemption is made for a park near the town used for picnics. Donna Ah Chee, of the People's Alcohol Action Coalition, said that many people would **4) favour** the ban "because there's going to be an improvement aesthetically and you're not going to see groups of people lying beside burnt-out cars, out of their brains on cheap grog".

meaning _____

context clues _____

The coalition wanted extra precautions, however. "We want a minimum **5) benchmark price** so that beer, not wine, is the cheapest drink around here," she said. "We want reduced hours during which alcohol can be sold and we want the Northern Territory government to buy back liquor licenses from petrol stations and from corner

shops that sell bread and milk. These kind of places shouldn't be selling booze but they can and they do."

meaning_____

context clues_____

But not everyone in the desert community is convinced the strategy will work. Eric Sultan, who has been a resident of Alice Springs for 27 years, said that the problem of alcohol abuse would simply be **6) shifted** elsewhere. "It's just going to go underground. People will start drinking in hidden places. What the government needs to do is address the reasons why these people are drinking - and that's because they're homeless, unemployed, uneducated and have no status within their own communities."

meaning_____

context clues_____

Fran Kilgariff, the mayor of Alice Springs, has acknowledged that the outright ban on public drinking is not **7) "a silver bullet"** that will solve the problems but says it is one strategy that the town council thinks is needed. She hoped the move would stop troublemakers seeing Alice Springs as a place to drink.

meaning_____

context clues_____

By Barbara McMahon in Sydney
from The Guardian, Thursday August 2, 2007

4.5. Read the following article. Highlight unknown words in it. What context clues you can use to identify their meaning?

City's smokers escape ban after council mix-up

Smokers bemoaning the new ban on lighting up in pubs and other indoor public spaces in England have a new sanctuary: Stoke-on-Trent.

The Staffordshire city has acquired a sudden popularity among tobacco aficionados after a bureaucratic mix-up left its council unable to enforce the July 1 smoking ban.

Until this is rectified - by August at the earliest - smokers can enjoy their habit in Stoke's pubs and clubs, not to mention bus shelters and other enclosed spaces, without the risk of a £50 fine.

The error happened because of the city's unusual municipal structure, a council spokesman told the local Sentinel newspaper.

"We do not have enforcement powers because Stoke-on-Trent is in the unique position of having a mayor and a council manager," he said.

"We believed the enforcement powers were delegated to the director of community services, who relies on advisers from the licensing and legal department, but we found they were not."

While the situation was "unfortunate", the council had not planned to prosecute illicit smokers in the early weeks of the ban anyway, the spokesman said.

While smokers are happy, the mix-up has done little for the reputation of the council, already named by the Audit Commission as one of England's five worst performing authorities.

"This just shows what inept people we have in power," one resident, Dave Leese, commented on the Sentinel's website. "The city is the laughing stock of the country."

By Peter Walker and agencies
from Guardian Unlimited, Wednesday July 11, 2007

Unit 4

Society: Human Rights

I Read and expand your vocabulary

'Gangster US' accused over torture

An investigator for Europe's leading human rights watchdog accused America yesterday of "gangster tactics" in its war on terrorism, notably the illegal transfer of terrorist suspects to countries likely to torture them.

Dick Marty, a Swiss senator, told the Council of Europe that the US, with European complicity, had shipped possibly more than 100 suspects to countries where they faced torture.

"The entire continent is involved," Mr. Marty told its parliamentary assembly.

He presented colleagues with an interim report dominated by newspaper cuttings and buttressed with evidence from an Italian inquiry into the alleged 2003 kidnapping by the CIA (*Central Intelligence Agency in USA*) of a radical Egyptian cleric, Osama Moustafa Hassan Nasr, in Milan.

Mr. Marty said it was "highly unlikely that European governments, or at least their intelligence services, were unaware" of such abductions.

He accused Britain of particular complicity on the basis of a leaked secret memo from Sir Michael Wood, the chief legal adviser to the Foreign Office. In the 2003 memo Sir Michael asserted that there was no legal barrier to using foreign intelligence obtained under torture.

The document was handed to Mr. Marty and the Council of Europe by Craig Murray, a former British ambassador to Uzbekistan who has become a fierce critic of British foreign policy. Giving evidence to the Strasbourg assembly, he said that, as envoy in Tashkent after September 11, 2001, he read CIA intelligence, shared by Britain, derived from torture sessions.

Later he said Britain was "much more deeply implicated" than other European nations in CIA extraordinary renditions, or the transfer of detainees outside normal judicial channels.

Several British members of the assembly, which gathers MPs from 46 countries, criticized Mr. Marty's report.

Michael Hancock, a Liberal Democrat, said it needed to have "more substance. . . many of the issues are clouded in myth and a desire to kick America."

Denis MacShane, the former Europe minister, said the report had "more holes than a Swiss cheese".

The Council of Europe, which is independent of the European Union, was set up in 1949 as a guardian of human rights in Europe.

By David Rennie, in Strasbourg (Filed: 01.25.2006)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2006/01/25/wtort25.xml&sSheet=/portal/2006/01/25/ixportal.html>

Britain accused of turning blind eye to torture flights

EUROPEAN Governments are aware that America has abducted more than 100 terrorist suspects and flown many to prisons where they were tortured by other nations, according to a report released yesterday by the Council of Europe.

The inquiry, led by Dick Marty, a Swiss Member of Parliament who made his name as a mafia prosecutor, raised pressure on EU states — and Britain in particular — to tackle the policy of "extraordinary renditions" of detainees which is allegedly carried out by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Craig Murray, a former British Ambassador to Uzbekistan, and a witness in the Strasbourg inquiry, said that Britain was "deeply implicated in the entire process" of using US intelligence gained through torture.

Mr. Murray, who lost his job in 2004 after denouncing rights abuses in Uzbekistan, said the British Government had decided not to question the origin of CIA "prisoner debriefings" for fear of jeopardizing the flow of US intelligence to London. He knew from personal experience that the Americans "deliver people into the hands of torturers", he said.

Britain has made carefully worded denials that the Americans were allowed to use airspace or airports for the transport of terrorist suspects.

In his interim report for the 43-nation Strasbourg human rights body, Mr. Marty offered no new evidence of CIA practices and said he had found nothing to confirm allegations that the CIA operated secret detention centers in Romania, Poland or other European states. The Council is pursuing its investigation with data that it has just received from the European satellite agency and Eurocontrol, the EU air traffic control authority.

There was "a great deal of evidence pointing to the existence of a system of outsourcing torture", Mr. Marty's report said. "It has been proved — and in fact never denied — that individuals have been abducted, deprived of their liberty and transported . . . to be handed over to countries in which they have suffered torture."

Mr. Marty denounced what he called criminal action by the US "which runs counter to the laws that prevail in all civilized countries". He challenged them to stop turning a blind eye to "gangster methods".

Mr. Marty's report came under fire from critics at the Council, whose prime function is as guardian of the European Convention on Human Rights.

BY CHARLES BREMNER (Filed: 01.25.2006)

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,13509-2008540,00.html>

Word bank

watchdog (n.) – a person or group of people whose job is to check that companies are not doing anything illegal or ignoring people's rights: e.g. Health Authority watchdogs say although such a case is rare, it is by no means unique.

interim (adj.) – intended to last for only a short time until smb/smth more permanent is found: e.g. The vice-president took power in the interim period before the election.

complicity (n.) – (formal) the act of taking part with another person in a crime or any act that is morally wrong or dishonest: e.g. His complicity with the former government had led to his downfall.

envoy (n.) – a person who represents a government or an organization and is sent as a representative to talk to other governments and organizations: e.g. The United Nations is sending a special envoy to the area.

buttress (v.) – to support a system, idea, argument etc, especially by providing money: e.g. The evidence seemed to buttress their argument.

to assert (v.) – to state firmly that something is true: e.g. French cooking, she asserted, is the best in the world.

rendition (n.) – the performance of smth., especially a song or piece of music; the particular way in which it is performed: e.g. He gave a moving rendition of Lennon's 'Imagine'.

to denounce (v.) – to strongly criticize smb./smth. that you think is wrong, illegal, etc.: e.g. She publicly denounced the government's handling of the crisis.

to tackle (*the policy*) (v.) – to make a determined effort to deal with a difficult problem or situation: e.g. The government is determined to tackle inflation.

to come under fire (*from smb.*) – to be criticized severely for smth. you have done: e.g. The health minister has come under fire from all sides.

Work with essential vocabulary

1.1. Paraphrase the following sentences using words from the Word Bank.

1. Following a series of provisional governments, the Dominican people elected Juan Bosch as their President.

2. Helena decided to take the bull by the horns and organize the show herself.
3. Prime Minister made a savage attack on his opponents' report.
4. Japan is sending two emissaries to Washington to discuss trade issues.
5. Some public guard dogs say the council is dangerously close to a violation of the Open Meeting Law.
6. Later, your teen-ager and her hunky guy practice a hip interpretation of a cool new dance.
7. All that I have said about the shared participation of the young and old in flash mobbing remains unqualified.
8. And the government's recent promise to give the central bank independence should support its authority in the markets.
9. Though there are no other witnesses, she insists she saw a man in the yard that night.
10. Politicians and religious leaders have universally condemned this act of terrorism.

1.2. Complete the collocates from the articles by matching a word from column A with one from column B to make 10 pairs. Find the sentences in the articles containing these collocates. Translate them.

a fierce	sessions
foreign	policy
leading	intelligence from
presented colleagues	critic
to derive	channels
judicial	watchdog
leaked	secret memo
torture	with a report

1.3. Work with vocabulary related to the topic "Legal English".

Give Russian equivalents to the words from the list below.

Complete the sentences using a suitable form of a word or phrase from the list.

Most of them are taken from the articles in question.

detainee	criminal action	human rights abuse
abduct	prosecutor	Intelligence Service
to put smb. on trial (for a crime)		to find smb. guilty
arrest somebody for something		kidnap smb.

1. The accused _____ and sentenced to five years in prison.
2. I _____ murder of the President Kennedy.
3. She was arrested and _____ for murdering an innocent man.
4. As Joe had never _____ before he was only sentenced to six months in prison.
5. Agency that furtively collects information about the secret activities of foreign governments, the military plans of an enemy is called _____.
6. Kurdish separatists _____ a Japanese tourist and are demanding money for his safe return.
7. Although Mary's lawyer defended his client well, the jury was sure she was guilty of _____ child.
8. According to a recent report, many _____ claim that police have mistreated them.
9. The chief _____ told the court that Johnson was guilty of a horrible crime and asked for the maximum sentence.
10. An independent committee will look into alleged _____.

II. Consider the issues

2.1. The problems addressed in the articles have much to do with Human Rights and their abuse. Read the text for obtaining its information:

On December 10, 1948, the Declaration of Human Rights was issued, defining the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of human beings. Below are extracts from the first 10 articles (there are 30 in all). Complete the text by choosing the correct word from the box:

charge	detention	discrimination	exile	<u>free</u>
freedoms	law	liberty	punishment	race
remedy	rights	slavery	tribunal	

Article 1. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

Article 2. Everyone is entitled to all the rights and _____ set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as _____, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Article 3. Everyone has the right to life, _____ and security of person.

Article 4. No one shall be held in _____ or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5. No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or _____.

Article 6. Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the _____.

Article 7. All are equal before the law and are entitled without any _____ to equal protection of the law.

Article 8. Everyone has the right to an effective _____ by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Article 9. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, _____ or _____.

Article 10. Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial _____, in the determination of his _____ and obligations and of any criminal _____ against him.

(based on: Test your professional English. Law. by Nick Brieger. Penguin English. – 2002. – p. 81).

2.2. Discuss the following questions using the information above.

1. Do you think that there should be no legal barrier to using foreign intelligence obtained under torture?
2. How does the use of torture methods in deriving intelligence contradict the Declaration of Human Rights?
3. Is it true that illegal means are justified if used for a noble cause?
4. What does the additional information at the last paragraph of the first article imply?
5. Compare the information from two articles. What bits of new information can you find in the second article to help you understand the situation more clearly?

III. Stylistics in focus

3.1. Key Concept: Buzzwords

Read the commentary on buzzwords and then identify all buzzwords in the article in question. What are the reasons for using buzzwords in newspapers?

A **buzzword** (*специальные термины, произносимые с целью произвести впечатление на дилетантов; модные словечки*) is a word or phrase from one

special area of knowledge that people suddenly think is very important (e.g. *'Multimedia' has been a buzzword in the computer industry for years*).

A buzzword (also known as a fashion word or vogue word) is an idiom, often a neologism, commonly used in managerial, technical, administrative, and sometimes political environments. Though apparently ubiquitous in these environments, the words often have unclear meanings.

Buzzwords are typically intended to impress one's audience with the pretense of knowledge. For this reason, they are often universal. They typically make sentences difficult to dispute, on account of their cloudy meaning.

Buzzwords differ from jargon in that they have the function of impressing or of obscuring meaning, while jargon (ideally) has a well-defined technical meaning, if only to specialists. A buzzword may or may not appear in a dictionary, and if it does, its meaning as a buzzword may not match the conventional definition.

Buzzwords can function to describe new concepts or to control thought by being intentionally vague. In management, stating organizational goals by using words with unclear meanings prevents anybody from questioning the directions and intentions of these decisions, especially if many such words are used.

... The "buzz value" of words is readily allowed to obscure their figurative implications not so much by mixed metaphor as by a progression of casual figurative contradictions. Inevitably such phraseology settles into cliché.

(based on: <http://encyclopedia.thefreedictionary.com/buzzwords>

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, 2005;

Carter W., Nash, R. *Seeing through language. A guide to styles of English writing*

– Oxford, 1995. – p. 135-137)

3.2. What buzzwords can you find in the articles in question?

Here is a list of contemporary buzzwords given by some internet resources. Read the following up-to-date quotes from newspapers containing some of the buzzwords. Clarify the contextual meaning of the words in bold. Keep in mind that a buzzword may or may not appear in a dictionary, and if it does, its meaning as a buzzword may not match the conventional definition.

What are the reasons for using buzzwords in these sentences instead of their neutral, more understandable equivalents? What are some contextual synonyms of these buzzwords? Think of some buzzwords in the Russian language.

Breakthrough	Business-Centric	Diversity	Holistic
Framework	Habits of mind	Empowerment	Leverage
Next Generation	Paradigm	Paradigm shift	Perspective
Strategy	Proactive	Seamless integration	

Standpoint	Synergy	Think tank	Social justice
Web engineering	Constitutional college	Political stability	Dimension
Perception	Syndrome	Consensus	Formula

1. Tony Blair will seek to use the **diplomatic breakthrough** with Libya to secure similar concessions on weapons of mass destruction from Iran and Syria. Ministers believe that his New Year offensive will restore his fortunes.
2. **Within this perspective**, the structures or forms of language cannot be separated from the way people use language in their daily lives to accomplish a purpose or function.
3. With such a large operation and **diversity of activities**, maintaining a good standard of health and safety is a complex and demanding task, requiring commitment from everybody in the organization.
4. The urgency of the new leader's task was underlined yesterday by a **Conservative think tank** which said the party could have just four years to save itself as the main rival to Labour.
5. There's a simple paradox about disasters — hurricanes, earthquakes, wars; they produce human suffering and loss in unimaginable quantities but, from **the standpoint of economic growth**, the humdrum, essential daily business of getting and spending, they are often a net plus.
6. Although the change to the party constitution must go before its ruling **constitutional college**, on Sept 27, the strong support of MPs means that it is likely to be passed.
7. Mr. Murray, who lost his job in 2004 after denouncing rights abuses in Uzbekistan, said the British Government had decided not to question the origin of CIA "**prisoner debriefings**" for fear of jeopardizing the flow of US intelligence to London.

3.3. Analyze each newspaper's style.

What non-core newspaper vocabulary categories does each one use?

Though there are no blatant value-judgments in the articles, what words and phrases expose the columnist's sentiments?

Explain the implied meaning of the following statements. Pay attention to the phrases in bold. Comment on the lexical choice:

1. ...Michael Hancock, a Liberal Democrat, said it needed to have "more substance. . . many of the **issues are clouded in myth** and **a desire to kick America.**"
2. ...Denis MacShane, the former Europe minister, said the report had "**more holes than a Swiss cheese**".

3. An investigator for Europe's leading human rights watchdog accused America yesterday of "**gangster tactics**" in its war on terrorism, notably the illegal transfer of terrorist suspects to countries likely to torture them.

IV Develop your reading comprehension skills

4.1. Key concept: Context Clues. Comparison and Contrast Clues

Comparison and **contrast** are used as context clues as they contain implications to the meaning of unknown words.

4.2. Using comparison clues define the meanings of the italicized words.

1. The girls *languidly* put on their jackets as if they had no energy at all.

Using the comparison clue, the word **languidly** in this sentence means

- A energetically C energy-less
 B quickly D actively

2. The mother was determined to prove her son's innocence; the father was *resolute* as well.

Using the comparison clue, the word **resolute** in this sentence means

- A wavering C not determined
 B determined D unsure

3. Some people feel *perplexed* by brain teasers, while others figure them out quickly.

Using the comparison clue, the word **perplexed** in this sentence means

- A troubled or confused C calm
 B at ease D relaxed

4. After being unable to get a good night's sleep for many days, Allyson became *lethargic*. She didn't have the energy to get out of bed.

Using the comparison clue, the word **lethargic** in this sentence means

- A active C exhausted
 B bubbly D lively

5. Instead of climbing into bed, she decided to take a nap on the *chaise*.

Using the comparison clue, the word **chaise** in this sentence means

- A sleeping bag C chair
 B bed-like furniture D floor

6. The *unsubstantial* story was as if she were retelling a dream.

Using the comparison clue, the word **unsubstantial** in this sentence means

- A realistic C unreal
 B true

4.3. Using contrast clues define the meanings of the italicized words.

1. Johnny was *besotted* in not checking the depth of the water before he jumped in, but it was a good thing that his father was wise and checked it first.

Using the contrast clue, the word **besotted** in this sentence means

- A decent C foolish
 B unaware D incomplete

2. Brad made a cursory effort to finish his homework. This was **unlike** him; usually he worked hard to finish before dinner.

Using the contrast clue, the word **cursory** in this sentence means

- A insincere C valid
 B genuine D actual

3. I thought the painting of the waves crashing into the shore was very *picturesque*, but I thought the one next to it was quite ugly.

Using the contrast clue, the word **picturesque** in this sentence means

- A attractive C colorful
 B large D soothing

4. The *omnipotent* superhero always won his battles, unlike his weak opponents.

Using the contrast clue, the word **omnipotent** in this sentence means

- A almighty or all powerful C powerless
 B weak

5. After being ill and unable to eat for three days, Beverly had a *voracious* appetite.

Using the contrast clue, the word **voracious** in this sentence means

- A satisfied C small
 B quenched D big

6. We were all pretty *apathetic* in the movie about animals, but we became interested when it started showing all the tricks dogs could do.

Using the contrast clue, the word **apathetic** in this sentence means

- A gracious C uninterested
 B angry D sleepy

4.4. Define the meanings of the italicized words from the following text and find the context clues (synonyms, antonyms, explanation sentences, examples, comparison and contrast clues) that help to identify them.

Police may be given power to take DNA samples in the street

A forensic police officer swabs a drinks can for DNA. Photograph: Graham Turner

The Home Office is considering giving the police the power to take a DNA sample on the street, without taking the suspect to a police station, as well as taking samples from **1) suspects**, a person thought to be guilty of a crime, in relatively **2) minor offences** such as littering, speeding or not wearing a seat belt.

The move comes as an official genetics watchdog prepares a public inquiry into the police national DNA database, following concern over the retention of samples from people who are not guilty and are **3) acquitted** of any offence, and disclosure that the database holds DNA records for one in three of British black males. The database is the largest in the world, with 3.4m profiles, more than 5% of the UK population. If the powers are not limited and **4) granted**, it would expand massively.

Baroness Kennedy, chair of the Human Genetics Commission, said the power of the police in England and Wales to take DNA samples from any arrested individual without requiring their assent was **5) unrivalled** as if it was better than any other in the world. "We want to ensure the public voice is heard on issues people think are relevant. The Citizen's Inquiry is likely to grapple with issues such as whether storing the DNA profiles of victims and suspects who are not **6) charged**, unlike people who are accused, or who are subsequently acquitted of any wrongdoing, is justified by the need to fight crime."

She added that under law it was very difficult, and sometimes impossible, to have your sample removed. "On the other hand a steadily **7) increasing** number of serious crimes, which does not become smaller in amount, are being solved and criminals brought to justice with its help. It is likely that the use of DNA information by police authorities for criminal intelligence purposes will grow. It is therefore vital that the public are able to voice their views."

The inquiry will recruit representative panels of the public to consider social and ethical issues in police use of DNA.

The initiative comes as the Home Office finishes consulting on police powers to legislate **8) extension** of use of the DNA database, despite public claims to reduce it. The results show wide support from the police to take DNA, fingerprints and footwear impressions on the street **9) to confirm identity** and check against the

national database, and support to lower the threshold to take in suspects in minor offences. A Home Office paper summarising the consultation said respondents "welcomed the ability to reduce the threshold, including to the extent of allowing for the taking of fingerprints, DNA and footwear impressions for non-recordable offenses for the purpose of offender identification and searching databases".

By Alan Travis, home affairs editor
from The Guardian, Thursday August 2, 2007

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Unit 5

Business

I Read and expand your vocabulary

The black dog that has not barked

OIL, oil everywhere, but not a drop to guzzle. Wherever you looked in New Orleans (*Louisiana, USA*) you could see oil. Oil lying in thick films on top of knee-deep water in city streets. Oil turning the water brown as it was pumped out of pipes back into Lake Pontchartrain. In the poorer parts of town, oleaginous muck stuck to the walls of houses after the floodwaters had at last begun to recede. But if you wanted to put it in your petrol tank or your home generator, you were out of luck.

With every petrol station closed and the military and emergency workers having requisitioned the city's supplies, the few remaining residents have been driving 30 miles to wait in line at the nearest gas station for refueling.

It is clear now, two weeks after Hurricane Katrina struck, that this scarce abundance holds the key to the outlook for the United States and the world economy in the wake of the worst natural catastrophe to hit America in almost a century. There's a simple paradox about disasters — hurricanes, earthquakes, wars; they produce human suffering and loss in unimaginable quantities but, from the standpoint of economic growth, the humdrum, essential daily business of getting and spending, they are often a net plus. Katrina washed away billions of dollars worth of America's wealth — houses, roads, shopping malls, oil refineries. But that will not be measured in the statistics of national income.

Rebuilding, however, with upwards of \$200 billion (£110 billion) starting to flow already into the region, will put money into the pockets of construction companies, engineers, plumbers, shop-owners, welfare recipients.

In Katrina's case, this is a little too simplistic. In fact there will be a hit to the nation's income, caused by the fact that most of the Gulf Coast population will simply not be working for weeks or months but holed up in shelters hundreds of miles away. But all of that, and almost certainly more, will be made up in subsequent months.

So is Katrina then, a human tragedy but, in terms of incomes, an economic boon? That is where all that oil comes in. The people who spin the dials of economic policy in Washington, London, Frankfurt and Tokyo are watching above all what consumers do in response to higher oil prices.

Crude prices shot up in the immediate wake of Katrina; they have come down again in the last week. But prices at the pump remain higher than they were. This has provoked the usual outcry from motorists and businesses and, in response, politicians. Lack of refining capacity is likely to keep petrol costs elevated for a while.

The bigger problem is that this jump comes at a bad time — oil prices had already risen by 50 per cent this year; an impact on consumers that is equivalent to hundreds of dollars, pounds or euros a year in extra taxes. That would normally be enough to stop them spending and push the economy into recession. For policymakers this challenge is complicated by the fact that an oil price spike could prove inflationary too. Higher prices not only depress spending but raise costs for businesses.

And yet so far oil is the dog that hasn't barked. The reason, according to the policymakers, is that consumers are confident inflation won't take off.

When oil prices jumped in the 1970s, central banks poured money at the problem, and in the process gave us both higher inflation and prolonged recession. Thirty years later, these policymakers have earned reputations for slaying the scourge of inflation. As long as those reputations are not also casualties of Katrina, higher oil prices or not, the world economy shouldn't crack.

LOST BILLIONS

- Economic damage expected to be more than \$125 billion
- Insured losses as high as \$60 billion
- US GDP growth expected to fall by up to one percentage point
- Rebuilding costs likely to be \$200 — \$300 billion
- Clean-up operation costs \$700 million per day
- More than \$60 billion in economic aid already granted to region
- Crude oil has hit a record \$70.85 per barrel
- 60 per cent of offshore oil production down, four refineries remain closed
- Louisiana's \$150 million oyster harvest wiped out
- Louisiana's \$700 million sugar harvest under threat
- As many as 400,000 people without jobs

By Gerard Baker, US Editor (Filed: 12.09.2005)

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,23889-1776499,00.html>

Word bank

to guzzle (v.) – (*informal*) to eat or drink a lot of something, eagerly and quickly – (*usually showing disapproval*): e.g. They've been guzzling beer all evening.

to requisition (v.) – if someone in authority, especially the army, requisitions a building, vehicle, or food, they officially demand to have it during an emergency such as a war (*изымать, конфисковать*): e.g. The soldiers requisitioned food from the citizens.

to refuel (v.) – to fill a plane or vehicle with fuel before continuing a journey: e.g. On lap 49 Schumacher made his sole refueling stop and resumed 11.1sec ahead of Coulthard, who had yet to come in.

humdrum (adj.) – boring and ordinary, and having no variety or interest: e.g. Going to night school might improve your chances of getting out of that humdrum job.

to be a boon to smth. – something that is very useful and makes your life a lot easier or better: e.g. A recently acquired photo-copier has proved a great time-saving boon for note taking.

to hole up (phrasal verb) – to hide somewhere and not go out at all, especially because the police are looking for you (*hole up in/with/at*): e.g. The gang holed up in a cheap hotel for a few weeks.

recession – a difficult time when there is less trade, business activity etc in a country than usual: e.g. The car industry, like most other industries, is feeling the effects of the recession.

scourge of smth. (e.g. inflation, unemployment etc.) (n.) – something that causes a lot of harm or suffering: e.g. The scourge of weather was inevitable.

Work with essential vocabulary

1.1. Match each sentence from part A with the sentence from part B that contains a synonym to a word in italics from part A.

Part A

1. Champagne was **guzzled** like lemonade and flexible friends took care of the bill.
2. We were all planning **to hole up** till the trouble blew over.
3. Sustained international terror has been a **scourge** on civilized society for the past quarter-century.
4. It also is a great **boon** to vegetarians who can cook grains and dried beans in 12 minutes or less.
5. Mirth is an escape from the **humdrum** just as the transcendent is an escape from the mundane.

6. The evacuation of many schools gave military and civil authorities the opportunity to **requisition** the buildings for their own use.
7. The economy is in **recession** and will remain so for at least another year.

Part B

1. Firms with large debts may not have the financial strength to survive a prolonged sales decline.
2. The harpies from Paris running the road houses which must inevitably multiply will be a worse the plague than the mosquitoes.
3. John had been lying low at his sister's apartment for the past week.
4. Her kids scoffed sugar all day, and the house is an absolute mess.
5. The local hotel was commandeered for the wounded.
6. They will get accustomed to tedious research and will create more when the current assignment runs dry.
7. In fact there will be a hit to the nation's income.

1.2. Complete the sentences on the right with the phrasal verbs from the list below, so that they match the meaning of the sentences on the left.

to call off – to decide that a planned event will not take place

to get rid of – to throw something away

to put up with – to tolerate something unpleasant

to run out of something – to have no more of something

to get along with – to have a good state of relations with someone

to take turns – to do something one after the other

We can't tolerate his laziness. We can't _____ his laziness.

They alternated. They _____.

Now we have no money. We _____ money.

Right now he likes his dad. Right now he's _____ his dad.

Discard that junk! _____ that junk!

The boss canceled the meeting. The boss _____ the meeting.

II. Consider the issues

2.1. As we can see from the article in question Hurricane Katrina, raging in USA in September of 2005, influenced the economy of Britain as well. Read the text to obtain its information and then explain this phenomenon.

Britain has the largest energy resources of any country in the European Union and is a major producer of oil, natural gas and coal. Other primary sources of energy are nuclear power and, to a lesser extent, water power.

Before 1970s Britain depended on imports of oil from abroad but the discovery of large oil and gas reserves in the North Sea changed this dramatically. Now Britain is the world's fifth largest producer. There are over thirty offshore oilfields from which oil and gas are piped to the mainland. Natural gas has replaced coal gas in the public supply system.

... The USA is rich in natural and mineral resources. There are large discoveries of oil and natural gas in many states such as Pennsylvania, Mississippi, Arkansas, Montana, Wyoming and California. Discovered in almost every part of the state, oil also built Oklahoma. Louisiana is a leading producer of oil and natural gas and a leading supplier of oil as well with New Orleans as the 2nd largest seaport in the nation.

(adopted from: Paul Harvey, Phodri Jones.
Britain Explored. – Longman, 2002. – p. 58-59).

2.2. Explain the meaning of the following sentences (taken from the article), paying attention to the words in bold. Keep in mind the information above.

1. And yet so far oil is **the dog that hasn't barked**.
2. The bigger problem is that this jump comes at a bad time — oil prices had already risen by 50 per cent this year; an impact on consumers that is equivalent to hundreds of dollars, pounds or euros a year in extra taxes. That would normally be enough to stop them spending and **push the economy into recession**.
3. For policymakers this challenge is complicated by the fact that an **oil price spike** could **prove inflationary** too. Higher prices not only **depress spending** but raise costs for businesses.

III. Stylistics in focus

3.1. Key Concept: Purr-Words and Snarl-Words

A flourishing non-core newspaper lexicon of modern press (see commentary on page) can be divided into two large groups: **purr-words and snarl-words**. Read the information below about these groups of words.

Purr-words are lexical units of approval (e.g. innovative, flexible, freedom of choice etc.). Purr-words have positive connotations in their semantics and are aimed at stimulating audience's positive reaction to the matter in question.

Snarl-words are lexical units of condemnation (e.g. activist, militant, welfare, whispering campaign etc.). Snarl-words have negative connotations in their semantics and are aimed at stimulating audience's negative, critical reaction to the matter in question.

Some words become purr-words or snarl-words only in specific contexts. For example, the adjective *political* in such contexts as "The Council has political bias" or "He is too political in his approach" almost invariably implies negative connotations. The same slant is observable in the use of the word *politics* itself.

Thus general public becomes sufficiently sensitive to the verbal tokens of political and social preferences of journalists and is able to infer from the usage of purr-words and snarl-words.

(based on: Carter W., Nash. R Seeing through language. A guide to styles of English writing – Oxford, 1995. – p. 135-137; Edward S. Herman. Word Tricks & Propaganda. <http://www.lbbs.org/ZMag/articles/june97herman.htm>)

3.2. Rewrite the following sentences containing snarl-words/purr-words and discuss any difference in style and implication between original and transformed sentences.

What is the reason for introducing these words into the article in question?

Translate both of the sentences into Russian.

1. Oil, oil everywhere, but not a drop to **guzzle**.
2. From the standpoint of economic growth hurricanes, earthquakes, wars are often a **net plus**.
3. In the poorer parts of town, **oleaginous muck** stuck to the walls of houses after the floodwaters had at last begun to recede.
4. **Crude prices** shot up in the immediate wake of Katrina; they have come down again in the last week.
5. Thirty years later, these policymakers have earned reputations for slaying **the scourge of inflation**.

3.3. Key Concept: Oxymoron

Newspaper informational materials do not abound with figures of speech (with the exception of publicistic and analytical newspaper materials) and thus their role is rather specific as applied to newspaper style. According to Professor G.Y. Solganik (http://www.gramota.ru/mag_arch.html?id=6) figures of speech are brought into newspaper language for the purpose of influencing readers in their process of evaluating and estimating the things they read about.

An oxymoron (a short phrase that appears self-contradictory the most common form of which involves an adjective – noun combination) is one of figures of speech that appear in newspaper language quite often. Oxymoron is a Greek term which can be translated literally as "sharp-witted absurdity".

3.4. Read the sentences below to find examples of oxymoron and explain the stylistic effect the usage of oxymoron has on the article in general (sentences 1, 2).

1. It is clear now, two weeks after Hurricane Katrina struck, that this scarce abundance holds the key to the outlook for the United States and the world economy in the wake of the worst natural catastrophe to hit America in almost a century.
2. There's a simple paradox about disasters — hurricanes, earthquakes, wars; they produce human suffering and loss in unimaginable quantities but, from the standpoint of economic growth, the humdrum, essential daily business of getting and spending, they are often a net plus.
3. The signatories are backed by a sizeable minority of Tory MPs.
4. The G8 agreed to disagree on enough of the climate change agenda to produce a deal that Tony Blair could hail as the start of a new US-backed drive to tackle the build-up of greenhouse gases.
5. I do here make humbly bold to present them with a short account of themselves.

3.5. How does the additional information at the end of the article (Lost billions) contribute to the ironical tone of the article in general? Pay attention to the last sentence of the article (As long as those reputations are not also casualties of Katrina, higher oil prices or not, the world economy shouldn't crack).

IV Develop your reading comprehension skills

4.1. Key concept: Context Clues. Revision

Using different context clues define the meanings of the unknown words from the following text.

Oil at record price

By Ashley Seager and Andrew Clark in New York,
from Guardian Unlimited, Wednesday August 1, 2007

1 Global financial markets, reeling from the fallout from the US sub-prime mortgage crisis, were dealt a further blow today as oil prices hit an all-time high of just under \$79 a barrel.

2 The record oil prices, combined with rising food prices, made dealers nervous that central banks around the world might have to raise interest rates further to prevent inflation running out of control. That would add to the problems already engulfing credit markets, analysts warned.

3 News that US refineries sharply reduced their stocks of crude last week as they churned out gasoline to supply holidaying Americans was sufficient to push the price of US light crude futures up to \$78.77 a barrel, busting the previous record of \$78.40 set last summer.

4 In real, inflation-adjusted terms, oil prices are almost back to the level hit in 1980 following the Iranian revolution. Although Brent crude did not immediately follow the US lead, the \$8 a barrel rise in world crude prices over the past month could finally tip the average price at the pump in Britain above £1 a litre, warn analysts.

5 Oil prices have been buoyed up in recent weeks by an influx of money from hedge and other funds, geopolitical tensions and a reluctance by producer cartel OPEC to raise production.

6 US oil prices had been held back earlier in the year by problems at US refineries which meant crude processing fell back. But the US government yesterday reported that throughput had risen to its highest for 11 months, meaning the US, which consumes about a quarter of the world's 85 million barrels per day of output, could soon be importing more oil again.

1. The meaning of the verb *to reel* in the first paragraph is:

A to benefit

C to collapse

B to be confused or shocked

D to profit

2. The meaning of the verb *to engulf* in the second paragraph is:

A to destroy something

C to completely surround something

B to collapse

D to block something

3. The meaning of the verb *to churn out* in the third paragraph is:

A to sell

C to import

B to buy

D to produce large quantities

4. The meaning of the verb *to tip* in the fourth paragraph is:

A to raise
B to reduce

C to give additional amount of money
D to fix

5. The meaning of the verb *to buoy* in the fifth paragraph is:

A to balance

C to average

B to keep at a high level

D to increase

6. The meaning of the noun *throughput* in the sixth paragraph is:

A prices

C amount of goods

B demand

D oil production

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Unit 6

Global Problems

I Read and expand your vocabulary

Saudis warned UK of London attacks

Saudi Arabia officially warned Britain of an imminent terrorist attack on London just weeks ahead of the 7 July bombings after calls from one of al-Qaeda's most wanted operatives were traced to an active cell in the United Kingdom.

Senior Saudi security sources have confirmed they are investigating whether calls from Kareem al-Majati, last year named as one of al-Qaeda's chiefs in the Gulf kingdom, were made directly to the British ringleader of the 7 July bomb plotters.

One senior Saudi security official told The Observer that calls to Britain intercepted from a mobile phone belonging to Majati earlier this year revealed that an active terror group was at work in the UK and planning an attack.

He also said that calls from Majati's lieutenant and al-Qaeda's logistics expert, who was killed in a separate shoot-out just four days before the 7 July bombings, have also been traced to Britain.

The Saudi official said: 'It was clear to us that there was a terror group planning an attack in the UK. We passed all this information on to both MI5 and MI6 at the time. We are now investigating whether these calls were directly to the London bombers. It is our conclusion that either these were linked or that a completely different terror network is still at large in Britain.'

Majati is believed to have masterminded the May 2003 attacks on Casablanca and has also been named in connection with the March 2004 Madrid bombings.

Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the UK issued a statement confirming that discussions had taken place between British and Saudi officials earlier this year. A statement from his office said: 'There was certainly close liaison between the Saudi Arabian intelligence authorities and the British intelligence authorities some months ago when information was passed to Britain about a heightened terrorist threat to London.'

It is not believed that any specific information was given, but that details were passed on of calls, emails and text messages between an al-Qaeda cell operating in Saudi Arabia and a group in the UK.

The statements from the Saudi regime are like a bolt from the blue and are likely to shift the focus of the investigation into the London bombings from Pakistan to Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda.

If it emerges that a top international Islamic terrorist was in direct contact with the leader of the Leeds cell which killed 56 people, it will also suggest that the bombings were more closely connected to the international terror organization than previously thought.

However, if information passed to Britain from Saudi Arabia turns out to lead directly to the ringleader of the Leeds suicide bombers, then the British security services will have to explain why they failed to act while terrorists were working right under their very nose.

British security sources last night categorically denied they received any warnings of a specific attack on London that could have averted the July tragedy in the capital. The source said they 'did not recognize' the details of the Saudi claims.

By Martin Bright, Antony Barnett and Mohammed Alkhereiji (Filed: 07.08.2005)
<http://observer.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,6903,1544368,00.html>

Word bank

cell (n.) – a small group of people who are working secretly as part of a larger political organization: e.g. Warren planned to find a communist cell and become a member.

ringleader (n.) – someone who leads a group that is doing something illegal or wrong: e.g. Detectives are now trying to trace the ringleader of what could be a new international racket.

be at large – if a dangerous person or animal is at large, they have escaped from somewhere or have not been caught: e.g. The escaped prisoners are still at large.

shoot-out (n.) – a fight using guns: e.g. In the shoot-out one Klansman was killed, and five others were seriously wounded.

mastermind (v.) – to think of plan, and organize a large, important, and difficult operation: e.g. He faces trial on dozens of charges, including money laundering, drug trafficking and masterminding death squad killings.

liaison (n.) (between/with) – the regular exchange of information between groups of people, especially at work, so that each group knows what the other is doing: e.g. Not until 1980 was there a proposal to establish a permanent liaison committee between the two organizations.

avert (v.) (tragedy/evil/crisis etc) – to prevent something unpleasant from happening: e.g. Another world crisis averted through the high art of diplomacy.

Work with essential vocabulary

1.1. Rewrite the sentences using words from the word bank. You may use some words twice.

1. The government has set up a working party to formulate proposals for reducing environmental pollution.
2. We were informed by police officials that Tony will be released from the prison at the end of this month.
3. Mile Illic, the local gang chieftain, was fired by Milosevic in the early days of the protests.
4. They agreed to meet government ministers in an attempt to head off a major conflict.
5. Not surprisingly, a riotous student contingent was tracked down at the demonstration.
6. Representatives from several European countries met to map out details of the proposed aid program.
7. The city council is taking emergency measures to guard against flooding in the city centre.
8. It emerges that there is an unfortunate lack of contact between the various government departments.

1.2. Complete sentences with the word combinations from the article above in the correct form. Use some word combinations twice.

to trace smb. or smth. / to smth.

to issue (make) a statement

to shift the focus into/onto/to smth.

to pass information to smb.

to be at large

1. Some _____ about the situation, with speakers alternating between those opposing Gingrich and those supporting him.
2. Twelve prisoners _____ following a series of escapes.
3. I am sure that your parents will want to know about this, and I will personally _____ to them.
4. The custom of celebrating Christ's birthday on the 25th of December _____ the fourth century.
5. I have copies of the documents but haven't managed _____ the originals.
6. The party's environment spokesman intends _____ either today or tomorrow.

7. Passengers are requested _____ to a member of staff if they see suspicious packages.
8. In this stage of a rape case, _____ onto the victim and her conduct.

1.3. Work with vocabulary related to the topic "Legal English II".

Match the legal notions with their definitions. The first one has been done for you.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <u>c</u> 1. surveillance | a. to make someone seem guilty of a crime |
| __ 2. suspect | b. the use of power in a way that it should not be used |
| __ 3. to incriminate | c. when the police, army, etc watch a person or place carefully because they may be connected with criminal activities |
| __ 4. to press charges | d. the action of secretly listening to other people's telephone conversations, by connecting something to the wires of their telephone |
| __ 5. wiretapping | e. to say officially that someone has done something illegal and must go to court |
| __ 6. censorship | f. the practice or system of monitoring something in order to remove parts considered unsuitable, offensive or endangering society |
| __ 7. abuse of power | g. someone who is thought to be guilty of a crime |

II. Consider the issues

2.1. Read the information below. What is the major difference between MI5 and MI6? Find Russian organizations that are equivalent to MI5 and MI6. Translate the words in bold into Russian.

MI5 - a secret British government organization whose job it is to keep Britain safe from attack by enemies inside the country, such as foreign spies or terrorists; abbreviated from National Security Division of Military Intelligence (*отдел государственной безопасности военной разведки*). While mainly concerned with internal security it does have an overseas role in support of the mission.

The Security Service comes under the authority of the **Home Secretary** within the Cabinet of the United Kingdom. The service is headed by a Director General (DG) of **the British Civil Service** who is directly supported by an internal security organization, secretariat, legal advisory branch and information services branch. **The Deputy DG** is responsible for the operational activity of the service, being

responsible for four branches; international counter-terrorism, **National Security Advice Centre** (counter proliferation and counter espionage), Irish and domestic counter-terrorism and technical and surveillance operations. The service is overseen by **the Intelligence and Security Committee of Members of Parliament** directly appointed by the Prime Minister.

The current Director General is Dame Eliza Manningham-Buller, since 2002.

(based on: <http://encyclopedia.thefreedictionary.com/MI5>)

MI6 - The Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) (*секретная разведывательная служба*), commonly known as MI6 is a secret British government organization that sends people to foreign countries to try and find out secret political and military information.

The Service is derived from **the Secret Service Bureau**, which was founded in 1909. It was a joint initiative of **the Admiralty and the War Office** to control secret intelligence operations in the UK and overseas, particularly concentrating on the activities of the Imperial German government. The Bureau was split into naval and army sections which, over time, specialised in foreign espionage and internal counter-espionage activities respectively. This specialisation was formalised before 1914. When World War I started the two sections underwent administrative changes so that the foreign section became **the Directorate of Military Intelligence Section 6** (MI6), the name by which it is frequently known in popular culture today.

(based on: <http://encyclopedia.thefreedictionary.com/MI6>)

2.2. Now discuss the following topics using the words from exercise 1.3. Be as argumentative as possible.

1. Any type of surveillance should be allowed to prevent terrorism.
2. The widespread use of electronic surveillance systems to trace terrorists can be a license for abuse of power.
3. Wiretapping and censorship of private mail for the sake of detecting terrorism suspects is a violation of human and constitutional rights.

III. Stylistics in focus

3.1. Key Concept: Idiom

Though there is no clear division among words into core and non-core categories, most of idioms (or phraseological units) can be classified as belonging to non-core expressive categories. From the point of view of pragmatic function of phraseological units their stylistic potential is very important.

Read the abstract below and say what stylistic effect is produced by the use of idioms?

“An **idiom** is an expression whose meaning is not compositional – that is, whose meaning does not follow from the meaning of the individual words of which it is composed. Idioms are often classified as figures of speech. Idioms typically admit two different interpretations: a literal one and a non-literal (or figurative) one. Idioms are often colloquial metaphors. The most common ones can have deep roots, traceable across many languages. While many idioms are clearly based in conceptual metaphors. Catch phrases while related to idioms, are not idioms in the sense discussed here. Also to be distinguished from idioms are proverbs, which take the form of statements”.

(based on: <http://encyclopedia.thefreedictionary.com>)

3.2. Now decide if the article in question is intended to merely inform readers about full-scale investigation into terrorist cell activity or has additional implications of some kind.

Give examples of idioms in the article to prove your opinion.

3.3. Idioms produce even more expressive underlining of a reporter's concept when placed in a text's strong positions such as the beginning (headline, sub-headline) and the ending of an article.

Here are some genuine newspaper headlines and last sentences of articles containing idioms. What do they imply?

Translate quotations into Russian and see what effect they will have on articles as a whole. Will an audience's reaction be positive or negative to the matters in question? Keep in mind that these are the quotes taken from the articles intended to merely inform readers and not to comment and judge (these are news articles not editorials).

1. Future of EU high on agenda as Belgium **takes the hot seat**.
2. Howard **loses his way** amid hissing.
3. **Iron frau** with a **tinpot plan** for Germany.
4. The whips came in and then, finally, at 7.18pm the Chief Whip smiled and we knew that the Government had won, though **by a whisker**.
5. Leaders **blow hot and cold** on tackling climate change.
6. World leaders **pay tribute** to Soviet wartime sacrifice.
7. Mr. Sevan resigned on Sunday, denying the report's findings and arguing that he **was being made the scapegoat for** the UN's current troubles.

8. Britain accused of **turning blind eye to** torture flights.

IV Develop your reading comprehension skills

4.1. Key concept: *Sequencing*

Sequencing suggests arrangement of different parts of the text into order. It is an effective technique used to develop reading skills and particularly good for **skimming**.

4.2. *The initial sentences of each paragraph of the following text have been removed. Restore the structure of the text.*

- A In this he has recently been inspired by a 1999 book on the CIA and the cultural cold war, *Who Paid the Piper?* by the British journalist Frances Stonor Saunders.
- B The Brown camp agrees that the propaganda campaigns adopted by Bush's long-time ally Karen Hughes, the US under-secretary for public diplomacy and public affairs, have been much too centralised and old-fashioned.
- C He has also been impressed by the work of David Kilcullen, a former Australian army officer and academic anthropologist who now works for the US state department.
- D To be on the road with a new prime minister on his first big international adventure is to observe him before the habits and resentments set in.
- E Does this mean that MI5 will now be spending millions on anti-Islamist magazines and that the London Symphony Orchestra is going to be dispatched to the Middle East with bugs in their cellos?
- F Meanwhile, young Muslims drawn to the flames of Islamism - in West Yorkshire as much as Basra - have to be targeted for "ideological conversion", a process Kilcullen compares to the tactics used to keep young men out of street gangs. Easier said than done, of course.
- G The Darfur resolution was the most glittering souvenir in the prime ministerial knapsack as we headed back home.
- H Brown is right to be using this time to think deeply and experimentally, for he will never enjoy such freedom again.
- I Brown's own thinking has shifted on this matter, and the turning point was the alleged involvement of doctors in the car bomb plot.

Brown is leading the way in counter-terrorist thinking

On the road in the US, the prime minister revealed to us - and to Bush - a bold new strategy in the fight for hearts and minds

1 _____ Things are always more interesting when they are still a little provisional, rough-edged and buzzing with new enthusiasm. This week we saw Gordon Brown feeling his way into the job, taking his band across the Atlantic to try and break America.

2 _____ But the less-noticed strategic prize was persuading George Bush to say so much about "ideology": the shorthand used by the president for what Brown calls the "battle for hearts and minds" in the struggle against terrorism. His staff are not yet happy with this slogan - too vague, too resonant of Vietnam - but it captures something more than the usual bromides about "shared values" and the need to be nice to people. Bush was most nervous about what Brown would say on Iraq. But the PM kept drawing the president back to the need to engage in a cultural, intellectual and counter-insurgency programme of the kind that was fought against Soviet communism.

3 _____ In the past he has tended to believe that the root cause of global terrorism was economic deprivation. The inferno at Glasgow airport sealed in his mind a shift of analysis: that twisted ideas, rather than poverty, were the true basis of the problem. In the PM's eyes, it follows that the next phase of the struggle must be more subtle, much of it completely concealed.

4 _____ He was particularly intrigued by the CIA's management of the Boston Symphony Orchestra as "the juggernaut of American culture". Brown cites the success of the anti-communist Congress for Cultural Freedom in harnessing the intellectual firepower of a generation of authors and artists, and funding journals such as Encounter, Transition and Partisan Review.

5 _____ Not quite. But it does mean finding resources for moderate Muslims and cutting off funding to anyone else: Brown believes that the old left's version of "multiculturalism" led us to the insanity of financing groups precisely because they were extreme. Expect big changes.

6 _____ Kilcullen's core belief is that the war on terror is better described as a "global counter-insurgency". He refers to the "information battlefield" but insists that the west's strategy must be

radically localised: each region, each village, needs a different counter-terrorist tactic.

7 _____ The Kilcullen doctrine on winning "hearts and minds" is based not on making local people feel affection for you, but on persuading them that you can protect them better than the enemy.

8 _____ But this is the way Brown's counter-terrorist thinking is heading: away from invasions, "crusades", and "shock and awe", and towards something that owes much more to a cold war theorist such as George Kennan than it does to Donald Rumsfeld or, indeed, to Tony Blair.

9 _____ The honeymoon will end, the mood will harden, the Tories will regroup and renew their attack. The road ahead will often be rocky. But, in the motorcade speeding down Second Avenue towards the airport, one could only reflect that this PM's greatest triumph to date has been to persuade the world that he is not an exhausted traveller, limping and grey after 10 years in office, but a man at the very start of a journey.

By Matthew d'Ancona
from The Guardian, Thursday August 2, 20

Unit 7

Public Relations

I Read and expand your vocabulary

Germany's Thatcher scents power

She may not be an iron lady but Merkel is aiming for the top

ANGELA MERKEL, leader of Germany's opposition Christian Democrats, seemed on course yesterday to realise her ambition of becoming her country's first woman Chancellor. She did not appear too pleased.

Frau Merkel, regularly described as Germany's Margaret Thatcher, had nothing of the Iron Lady about her. Almost hiding behind her Christian Democratic colleague, Jürgen Rüttgers — the victor in North Rhine-Westphalia's landmark election — Frau Merkel smiled nervously and said little.

"I think we are better positioned to solve Germany's problems," she told reporters who hoped for a stirring battle cry. Margaret Thatcher would undoubtedly have pumped more Churchillian drama into such a crucial political turning point.

Frau Merkel is tough and ambitious, but also strangely diffident. She looks like someone who has forgotten her notes. She seems to struggle for concentration. "Yes, I know I look grumpy or disapproving sometimes," she has said. "It's simply because I'm sunk in my thoughts."

The soft-spoken scientist was awarded relatively soft portfolios — the environment and the family. Some suspected she was a token appointment: an East German and a woman. Herr Kohl called her "the girl", but when he stumbled into a party corruption scandal "the girl" abandoned her former mentor. Frau Merkel's next victim may well be Gerhard Schröder. By calling an early election he has forced the Christian Democrats to choose her as his challenger, probably calculating that she would be relatively easy to beat.

But the Chancellor has not been studying Frau Merkel's form. She is a trained physicist. Her doctoral dissertation was on "The Calculation of Speed Constants of Elementary Reactions in Simple Carbohydrates". Her true calling could as easily be titled "The Calculation of Speed Constants of Elementary Reactions in Simple Male Politicians".

In retrospect even her apparent setbacks — letting Edmund Stoiber, the Prime Minister of Bavaria, challenge Herr Schröder in the 2002 general election — now seem inspired. Herr Stoiber will almost certainly support Frau Merkel after a meeting

next Monday; he has learnt his lesson. Two other leadership rivals — Roland Koch, Prime Minister of Hesse, and Christian Wulff, Prime Minister of Lower Saxony — backed her yesterday.

Frau Merkel, 50, is a puzzle even to her own party. She is surrounded by female advisers. She relaxes in quiet networking evenings run by the German television star Sabine Christiansen, where she lets off steam against the glass ceiling that restrains German women. She is not privy to the inner workings of Berlin's male political clubs. But as party chairman she has her own informants known as Angelistas.

This week she must set the tone for the election campaign, but again she is biding her time, perhaps awaiting Sunday's French referendum on the European constitution. If the French vote "no" Frau Merkel will declare it a camouflaged vote against Turkish EU membership. Immigration, or the failure of the multicultural society in Germany, would then become a central election issue — a means of mobilising blue-collar workers who are shifting allegiance to the Christian Democrats.

She senses this is the weakness of the Schröder Government: it is no longer clear what the Chancellor believes in, and he has therefore lost the authority to ask for sacrifices from the German people. On the economic front the Christian Democrats and the Social Democrats want welfare reform and a more competitive economy, but reject Anglo-Saxon capitalism. But Frau Merkel claims to have the credibility to bring in investment and create jobs.

Her Christian Democrats now have 46 per cent support against the Social Democrats' 29 per cent. That would make her the first leader to win an absolute majority since Konrad Adenauer in the 1950s. But the Chancellor will aim for Frau Merkel's weaknesses — her tendency to dither, her clumsy phrasing, her lack of support in Catholic regions. "The election cannot be won by Schröder," says the political scientist Franz Walter, "but it can be lost by Merkel."

ANGELA MERKEL: WAITING IN THE WINGS

1954 Born in Hamburg, moved to Quitzow in East Germany

1978 Physics doctorate at University of Leipzig, then worked at scientific academy in East Berlin, specialising in quantum chemistry

1990 Joins CDU, elected to parliament

1991 Joins Kohl Cabinet as Minister for Woman and Youth; deputy party chairman

1994 Environment Minister

1998 CDU general secretary

2000 CDU chairman

2002 Head of the CDU faction in the Bundestag

She has been married twice, to Ulrich Merkel from 1977 to 1982 and to Professor Joachim Sauer since 1998. She has four children.

Filed: 24.05.2005

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,3-1625119,00.html>

Word bank

to be on course (on course to do something) – likely to achieve something because you have already had some success: e.g. We're back on course to qualify for the championship.

battle cry (n.) – a phrase used to encourage people, especially members of a political organization: e.g. And we bear the glorious stars for the Union and the right, shouting the battle cry of Freedom!

turning point (n.) – the time when an important change starts, especially one that improves the situation: e.g. This could be the turning point in his miserable, despicable life.

token (adj.) – a token action, change etc is small and not very important, and is usually only done so that someone can pretend that they are dealing with a problem: e.g. Some suspected she was a token appointment: an East German and a woman.

let/blow off steam – to get rid of your anger, excitement, or energy in a way that does not harm anyone by doing something active: e.g. Recess is a good chance for kids to blow off steam.

glass ceiling (n.) – the attitudes and practices that prevent women or particular groups from getting high level jobs, even though there are no actual laws or rules to stop them: e.g. Goodhue shattered the glass ceiling as the first female publisher at Time Inc.

be privy to something – sharing in the knowledge of facts that are secret: e.g. Only top members of the Cabinet were privy to secret information.

set the tone (for/of something) – establish the general attitude or feeling of an event, activity etc: e.g. These were the Cold Warriors who set the tone for the Fifties.

bide your time – to wait until the right moment to do something: e.g. Some say they're biding their time before becoming more aggressive again.

be waiting in the wings – to be ready to do something if it is necessary or if a suitable time comes: e.g. If so, the Democrats would be waiting in the wings.

Work with essential vocabulary

1.1. Rewrite the sentences using words from the word bank.

1. Security is maintained by terminal operators using unique identification and password codes to have access to the system.
2. I was just marking time until a better job came up.
3. EU financiers say that recent problems on the US stock markets were not significant for Europe.
4. When the top leader places that kind of premium on seamless communication and openness, it influences everyone.
5. Women still complain that they have not yet been emancipated from all the inequalities of the past.
6. Chat rooms on the Internet are a place we can let our hair down and say what we think.
7. Companies that survive are the ones that are geared up to meet the demands of the future.
8. The band's new album is set to become the biggest hit of the year.
9. Then, in June of 1969, came the acknowledged crucial juncture, the Stonewall Riots.

II. Consider the issues

2.1. Read the commentary on PR strategies and then decide what role the press plays in the PR process?

“Public Relations is a management function which tabulates public attitudes, defines the policies, procedures and interest of an organization followed by executing a program of action to earn public understanding and acceptance.” (Edward Bernays)

Public relations is the art and science of managing communication between an organization and its key public constituents to build, manage, and sustain its positive image. PR may target different audiences with different messages to achieve an overall goal. Public Relations sets out to effect widespread opinion and behavior changes.

Modern public relations uses a variety of techniques (including e.g. opinion polling, public issues analysis, media relations, press conferences, direct mail, institutional advertising, publications, film/video productions, special events, speeches, presentations etc.). PR use a variety of high-tech techniques for distributing information on behalf of their clients, including satellite feeds, the Internet, broadcast faxes, and database-driven phone banks to recruit supporters for a client's cause.

2.2. Discuss the following questions.

1. What points are made in the article which praise Frau Angela Merkel?
2. What points are more critical of her and Christian Democrats? What additional information is given in the article to serve this purpose?
3. To what extent should the press be allowed into private life? Give examples of ruined lives of people haunted by the press.
4. Who is more to be blamed for invading the privacy of famous people: the photographers or the people who buy newspapers and magazines?
5. Does the press have too much power? What should be done to control the press?

III. Stylistics in focus

3.1. Key Concept: Dictionary Labels

It is universally acknowledged that words marked by lexicographers as «informal»/«spoken» or «written»/«literary»/«formal» have general stylistic effect on the whole sentence or even abstract when introduced into stylistically neutral context.

Dictionary labels vary from one edition to other. But generally words are classified according to usage:

- in one region or country (e.g. British English; American English etc.)
- in a particular situation and thus showing particular attitude (e.g. formal, informal, humorous etc.)
- in a particular context or style (e.g. law, literary, written, taboo, spoken, medical, old use etc.)

Now look at the idioms in the list below and decide what their definitions are. Give Russian equivalents and pay close attention to their dictionary labels:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| j_1. up for grabs | a. (<i>informal</i>) to be serious about doing something even if it involves harming someone |
| __2. call smb. to account | b. (<i>literary</i>) people or things that increase the amount of good or bad in the world |
| __3. to mean business | c. (<i>British English, informal</i>) to keep changing your attitude towards someone or something |
| __4. cast a cloud over smth. | d. (<i>informal</i>) unhappy, sad |
| __5. the forces evil | e. (<i>British English, informal</i>) good enough for a particular standard |
| __6. up to scratch | f. (<i>American English, informal</i>) to blame yourself |

__7. out of the blue	too much for something g. (<i>literary</i>) to make people feel less happy or hopeful about something
__8. to blow hot and cold	h. (<i>formal</i>) to force someone who is responsible for a mistake or a crime to explain publicly why they did it and punish them for it if necessary
__9. down in the mouth	i. (<i>informal</i>) if something is very unexpected
__10. beating oneself up	j. (<i>informal</i>) available for anyone who wants to try to have it

3.2. Translate the following up-to-date quotes from newspapers paying attention to the translation of idioms in italics. Then rewrite each sentence and change marked idioms to their neutral equivalents. Comment on the stylistic effect it produces.

Why are idioms more preferable in revealing a reporter's concept than their neutral equivalents?

1. Significantly, almost half of the 51-strong intake of new Tory MPs are undecided. The votes of as many as 20 are still very much **up for grabs**.
2. Chlor has the monopoly on a very important component in British manufacturing. So why is the company's chief executive still so **down in the mouth**?
3. In a wide-ranging interview, Mr. Clarke calls on the party to stop **beating itself up** about election defeats.
4. She relaxes in quiet networking evenings run by the German television star Sabine Christiansen, where she **lets off steam against the glass ceiling** that restrains German women.
5. Meeting at the Soviet leader's residence on Sunday night, Mr. Bush and Mr. Putin were at pains to avoid **casting a cloud over** the VE-Day celebration.
6. "What's amazing is that Putin's government is planning reforms and attacking foreign investors all at the same time; the idea is to build a certain momentum for reform by doing it all together. I think **the forces evil** are in retreat", said Eric Kraus, chief strategist at Nikoil Capital Markets.
7. Ineos itself has spent over £100m, and the DTI grant is only 11% of the amount needed to bring the Chlor plant, which is in Runcorn, **up to scratch**.

IV Develop your reading comprehension skills

4.1. Key concept: Sequencing.

4.2. The parts of the sentences have been removed from the following text. Read the text and restore its structure.

- A because ultimately, for the public, it just looks mucky and murky
- B it had all "led to a massive loss of trust, not just in Tony Blair at the end of his period in office, but in all politicians"
- C which was investigating before the police inquiry began
- D who hope the investigation will in the long run prove positive
- E There is wide concern at Westminster
- F because the legislation covers only the most blatant behaviour
- G whether or not it's fit for purpose
- H had given the public a "detrimental impression of politics and all political parties"
- I "You can lose your reputation in an hour, and it will take 10 years to rebuild."

Trust, and how to regain it, is now the issue, says Westminster

Inquiry length and profile was wrong, some argue.

Others say culture change and stronger law is answer

It could take years to restore trust in politics in the wake of the cash for honours case, members of all parties warned yesterday. 1) _____ that the allegations and lengthy investigation severely dented voters' faith in the conduct of politics.

Peter Watt, the Labour party general secretary, thanked the police for their hard work and diligence. But, he said, the inquiry 2) _____. Several Labour figures expressed concern that the length of and the high profile given to Scotland Yard's investigations had increased public concerns about the allegations.

Tony Wright, chairman of the Commons public administration select committee, 3) _____, suggested the issue had been one for politicians, not the police, to deal with. "It's done great damage to our political system," Dr Wright told the BBC. "Our system is fundamentally clean. It needs eternal vigilance, but basically political issues need to be resolved by the political system."

John McTernan, one of the former No 10 aides questioned in the inquiry, suggested its length amplified suspicions. "I think everybody in politics wishes it had

been done faster, 4) _____ - and I don't think anybody who is involved in politics actually genuinely believes anybody at a senior level in any of the major parties is involved in anything dodgy in relation to this."

Others, especially Angus MacNeil, the Scottish Nationalist MP whose complaint began the investigation, would strongly dispute that view. But he is one of those 5) _____, reshaping the culture around donations and nominations for honours: "I think it has changed the political climate in the UK."

Sir Alistair Graham, Westminster's former sleaze watchdog, said 6) _____. However, reforming the Lords and agreeing on party funding changes would help; Gordon Brown had put forward a "reasonably impressive" package of governance reform. But, said Sir Alistair, loopholes would always exist. "I don't think there's any magic piece of legislation. It's about cultural change - how politicians behave. Blair should not have gone in for secret loans."

Sir Menzies Campbell warned politicians to be patient in rebuilding trust: 7) _____. The answer, the Lib Dem leader admonished his Westminster colleagues, was always to practise "transparency, transparency, transparency".

Others suggested stronger sanctions might be needed, so if abuses come to light they can be dealt with effectively. Labour peer Lord Harris of Haringey, a member and former chairman of the Metropolitan Police Authority, said a review of honours laws might be necessary. Some suggest it is almost impossible to prosecute under the 1925 Honours (Prevention of Abuses) Act (introduced after a peerage scandal involving the then prime minister David Lloyd George) 8) _____.

"We've already seen reforms of the honours system," said Lord Harris. "I would also expect people to look at this legislation: 9) _____, and whether or not something needs to be revised in the light of the experience of this particular set of allegations."

By Tania Branigan, political correspondent
from The Guardian, Saturday July 21, 2007

Unit 8

World Economics

I Read and expand your vocabulary

Britain turned blind eye to Iraq oil smuggling

Britain made "no serious attempt" to block lucrative oil smuggling operations by Saddam Hussein because enforcement of Iraqi sanctions was not a "top priority" for the Government, a former senior British diplomat said yesterday.

Carne Ross, the Foreign Office official responsible for handling Britain's Iraq policy at the United Nations between 1998 and 2002, spoke to The Telegraph as a row escalated between London and the UN over the debacle of the oil-for-food programme.

Jack Straw, the Foreign Secretary, had earlier angrily denied claims by Kofi Annan, the beleaguered UN Secretary General, that Britain and America turned a blind eye to Iraqi oil trafficking to Turkey and Jordan, the West's allies in the region.

Mr. Ross said: "We talked a great deal about stopping oil smuggling, but there was never any concerted attempt by the UK or US on the ground to prevent breaches of sanctions.

"A blind eye was, de facto, turned to the smuggling. It was not condoned, but there was a policy of drift. As a government, we did not make a sustained effort to stop it. It was not a top priority."

Mr. Annan is fighting to save his job after stinging criticism of his handling of the oil-for-food programme. His comments appeared designed to spread the blame after US prosecutors detailed bribes allegedly paid to a senior UN official on Baghdad's behalf in 1993 while the terms of the programme were being negotiated with Iraq.

Saddam is thought to have skimmed up to \$4 billion from kickbacks on the UN scheme, set up in 1995 to allow Iraq to import food and medicines in return for authorised oil sales. It is estimated he may have made a further \$14 billion from illicit oil deals.

Mr. Straw, who has previously backed Mr. Annan in the face of calls for him to step down, responded tersely to the Secretary-General's comments. "I regret to say that suggestions that the United Kingdom ignored smuggling of oil from Iraq to Jordan and Turkey are inaccurate," he said, adding that Britain was "consistently in the lead in seeking to enforce the sanctions against Iraq".

Mr. Straw also blamed other unnamed Security Council members for their "ambiguous approach" to sanctions, thought to be a reference to France and Russia, which had strong commercial interests with Saddam's regime and hindered efforts to block illegal trade with Iraq.

Mr. Ross said, however, that Britain's vigorous diplomatic efforts at the UN were not matched by policy on the ground. "We never had a strategy in place to stop this," said Mr. Ross, who quit the Foreign Office last year in disagreement with Government policy on Iraq.

"We did not turn a deliberate blind eye, but there was no serious attempt to stop the smuggling. We never put serious pressure on Jordan or Turkey or the Gulf states. There was a lot of talk, but not much action."

Mr. Ross said that, in practice, the sanctions often took second place to other diplomatic priorities. "Sanctions enforcement was bottom of the agenda," he said. The US State Department has acknowledged that sanctions were waived for regional allies, apparently undermining Mr. Straw's assertion that Britain did not ignore smuggling to Jordan and Turkey.

Nonetheless, the US also took exception to the tenor of Mr. Annan's comments last week. "There is a fundamental difference between oil smuggling which was happening without our knowledge, and the very public waiver which was granted to some countries," said Richard Grenell, the US spokesman at the UN.

By Philip Sherwell in Washington (Filed: 17.04.2005)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/04/17/nirq17.xml>

Word bank

lucrative (adj.) – a job or activity that is lucrative lets you earn a lot of money: e.g. There is still an illegal but lucrative trade in ivory between Africa and South-East Asia.

row about/over smth. (n.) – a situation in which people disagree strongly about important public matters: e.g. The row over the currency triggered the protests that resulted in the coup.

take exception to smth. – to be angry or upset because of something: e.g. No one could possibly take exception to this Mathis infant.

smuggling (n.) – the crime of taking something illegally from one country to another: e.g. There is a strong tradition of smuggling, illicit goods being brought from nearby Flookburgh on the coast.

skim (v.) – to take money illegally or dishonestly: e.g. Saddam is thought to have skimmed up to \$4 billion.

kickback (n.) – money given to someone illegally or unethically in return for someone's help: e.g.

Work with essential vocabulary

1.1. Fill each of the blanks with a suitable word or phrase from the word bank.

Use some words twice.

1. Please _____, but I would prefer you not to swear in front of the children.
2. The Senate moved toward another _____ with the President over the budget.
3. It's only in the last year that our business has become _____. Before that we were just managing to cover our costs.
4. A yacht or fishing vessel would find it quite easy to evade our controls and could carry large amounts of contraband and thus be arrested in connection with _____.
5. The senior executive got five years in jail for _____ company's profits.
6. A customs official pocketed up to \$500,000 in _____ for permitting cocaine to pass through the port.
7. I didn't _____ to his rebuff, since I was used to his habit of being rude to his juniors.

1.2. Collocate words from the article (on the right) with appropriate verbs on the left. Make up sentences with collocations.

to undermine

to negotiate

to spread

to offer

to enforce

to block

sanctions

blame

terms

illegal trade/ smugglings

kickback

assertion

II. Consider the issues

2.1. Read the text for obtaining its information.

The United Nations (UN) is an international organization whose stated aims are to facilitate co-operation in international law, international security, economic development, and social equity. It was founded in 1945 at the signing of the United Nations Charter by 50 countries, replacing the League of Nations founded in 1919.

The five permanent members of the UN Security Council, each of which has veto power on any UN resolution, are the main victors of World War II or their successor states: People's Republic of China (which replaced the Republic of China), France, Russia (which replaced the Soviet Union), the United Kingdom, and the United States.

As of 2006, there are 192 United Nations member states, including virtually every internationally recognized independent country. From its headquarters in New York City, the UN's member countries and specialized agencies give guidance and decide on substantive and administrative issues in regular meetings held throughout each year.

The stated aims of the United Nations are to prevent war, to promote human rights, to provide a mechanism for international law, and to promote social progress and improved living standards. It gives the opportunity for countries to balance global interdependence and national interests when addressing international problems.

A large share of UN expenditures addresses the core UN mission of peace and security. A 2005 RAND Corp study found the U.N. to be successful in two out of three peacekeeping efforts and in seven out of eight nation-building efforts.

(based on: <http://encyclopedia.thefreedictionary.com>)

2.2. Prepare mini-speech considering the information obtained from the article and the following information.

The United Nations has been criticized by authorized organizations and the press as unable to act in a clear and decisive way when confronted with the crisis. The U.N. also has been accused of inefficiency and waste due to its cumbersome and excessive bureaucracy. Recent examples include the Iranian nuclear program, the genocide in Darfur (Sudan) and oil-for-food scandal.

The Oil-for-Food Programme was established by the UN in 1996. Its purpose was to allow Iraq to sell oil on the world market in exchange for food, medicine, and other humanitarian needs of ordinary Iraqi citizens who were affected by international economic sanctions, without allowing the Iraqi government to rebuild its military in the wake of the first Gulf War. It was discontinued in late 2003 amidst allegations of widespread abuse and corruption.

The following questions are meant to help you while preparing your mini-speech.

1. What grounds are there for the accusations of UN officials as stated in the article?
2. What do you think about the saying “bribery – is a two-way road”? Is it the universal truth?

3. What measures should be undertaken to stop corruption at the top level?
4. Do you think that smuggling, bribery and favoritism of any kind are only the signs of some deeper rooted problem?

III. Stylistics in focus

3.1. Key concept: *Transformed Idioms*

The ability to comprehend idiomatic expressions is inseparable from the development of figurative language. But in the course of time frequently used idioms lose their “expressive coating” (it has been proved by series of psycholinguistic researches) and cease to be an effective stylistic device. Reporters use different means of changing form of phraseological units to renovate their expressiveness. Transformed idioms have even a greater part to play in establishing stylistic effect in comparison with their original equivalents.

Here are the most commonly used means of transforming idioms in newspapers:

- method of structural transformation (an idiom is changed by adding new components to its structure or exchanging its components for different ones):
e.g. Mr. Ross, who quit the Foreign Office last year in disagreement with Government policy on Iraq, said: "We did not **turn a deliberate blind eye**, but there was no serious attempt to stop the smuggling. There was a lot of talk, but not much action."
- method of semantical transformation (it is based on returning literal meaning to the individual words composing the idiom or combining literal and figurative meaning of the idiom within one textual structure):
e.g. Army **under fire**. British troops **returned potentially lethal fire after being attacked** by rebels. ... Then they **came under fire from the press**.
- method of forming idiomatic unions (it is based on combining two or more idioms into relatively larger semantic structure):
e.g. Mr. Blair did not say much, but he did not have to. He was back to where he loves to be, **riding solo on the moral high ground**.
- method of partial usage (it is based on using only a part of a well-known idiom while the rest of it is prompted by the recipient’s intuition and background knowledge):
e.g. After a dismal week for Mr. Chirac, including a row over insults to Britain, and losing the bid to stage the 2012 Olympics, it would **be another bitter pill** for the French President.

3.2. Here are some genuine quotes from up-to-date quality newspapers. Say what means of transforming idioms are used in each sentence. Translate these sentences paying attention to transformed idioms in italics. Then rewrite (if possible) each sentence and change the transformed idioms into their original equivalents. Comment on the stylistic effect these transformations produce.

1. Mr. Clarke has been in charge of the charm offensive to win round Labour rebels on top-up fees. **It's like a bull not only in a china shop but in charge of one.**
2. Of course, Merkel **may have more plans up her sleeve** that she is willing to reveal to a skeptical electorate - and may be able to capitalize on a growing consensus that change is needed.
3. Ladbrokers is **a whisker ahead** of William Hill. Ladbrokers got its nose back in front as the largest bookmaker in the British Isles after acquiring Welsh betting chain Jack Brown for £76m yesterday. ... Ladbrokers gave £3,000 charity bet to Mike Gating and Rodney Marsh, who also **staked their whiskers** on the Ashes.
4. Home town with little affection for **Germany's rising political star**.
5. The head of state, who is the guarantor of the judicial system, angered the judges by appealing to reject Mr. Juppe's conviction, **fueling the fire** by depicting the judges as politically biased.
6. The Russian President also drew a parallel between the war and the present-day threat of terrorism, saying today's generation is "obligated to remain true to the memory of our fathers, obligated to build a world order based on security and justice ... and not to allow a repeat of either **cold or hot wars**."

3.3. What other non-core newspaper vocabulary categories are used in the article in question to reveal reporter's attitudes to the issue of UN corruptness?

IV Develop your reading comprehension skills

4.1. Key concept: Multiple Meaning Words

Multiple meaning words are words that have more than one meaning. The ability to define the contextual meaning of a multiple meaning word is necessary in developing detailed reading style.

4.2. Pick the sentence that uses the meaning of the word that is given.

<p>1. definition for <u>live</u>: burning or containing energy</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A The <u>live</u> bomb could explode at</p>	<p>2. definition for <u>scald</u>: to burn with hot liquid or steam</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A The botanist studied the <u>scald</u></p>
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<p>any time.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B The television show was live tonight, not prerecorded as usual.</p>	<p>on the cucumber.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B He will scald his hand if he doesn't protect himself.</p>
<p>3. definition for scour: to clean thoroughly</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A The bride-to-be plans to scour the bridal shops to find her dream wedding gown.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Jack promised to scour the grease from the pan.</p>	<p>4. definition for punt: an open flat bottom boat</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A The punt traveled thirty yards.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B The punt has square ends and an open, flat bottom.</p>
<p>5. definition for bunk: nonsense</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Do you want to sleep in the top bunk?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B The executive wanted to hear substantial ideas, not bunk.</p>	<p>6. definition for ramp: a plant related to onions</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A A new entrance ramp was created over the summer.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Did you know the ramp was safe to eat according to our nature guide?</p>
<p>7. definition for slot: a position in an organization</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Who in the department is qualified to fill the administrative assistant slot?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Put the quarter in the slot of the vending machine.</p>	<p>8. definition for grip: a tight hold</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Ellen thought she had a firm grip on the physics chapter until she tried to complete her homework that night.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B The toddler would not get away because of the grip his mom had on him.</p>
<p>9. definition for cuff: a fold at the bottom of a sleeve</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A The blood pressure cuff was tight around my arm.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B James rolled up the cuff on the sleeve.</p>	<p>10. definition for pitch: to throw or toss</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Dad made us pitch our own tent when we went camping.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Kelsey was told to pitch the trash to the curb.</p>
<p>11. definition for ground: to stop an</p>	<p>12. definition for strip: to remove the</p>

<p>airplane from flying</p> <p>A When we heard gunfire, everyone hit the ground.</p> <p>B The Federal Aviation Administration had to ground several flights because of weather.</p>	<p>covering from</p> <p>A I applied a strip of paper to the project.</p> <p>B The nurse's aide needed to strip the bed before the new patient arrived.</p>
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4.3. Read the article and pick the choice that uses the italicized word in the same way as in the original sentence.

China's new appetite for milk forces price rise in Germany

Cost of dairy products expected to rise by 50%

EU rules stop farmers increasing production

They have been blamed for putting up the price of everything from bicycles to garden fences.

Now the Chinese have been dubbed "milk snatchers" by German consumers for buying so much milk that prices of dairy products in Germany are expected to **1) soar** by 50%.

The Germans are being made to feel the effect of China's new-found taste for milk, **2) sparked** by a remark by China's president Wen Jiabao: "I have a dream - a dream to be able to provide all Chinese, especially our children, with half a litre of milk a day."

The result has been a huge increase in milk consumption in China and demand is growing at a rate of around 25% a year.

Because China has no tradition of dairy farming, there is a shortage of home-produced milk. A third of all the milk produced worldwide is now being transported to China, much of it from the EU and a significant amount from Germany, which produces 27bn litres a year.

EU dairy farmers would like to increase production to cope with a **3) current** shortfall, but are prevented from doing so by EU milk quotas, imposed in 1984 and in force until 2015. Instead German dairy farmers have taken the obvious step of putting up their prices, which they have long claimed were artificially low. Blaming the Chinese has helped **4) to deflect** criticism from the farmers.

A litre of milk in Germany, currently around 64 cents (40p), is due to go up by 50% in the next few weeks. Other products, such as butter, quark and yoghurt, are expected to rise accordingly. Across Europe the prices of dairy products are rising for

the same reasons, but not so dramatically as in Germany, where cheap groceries are seen as a basic right.

Thanks to the lobbying power of Germany's huge number of discount supermarkets, groceries cost around 63% less than in Iceland and 15% less than in Britain. Now outraged consumer groups and politicians have called for the government to raise unemployment benefit to cover the rise.

Yesterday supermarkets across the country reported that shoppers were panic buying dairy products in an attempt **5) to beat** the price increase.

By Kate Connolly in Berlin
from The Guardian, Thursday August 2, 2007

1) to soar

- A The space shuttle **soared** into orbit.
- B The cost of a business Website can **soar** into millions of dollars.
- C The snow goose flew down low over the field and then **soared** back up gracefully.
- D In Montreal, gleaming office towers **soar** above 18th-century cathedrals.

2) to spark

- A The shootings have **sparked** a national debate over gun control.
- B Catch their interest and **spark** their enthusiasm so that they begin to see the product's potential.
- C The chain of events I **sparked** off nearly led to my untimely demise.
- D The police response **sparked** outrage in the community.

3) current

- A The committee reflects the different political **currents** within the organization.
- B Turn off the **current** before changing the fuse.
- C According to one economist, at the **current** growth rate, China will have the largest economy in the world by 2030.
- D The design could be improved, he declared, by switching to alternating **current**.

4) to deflect

- A It changes, and can be **deflected** by the least puff of wind.
- B One effort hit the bar and the other brought out a fine save from Burridge after **deflecting** off Payton.

- C** The win featured a 15-yard bicycle-kick by Hayden Brown off a *deflected* corner kick.
- D** And the chairman had occasionally to be very adept at *deflecting* any risk of libel!

5) to beat

- A** Convention delegates were *beaten*, stabbed, and shot promiscuously by the police.
- B** Do you think the Socialists will *beat* the Liberals in the election?
- C** No one has figured out how to *beat* the problem of rodents eating the crops.
- D** But UMass still won on the road against a team that should have *beaten* it.

Unit 9

Special Reports

I Read and expand your vocabulary

The 'British' spy operation found lurking under a rock

THE GRAINY film shows a man strolling on a leafy Moscow street, apparently holding a Palm Pilot.

Suddenly he ducks into the bushes as if to answer a call of nature. He then reaches down to touch an object, about the size of a loaf of bread, on the ground.

In another clip, a man stops by the same spot to fill his car with anti-freeze and glances towards the object, apparently a rock. A third shows a man with a rucksack picking the rock up and taking it away.

At first glance the footage aired Sunday night on Rossiya, the state television channel, looks innocent enough. But this, according to Russia's security service, is nothing less than Britain's Secret Intelligence Service in action late last year.

The men, it said, were all spies working under cover at the British Embassy in Moscow. And the mysterious object was a high-tech telecommunications device concealed inside a fake rock and planted in a park in a Moscow suburb. Passing agents could transmit secret information to this electronic dead letter box through a simple hand-held computer.

The accusation plunged Russia and Britain into their worst espionage row in a decade yesterday (23/01/06), with a real possibility of tit-for-tat expulsions and long-term damage to relations between the two supposedly friendly countries.

Moscow said that the fate of four alleged British "spies" would be "considered at a political level" while London said that if punished, it would observe its established policy and "reciprocate".

The Rossiya report identified the four alleged spies as Marc Doe, a second secretary in the political section, Paul Crompton, a third secretary in the political section, and Christopher Pirt and Andrew Fleming, both researchers without diplomatic status. It also alleged that a Russian citizen who had contacts with the four had been detained and confessed to espionage.

"Everything in the program was accurate," a spokesman for the Federal Security Service (FSB), the successor of the Soviet KGB, told *The Times*. "Four British diplomats are suspected."

The British Embassy declined to comment on whether the four accused men were still in Russia, but Mr. Crompton remained at his desk yesterday. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office said that it was surprised by the allegations, and denied any misconduct.

Whether or not the allegations are true, Russia would be unlikely to pick such a fight with Britain without some evidence, only three weeks after taking over the presidency of the G8 group of leading industrialized nations for the first time, analysts said.

But British sources said that the Russian action appeared to be less an attempt to humiliate an old Cold War adversary than an attempt by the Kremlin to justify President Putin's controversial decision last week to sign a new law imposing draconian restrictions on the activities of non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The Russian authorities have justified the move by claiming that Western intelligence services are using NGOs to foment a revolution like those that rocked Georgia in 2003 and Ukraine in 2004.

The Rossiya report showed a document, signed by Mr. Doe, authorizing a transfer of £23,000 in October 2004 to the Moscow Helsinki Group, Russia's oldest human rights organization. Another document allegedly cleared a £5,719 grant to the Eurasia Foundation, which promotes the independent media, among other projects.

The report said that Mr. Doe, as head of the Foreign Office's Global Opportunities Fund in Moscow, was the main embassy contact for NGOs and had signed off on grants to at least 12 groups.

"This is the first time we literally caught them red-handed in the process of contacting their agents here and received evidence that they finance a number of non-governmental organizations," Sergei Ignatchenko, the FSB spokesman, said.

But Britain admits providing about £500,000 annually to fund Russian organizations involved in human rights, the environment, governance and democracy. "It is well-known that the British Government has financially supported projects implemented by Russian NGOs in the field of human rights and civil society," a Foreign Office statement said. "All our assistance is given openly and aims to support the development of a healthy civil society in Russia."

Most Russian NGOs accuse the Kremlin of trying to stifle the last independent sector of Russian society, having already silenced its critics in parliament, business and the media.

Lyudmila Alexeyeva, a Soviet-era dissident who heads the Moscow Helsinki Group, said that the organization had received British Embassy grants, but argued

that the scandal was an attempt to smear the group and justify the crackdown on NGOs. She insisted that some of the documents shown on television were fakes.

The television report was also seen as a publicity coup for the FSB, which has come under attack for failing to prevent a series of terrorist attacks, including the Beslan school siege in 2004 by Chechen rebels.

Sergei Ignatchenko, a spokesman for the FSB, said it was the result of a special operation by Russian counter-intelligence service over several months.

By Jeremy Page and Richard Beeston (Filed: 24.01.2006)

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,542-2006518,00.html>

Word bank

to plunge/to be plunged (*into a row*) (v.) – to move or make smb/smth move suddenly forwards and/or downwards; (*вовлекать, втягивать (во что-л.)*): e.g. Stock markets plunged into business decline at the news of the coup.

tit-for-tat (*expulsions*) (adj.) – a situation in which you do smth bad to smb because they have done the same to you: e.g. The routine tit for tat when countries expel each other's envoys.

to reciprocate smb. with smth. (v.) – to behave or feel towards sb in the same way as they behave or feel towards you: e.g. Her passion for him was not reciprocated.

to stifle (v.) – to prevent smth from happening or developing; to prevent a feeling from being expressed: e.g. They hope the new rules will not stifle creativity.

crackdown on smb/smth (n.) – severe action taken to restrict the activities of criminals or of people opposed to the government or sb in authority: e.g. UN disagreed with a military crackdown on student protesters in Yugoslavia.

to smear smb. (v.) – to damage sb's reputation by saying unpleasant things about them that are not true (*used especially in newspapers*): e.g. Carter refused to take part in an attempt to smear his campaign opponent.

to foment (*a revolution*) (v.) – to create trouble or violence or make it worse: e.g. They accused him of fomenting political unrest.

to catch smb. red-handed – to catch smb in the act of doing smth wrong or committing a crime: e.g. Earl was caught red-handed taking the money.

Work with essential vocabulary

1.1. Fill each of the blanks with a suitable word or phrase from the Word Bank.

1. The 90s in Russia were marked by _____ assassinations by rival gangs.
2. The story was an attempt to _____ the party leader.
3. We were _____ at once into philosophical discussions.
4. Labor Party _____ the workforce to come on strike.
5. Night patrols were started in some rural areas, and they sometimes _____ burglars _____.
6. I wasn't sure whether to laugh or to _____ with a remark of my own.
7. Angry bakers who believe organized gangs are responsible yesterday called for a _____ on the thefts.
8. Indications of tangible progress in the late 1930s were _____ by the constraints of war.

1.2. Find in the article English equivalents to the following phrases. Make up your own sentences with English phrases.

переносной (ручной) пульт управления;	шпионский скандал;
отснятый материал фильма, сюжет;	дипломатический статус;
сознаться в шпионской деятельности;	диссидент Советских времён;
подавлять последний независимый сектор;	обоюдные выдворения;
«зернистый», низкокачественный видеоматериал;	
неправительственные организации;	захват заложников в школе;
большая восьмёрка;	пойманный с поличным;
инициировать революцию;	
драконовские, суровые ограничения;	противник в Холодной Войне.

II. Consider the issues

2.1. It is universally acknowledged that not every event is worthy to be reported in news media. Read eleven features below of events which make them likely to be reported in news media and then say if the issues discussed in the article in question are newsworthy and why.

1. *frequency*: the event must be complete within the publication cycle of the news organization reporting it;
2. *threshold*: the event must pass a certain size threshold to qualify for sufficient importance to be newsworthy;

3. *clarity*: the event must be relatively clear what actually happened;
4. *cultural proximity*: the event must be meaningful to the audience of the news organization in question;
5. *consonance*: the event must be in accordance with the framework of understanding which typifies the culture of the potential audience;
6. *unexpectedness*: the event must be unexpected and rare;
7. *continuity*: if an event has already been in the news, there is a good chance it will stay there;
8. *composition*: coverage of events is partially dictated by the internal structure of news-gathering organizations;
9. *actions of elite*;
10. *personification*: the event must be seen in terms of individual people rather than abstractions;
11. *negativity*: bad events are more newsworthy than good ones.

The threshold criteria of newsworthiness will be different for broadsheets and tabloids

(Based on: A. Briggs, P. Cobley. The media – Longman, 1998. – p.383-385)

2.2. Read about another spy scandal which took place on the other side of the Atlantic, in USA, and see if there are any common features in them. Decide who can benefit in both cases?

White House in panic over spy scandal

Bush is on the rack over a revelation that his close aide Karl Rove exposed a CIA agent

The so-called 'Valerie Plame affair' has the Bush administration in a panic. It all began two years ago with a column from conservative journalist Bob Novak at a time of intense debate over statements by Joseph Wilson, a former diplomat who had researched claims for the CIA that Iraq was seeking to buy uranium in Niger. Wilson publicly accused the Bush administration of using the 'Niger issue' as part of a false justification for invading Iraq. Novak's column, citing two administration sources, said Wilson's wife, Valerie Plame, worked at the CIA. Such a leak could have had two aims. First, it would punish the Wilsons by blowing her cover and thus jeopardising her career. Second, it would warn others doing CIA work not to speak out publicly against the White House.

But it was also illegal. Deliberately exposing the identity of an undercover CIA agent is a serious crime. Whoever had spoken to Novak could face up to 10 years in jail. Not only was her career ended, but national security had been harmed.

III. Stylistics in focus

3.1. Key Concept: *Horizontal Gradation*

Each newspaper is characterized by a certain house style and political orientation. For example, The Times is Conservative/Tory supporter, The Observer & The Guardian (both published by the same company) are Labour supporters and speak in favour of the current government (by Tony Blair), The Daily Telegraph is Conservative/Tory as well as The Daily Mail.

House style is the means by which a newspaper seeks to ensure that where there are permissible variants in spellings, the use of acronyms and so forth, a unified approach to these matters is adopted to help in disseminating a sense of rationality and authority in the use of language.

The Times is viewed by the majority of readers as politically biased as well as the Daily Mail and Daily Telegraph. The Guardian on contrary is believed to be fairly unbiased in its news coverage; it provides different opinions and is also covering events in a very critical/analytical way. For example, the Guardian's style is characterized by its 2000 editor Michael McNay as neither pedantic nor wild.

Thus this fact enables us to speak about the so called **horizontal gradation of the newspaper evaluation process** (*горизонтальная градация плотности эмоционально-оценочного компонента газетного текста*). The horizontal gradation of the newspaper evaluation process manifests itself in increasing numbers of non-core lexical items that carry recognizable evaluative associations and connotations. These lexical units appear in newspaper materials of the same genre but published in different newspapers.

3.2. Read the abstracts below containing headlines and the first paragraphs of the articles about the current spy scandal between Britain and Russia. Try to place them on the scale of horizontal gradation below, by deciding what abstract contains minimum/maximum value judgment and putting the abstract's number in an appropriate box. Discuss any difference in style between these examples.

1. Pipelines and spies.

It is surely just a coincidence that two big stories involving Russia have hit the headlines in the past 24 hours, but both are puzzling - and worrying. First came the accusation from Georgia's President Mikhail Saakashvili that Russia was responsible

for the sabotage of gas pipelines and electricity-transmission stations serving his country. The charge that British spies have been at work in Moscow has a more old-fashioned flavour, despite the hi-tech kit they allegedly used, ... and is subject to Soviet-era smearing now.

from The Guardian 24.01.06

2. The 'British' spy operation found lurking under a rock.

The grainy film shows a man strolling on a leafy Moscow street, apparently holding a Palm Pilot. Suddenly he ducks into the bushes ... then reaches down to touch an object, about the size of a loaf of bread, on the ground.

from The Times 24.01.06

3. British diplomats 'outed' as spies.

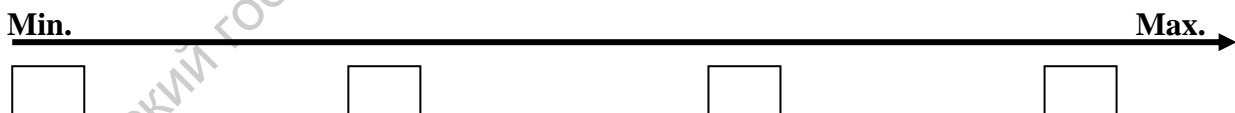
The UK was accused of Cold War-style spying on Russia last night with four British diplomats "outed" as spies on Russian television. The diplomats' names and biographies were broadcast by the Rossia channel, in a program called Special Correspondent.

fom The Independent 24.01.06

4. NGOs - the perfect cover.

The "exposé" of British intelligence's methods may have embarrassed MI6 but it also dovetailed neatly with the Kremlin's campaign against non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

from The Daily Telegraph 24.01.06



IV Develop your reading comprehension skills

4.1. Key concept: Inferences (What? Who? Why?)

Inference is something that you think is true, based on information that you have. Making inferences is an important subskill contributing to the development of detailed reading style.

4.2. Read the article and answer the questions for each paragraph.

Pleased Blair steers clear of criticism of the police

Former prime minister Tony Blair declared himself "very pleased" with the end of the cash for honours affair yesterday, expressing sympathy for those who have been through a "traumatic time".

1. What happened yesterday?

- A somebody was traumatized
- B some shocking and unpleasant situation
- C a car accident

Mr Blair, now a Middle East envoy, said the police inquiry had ended "as I always expected it would".

He added: "Much of what has been written and said about them has been deeply unfair, and I am very pleased for all of them that it is now over."

2. What does Tony Blair think about the police inquiry?

- A that it was unfair
- B that it should not have been made
- C that it should be continued

But Mr Blair was careful not to voice any public criticism of the Metropolitan police. "I want to make it clear that I level no criticism at the police," he said. "They were put in an invidious position by the SNP complaint and had a very difficult task to perform."

3. Why is Tony Blair against any public criticism of the metropolitan police?

- A because they had to perform their task no matter how unpleasant and offensive it was.
- B because SNP complaint was a very difficult task
- C because they performed their task perfectly

Labour figures dragged into the investigation yesterday expressed relief at the decision of the crown prosecution service not to pursue the case further. Ruth Turner,

who was director of government relations and Tony Blair's "gatekeeper" during his last two years in office, welcomed the inquiry's conclusion, as did John McTernan, a senior Downing Street aide, who was "massively relieved".

4. Who was glad to accept the inquiry's conclusion?

- A Tony Blair's opponents
- B the crown prosecution service
- C Tony Blair's proponents

Sir Christopher Evans, the biotech tycoon, also voiced his relief but claimed that he was maliciously dragged into the affair. "I have never made any secret of my financial support for the Labour party or my relationship with Lord Levy," he said. "But there were never any conditions put on my support for the party. My firm belief that I had done nothing wrong or illegal has been completely borne out by today's decision.

5. Whose innocence has been proved by the crown prosecution decision?

- A Sir Christopher Evans's
- B Lord Levis's
- C John McTernan's

"I regret to say that my lawyers and I believe I became so embroiled in the investigation because of the intervention of a member of the Serious Fraud Office. This individual made a witness statement to the Metropolitan police investigation team in which he claimed a legal representative of mine had said to him that I was expecting a peerage. That statement was completely untrue, malicious and caused unnecessary difficulties."

The SFO was unavailable for comment.

6. Why was Sir Christopher Evans involved into the investigation?

- A because he was expecting a rank of a British peer
- B because false things were said about him to damage his reputation
- C because his legal representative made a witness statement to the Metropolitan police investigation team

The involvement of Ms Turner particularly aggrieved Labour supporters as police arrested her at her London home at 6.30am in January. She had already been questioned on a number of occasions. She said: "Although I was confident I had done nothing wrong, it has been a very stressful time for me and my family. I know that, however difficult for me personally, the police had an obligation to investigate these allegations thoroughly, and I cooperated with them fully. I am now looking forward to getting on with my life."

7. What made Labour supporters particularly sad?
- A The arrest of Ms Turner
 - B The fact that Ms Turner cooperated with the police
 - C Illegal actions of Ms Turner

By Hugh Muir
from The Guardian, Saturday July 21, 2007

Саратовский государственный университет имени Н. Г. Чернышевского

Unit 10

Culture

I Read and expand your vocabulary

Hangin' chads hit Hollywood

The botched Florida election that put George Bush in the White House and introduced the world to the hanging chad (*a little round piece of paper torn by a voting machine while punching the ballot during voting procedure to mark the voter's choice*) is to be immortalized by Hollywood.

Oscar winner Sydney Pollack has been hired to direct the film *Recount*, which will look at events in the Sunshine State during the weeks after the controversial 2000 presidential election, in which 175,000 Floridians saw their votes rejected and Bush was declared the winner over Al Gore by a 537-vote margin.

Despite Tinseltown's notable leftwing leanings, the film will be fair to both the Republicans and the defeated Democrats, according to Colin Callender, president of Home Box Office (HBO), which plans to release the movie next spring.

"It doesn't take sides. It's a fascinating look at democracy where the rubber meets the road," he told *The Hollywood Reporter*. "It's a very compelling piece that takes a well-known event and deconstructs it from the point of view of the people involved."

The month-long scandal made Florida, and the US, an international laughing-stock. Even Saddam Hussein, long criticized by successive American presidents for failing to hold a free and fair vote in Iraq, reportedly offered to send election observers to sort out the mess.

Weeks of recounts and legal challenges followed polling on November 7 before the US Supreme Court stepped in on December 9 to declare the process unconstitutional and award Bush the presidency.

Florida's election procedures were widely mocked in the interim, with controversy over old-fashioned double-sided paper ballot slips and the validity of hanging, swinging and dimpled chads where voters had failed to fully punch through a hole to mark their choice.

Beside Bush and Gore, the cast list includes many other characters brought to prominence by the debacle, including the Florida governor Jeb Bush, who was accused of handing the state and ultimately the White House to his brother, and

Katherine Harris, Florida's secretary of state, a Republican who failed to win a seat in the US Senate last November.

Pollack won best picture and best director Oscars for the 1985 film *Out of Africa*. *Recount*'s script was written by actor Danny Strong, whose credits includes *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. He said the film would include the stories of voters from both sides of the political divide because he wanted to explore the drama of ordinary people caught up in one of the biggest political scandals of all time.

by Richard Luscombe in Miami. (Filed: 04.04.2007)

http://film.guardian.co.uk/news/story/0,,2049474,00.html#article_continue

Word bank

(leftwing/rightwing/political etc) **leaning** (n.) – a tendency to prefer or agree with a particular set of beliefs, opinions: e.g. His socialist leanings made him known all over the campus.

to win by a margin of ... votes – the difference in the number of votes, points etc that exists between the winners and the losers of a competition or election (by a wide/narrow/significant etc margin): e.g. The bill was approved by a margin of 55 votes.

to deconstruct – to analyse a text in order to show that there is no fixed meaning within the text but that the meaning is created each time in the act of reading.

laughing-stock (n.) – a person or an institution that everyone laughs at because they have done smth. stupid: e.g. The program has made the U.S. a laughing-stock.

to botch something (up) – (*informal*) to spoil smth. by doing it badly: e.g. He completely botched up the interview. The work they did on the house was a botched job.

to be/get caught up in something - to be or get involved in something, especially something bad: e.g. I didn't want to get caught up in endless petty arguments.

Work with essential vocabulary

1.1. Find sentences in the article which use words from the word bank and rewrite them using their synonyms.

1.2. Match sentences on the left with sentences on the right, containing phrasal verbs from the list below, that have the same meaning or implication.

to sort out – to arrange or organize something that is mixed up or untidy

to figure out – to find the answer or understand what has happened

to hang on – used to ask or tell someone to wait

to hang up – to put down the phone

to make up – to invent a story, a reason, an excuse etc.

to screw up – to spoil something by doing it wrong

to put off – to delay, postpone

We need to structure elections differently.

He did it all wrong.

I'll wait a minute.

They postponed their work.

He put down the phone.

He invented a story.

They solved the problem.

I'll hang on for a minute.

They figured it out.

He screwed it up.

He made it all up.

They put their work off.

He hung up.

We need to sort it out.

II. Consider the issues

2.1. Read the information about types of news and then analyze the article in question from this perspective. How can you classify the type of news the article deals with?

Journalists distinguish between different categories of news: 'hard' news, 'soft' news, 'spot' news and 'breaking' news. An event which is judged as important as well as interesting is more likely to be considered 'hard' news. 'Soft' news consists of relatively unimportant information or information not very directly related to the passage of time. 'Spot' news is defined by circumstances under which it becomes available. It is the name for events that occur on unpredicted occasions. 'Breaking' news refers to an event which is incomplete, but whose importance or interest is great to be included in news media.

(based on: A. Briggs, P. Cobley. The media – Longman, 1998. – p.383-385)

2.2. Look through the article one more time and answer the following questions.

1. Why is the election in question called in the article "the botched Florida election"?
2. What was the voting method used in Florida in 2000?
3. What other methods do you know? What methods are used in Russia?
4. What is the best way to vote to eliminate falsification?
5. Do you agree with this quotation: "Political power grows out of the barrel of gun" (Mao Zedong 1893-1976)? Or is it inapplicable to the modern political world?

6. Would you like to watch “Recount” by Oscar winner Sydney Pollack when it is released?

2.3. For this debate the class is divided into two teams. **Team A** will argue in favor of the statement: “The ballot is stronger than a bullet” (Abraham Lincoln 1809-1865). **Team B** will argue the statement is wrong.

III. Stylistics in focus

3.1. Key Concept: Vertical Gradation

A newspaper genre is a type or category of media product. It has distinctive main features which are recognized through being repeated over a period of time.

All newspaper materials are divided into two big sections: news (news items, reports) and opinion columns (commentary, editorials and leader pages). Though there is often a very obscure boundary between what is news and what is discussion you can decide the fact through the differences in the language of reporting. The news items allow no blatant value-judgments though editorials freely expose the columnist’s sentiments.

Thus this fact enables us to speak about the so called **vertical gradation of the newspaper evaluation process** (*вертикальная градация плотности эмоционально-оценочного компонента газетного текста*). The vertical gradation of the newspaper evaluation process is a gradual increase of non-core lexical items that carry recognizable evaluative associations and connotations in different newspapers materials of the same newspaper.

The news group of genres reports the news, facts about the event, renders words faithfully into indirect speech. The other is the work of an editorial writer and gives the editor's opinion about something, rather than reporting facts.

An editorial is a statement or article by a news organization (generally a newspaper or magazine) that expresses the opinion of the editor, editorial board, or publisher. Similarly, an "op-ed" is usually a guest opinion article appearing on the page opposite a newspaper's editorial. The term op-ed originates from the tradition of newspapers placing such materials on the page opposite the editorial page. The term "op-ed" is a combination of the words "opposite" and "editorial."

In spite of the fact that a reporter should distinguish between comment, conjecture and fact according to the Newspaper code of practice, modern journalism in newspaper often blends comment, conjecture and fact in ways that take professional insight or special knowledge to detect and separate. Some journalists

deliberately merge “report” with editorial commentary that gives way to new genre forms.

(based on: Burton G. More than meets the eye – London: New York, Hodder Headline Group, 1997).

3.2. Analyse the following sentences taken from different articles. How unambiguously can they be identified with news items or commentary items?

1. A man identified as an FSB agent said the spies had used "new spying technology" that could download data within one or two seconds, from a distance of up to 20 meters.
2. The "exposé" of British intelligence's methods may have embarrassed MI6 but it also dovetailed neatly with the Kremlin's campaign against non-governmental organizations.
3. The agency claimed that the diplomats had been closely involved in funding pro-democracy groups in Russia, raising accusations that the Kremlin was trying to besmirch the reputation of organizations promoting human rights and good government.
4. The diplomats were identified as two members of the political section of the British embassy in Moscow, as well as an "archivist" and a fourth man whose job was not known. Under the terms of a voluntary agreement with the Government, British newspapers do not identify alleged British intelligence officials.
5. Tony Blair has laughed off the latest spy row with Russia, telling journalists with a smile: "I think the less said about that, the better."
6. For the Prime Minister the revelations of British diplomats using electronic devices hidden in rocks may seem like another escapade in the spy games played for centuries by Britain and Russia. But in Moscow the affair is more ominous - it marks the latest attempt by the Kremlin to throttle the human rights and pro-democracy groups.
7. Russia said yesterday it had caught four British diplomats "red-handed" in espionage after releasing surveillance video revealing how they used a fake rock as an electronic version of the age-old "dead-letter drop".
8. The revelations about British spies may or may not be true. What is certain is that they bring back a chill reminiscent of the Cold War.

IV Develop your reading comprehension skills

4.1. Key concept: Inferences (When? Where? How?)

4.2. Read the article and answer the questions for each paragraph.

Italy claims victory as Getty agrees to return 40 objects

The Italian government last night claimed partial victory in its campaign to get the return of art works it says were stolen and smuggled out of the country on behalf of America's richest art institution.

1. Where were art works stolen from?

- A from Italy
- B from America
- C from American richest art institution

The culture ministry said that after "long and complex negotiation", a deal had been reached with the Getty museum in Los Angeles to restore 40 objects - 12 fewer than first demanded.

2. How had a deal been reached?

- A it was difficult to reach a deal
- B it was easy to reach a deal
- C a deal was reached quickly

However, there was no agreement on what is regarded as the most important work, a third century BC Greek bronze attributed to Lysippos, sculptor to Alexander the Great. Another valued item, a fifth century BC statue of Aphrodite, believed to be from the ancient city of Morgantina on Sicily, is to remain in the US for a further three years before returning.

3. Where will a fifth century BC statue of Aphrodite be returned to?

- A to the ancient city of Morgantina on Sicily
- B to Los Angeles
- C to Italy

The deal is Italy's third such: the Metropolitan Museum in New York and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts have already agreed to return jewels of their collections in exchange for the loans of works of equivalent value.

Last month, Francesco Rutelli, the culture minister and a deputy prime minister in the centre-left government, threatened to sever all links with the Getty if an accord were not reached by August. At that stage, Getty executives were insisting they would only return 26 objects, and exclude the Morgantina Aphrodite.

4. How did the Getty executives react to Francesco Rutelli's threat?

- A they met his demand
- B they threatened to stop further negotiations
- C they made changes in their first agreement

The sculpture, of an Olympic athlete, was found in the Adriatic when fishermen snagged it in their net in 1964; the Getty acquired it in 1977. It says the find was in international waters, and therefore not on Italian soil. Rome does not contest the point, but says the bronze was brought ashore and then exported illegally.

5. Where does an Olympic athlete belong to in Rome's opinion?

- A to Italian state
- B to the Getty
- C to the world community

By John Hooper in Rome
from The Guardian, Thursday August 2, 2007

Unit 11

World Political Issues

I Read and expand your vocabulary

Tony and Gordon are on song, but the backing band's off-key

Chirac, Bush and Putin could complete Blair's post-election revival or send him crashing back to earth

LIKE Pink Floyd or The Who on 04/15/2005, Tony Blair hopes to “get the band together one more time” this week, despite having deep-seated problems with some of the other members. He is doing the lead vocals, Gordon Brown is on bass, but the backing of Jacques Chirac, George Bush and Vladimir Putin is, as they say, “to be confirmed”.

It is a high-risk venture and at Gleneagles the Prime Minister, who once wanted to be a rock star himself, will either complete the post-election revival in his fortunes or crash back to earth.

It seems strange that Mr. Blair should be making common cause once more with the fluffy-headed liberals he so despised during the Iraq war, but the politics of Live 8 and G8 are essentially a throwback to new Labour's zenith, before it became tarnished by scandal, that messy gig in the Middle East or the threat of Tony 'n' Gordon breaking up.

The rock concerts staged at Hyde Park and across other G8 capitals represent that bold, optimistic desire for a fairer world which in 1997 was similarly fuelled by little more than a feel-good, “things can only get better” momentum.

As such there are, of course, unanswered questions about how to square action against climate change with increasing development and growth, what exactly has happened to the estimated \$500 billion in aid to Africa over the past 40 years and whether more money will help or hinder a continent still stricken by corruption and conflict, where leaders still find it difficult to criticize even Mugabe's regime in Zimbabwe.

Five years ago world leaders' summits customarily did very little other than causing a fair-sized riot among anti-globalisation protesters. The extremists may still be around in Edinburgh this week but this time without the tacit support of so much of their generation. The G8 demonstration will now be so mainstream that Mr. Brown is expected to be at its head this week. Indeed the pressure for action has come as often as not from within government as it has from without.

Britain's presidency of the G8 this year is, for once, fulfilling those old Foreign Office boasts about this country's ability to "punch above its weight". At the start of this year the idea of staging a successor to the Live Aid concert of 1985 appeared pointless and remote. The Iraq war had destroyed Mr. Blair's reputation on the left, the Asian tsunami threatened to drain people of any residual charitable compassion they had and the politicians had a general election to think about first. But a combination of this weakened Government and some ageing rock stars has succeeded in forcing Africa to the top of the political agenda for the first time in 20 years.

The Prime Minister is, by all accounts, going for broke in "brinkmanship" negotiations before Gleneagles. A deal has been all but done on \$40 billion (£22 billion) of debt cancellation and the call for a doubling of aid budgets for Africa is close to being realized. The prospects of agreeing real action on climate change, arms control and trade liberalization appear further off. Mr. Chirac is reluctant to move on trade, Mr. Putin does not want to stop selling guns to Africa and President Bush does not accept that the burning of fossil fuel is the main cause of global warming.

It would be wrong to underestimate the significance of the pressure — if not "mandate" — which Live 8 has drummed up. Just as the original concerts in 1985 used revolutionary satellite technology to make a live broadcast to the world, the role of the internet and texting has been to the fore in signing up the support of tens of millions to a manifesto for change at the G8. Downing Street aides acknowledge that the G8 leaders have a political incentive to be seen as having taken decisive action on poverty and climate change. Mr. Blair always used to say that Live Aid had been great but, by focusing on raising tens of millions through charity, had missed the point and purpose of political change — which counts money in the tens of billions. Live 8 has taken him at his word.

If they were right to trust him, it could yet be that in the week when a whole new generation discovered the joys of Pink Floyd and The Who, they also grudgingly found out that Mr. Blair (or even Mr. Bush) is not so bad after all.

By Tom Baldwin (Filed: 04.17.2005)

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,22649-1679850,00.html>

Word bank

to tarnish (v.) – to spoil the good opinion people have of smb/smith: e.g. The administration was tarnished with scandal.

mainstream (adj.) – accepted by or involving most people in a society: e.g. Deaf children can often be included in mainstream education.

(n.) – the ideas and opinions that are thought to be normal because they are shared by most people; the people whose ideas and opinions are most accepted:

e.g. Environmental ideas have been absorbed into the mainstream of European politics.

grudgingly (adv.) – given or done unwillingly: e.g. She grudgingly admitted that I was right.

go for broke – (*informal*) to take big risks when you try to achieve something: e.g. At 2-0 down with ten minutes left, you have to go for broke.

to the fore – to or in a position of importance or influence: e.g. The problem has come to the fore again in recent months.

punch above your weight – (*informal*) if businesses, organizations, teams etc punch above their weight, they are successful in an activity or task which usually needs more money, power, skill etc than they seem to have - *used especially in newspapers*: e.g. Foreign Office boasts about this country's ability to "punch above its weight".

Work with essential vocabulary

1.1. Fill each of the blanks with a suitable word or phrase from the Word Bank.

1. So, Major may _____ by breaking with precedent.
2. I am so disappointed with my exam results I feel that I _____
3. He hopes to improve the newspaper's somewhat _____ public image.
4. She has always been _____ at moments of crisis.
5. He finally gave me a smile though _____.
6. His radical views place him outside _____ of American politics.

1.2. Find in the article English equivalents to the following phrases. Make up your own sentences with English phrases.

старые, непреодолимые проблемы;

политическая конфронтация;

недооценивать значимость;

пораженный коррупцией и конфликтами;

продвинуть ... на первое место в списке важных политических дел;

расцвет новой лейбористской власти;

собрать десятки миллионов долларов;

лезть из кожи вон, прилагать огромные усилия;

быть таким же, как и все;

антиглобалисты;

на переднем плане;

смс;

переплюнуть самого себя;

широкомасштабные беспорядки;

путём благотворительности.

II. Consider the issues

2.1. Read the text for obtaining its information.

The Group of Eight (G8) consists of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Together, these countries represent about 65% of the world economy. The hallmark of the G8 is an annual political summit meeting of the heads of government with international officials, though there are numerous subsidiary meetings and policy research. The Presidency of the group rotates every year. The country holding the presidency hosts a series of ministerial-level meetings leading up to a mid-year three-day summit with the heads of government.

The G8 has its roots in the 1973 oil crisis and subsequent global recession. The participants of the first summit agreed to an annual meeting organized under a rotating presidency, forming what was dubbed the Group of Six (G6) consisting of France, West Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Next year it became the Group of Seven (G7) when Canada joined and later (1998) it became the Group of Eight (G8) when Russia joined.

"Live 8" was a series of concurrent benefit concerts that took place on 2 July 2005, in the G8 states and in South Africa. They were timed to precede the G8 Conference and Summit held in Scotland from 6-8 July 2005. Running parallel with the UK's Make Poverty History campaign, the shows planned to pressure world leaders to drop the debt of the world's poorest nations, increase and improve aid, and negotiate fairer trade rules in the interest of poorer countries.

(based on: <http://encyclopedia.thefreedictionary.com>)

2.2. Discuss the following questions using the information above.

1. What were the main questions on the political agenda of the G8 in Gleneagles in July of 2005?
2. Has any progress been achieved on these questions since that time?
3. What are the reasons for criticizing the G8 as being unproductive on these questions?
4. Can anything be done to solve these problems in general?
5. What can you name as the main achievement of the G8 for the past 5 years?
6. What country has the presidency of the G8 currently?

III. Stylistics in focus

3.1. Key Concept: Means of Humorous and Comic Effect

People reading newspapers are attempting to decode a reporter's intentions and disclose his goals with the help of words and tropes. As we have already mentioned (see Unit 5) figures of speech and tropes are quite scarce in newspaper informational materials. Irony is one literary device that appears in newspaper language quite often.

Irony is a literary or rhetorical device in which there is a gap or incongruity between what a speaker or a writer says, and what is generally understood (either at the time, or in the later context of history). Irony may also arise from a discordance between acts and results, especially if it is striking, and known to a later audience. In this case the aesthetic arises from the realization that an effort is sharply at odds with an outcome:

e.g. Every clause in the communiqué had been fought over for months, but the result was clear on three key points. It acknowledged climate change as a “serious long-term challenge”, held humans largely to blame and agreed on the need for urgent remedial action (Times online 09.07.05).

There is connection between irony and **humor**, when the surprise startles us into laughter. Verbal irony is traditionally defined as the use of words to convey something other than, and especially the opposite of, the literal meaning of the words: speakers communicate implied propositions that are intentionally contradictory to the propositions contained in the words themselves.

The ironical effect in newspaper informational texts is often modulated lexically by non-core items, in particular the switch in formality levels, the use of allusions and word play.

Allusion is a stylistic device or trope, in which one refers covertly or indirectly to an object or circumstance that has occurred or existed in an external context. Allusion is an economical device, a figure of speech that draws upon the ready stock of ideas or emotion already associated with a topic in a relatively short space. It is left to the reader or hearer to make the connection:

e.g. Though there is **plenty of fury there will be no sound** (“*The sound and the fury*” by William Faulkner) to accompany the evocative, grainy, black-and-white pictures projected across the front wall of the Buckingham palace (Daily Telegraph 5.07.05).

A **sobriquet** is an allusion as well. A sobriquet is a nickname or a fancy name, usually a familiar name given by others, which is familiar enough to be used in place of a real name without the need of explanation:

e.g. **Jack Straw**, the Foreign Secretary, has been nicknamed “**Ayatollah Straw**” (*Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Jack Straw*) by reformists who joke that he shows up whenever the regime needs a helping hand (The Times 21.02.04).

Word play is a literary technique in which the nature of the words used themselves becomes part of the subject of the work. **Puns** (or **paronomasia**) is a figure of speech which consists of a deliberate confusion of similar words or phrases for rhetorical effect, whether humorous or serious. A pun can rely on the assumed equivalency of multiple similar words (homonymy), of different shades of meaning of one word (polysemy), or of a literal meaning with a metaphor:

e.g. MPs want nothing like a **dame**. ... The study will ask whether titles such as Sir, **Dame**, Lord and Lady should be abolished and honors merged into fewer, simpler categories (The Times 03.02.04).

Obscure words and meanings, clever rhetorical excursions, oddly formed sentences, telling character names and transformed idioms are common examples of word play:

e.g. It was revealed that, in the Cotswold, there are hills that interfere with reception. ... Would the Government look into what could be done? The Government, **used to moving mountains but nothing as insignificant as hills, was not impressed** (The Times 03.02.04).

(based on: <http://encyclopedia.thefreedictionary.com>)

3.2. Here are some genuine newspaper headlines and/or subheading, beginning abstracts too. Explain the double meaning, irony or humor they contain. Try to translate the sentences into Russian without losing humorous effects.

What linguistic means are used in each case to produce humorous/ironical effects?

1. New Samsung freezers look ... cool.
2. Police found drunk in shop window.
3. Leaders blow hot and cold on tackling climate change.
4. Butter battle spreads.
5. One small step on Aim for Strategic Thought.
6. Women who smoke have lighter children.
7. Cream and punishment. Bill Gates was attacked with cream pie.
8. Leaders blow hot and cold on tackling climate change.
9. Groundhog Day? Can you repeat that? Clearly it was going to be a long question time... So was yesterday.
10. Eat poverty history.
11. THE environmental lobby could be excused for feeling like one of the ugly sisters at the Gleneagles G8 summit this week. Any hopes it had of making

climate change a focus of world attention has been scotched by the rising clamour over Africa — previously the Cinderella of global politics.

12. An anti-capitalist website sells anti-capitalism t-shirts for a profit.

13. His nose has been broken five times; he still somehow manages to look debonair. You almost expect him to introduce himself by saying: “The name’s Davis, David Davis.”

SUPPLEMENTARY READING

Read additional information about the modern press.

More daily newspapers are sold per person in the UK than in almost any other country. While the more serious newspapers (**quality papers** or **broadsheets**, e.g. *The Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Observer*) have a lot of home and international news, some of the more popular ‘**tabloids**’ (so called because of their size: e.g. *The Sun*, *The Daily Mail*, *The Daily Mirror*) concentrate on the more spectacular and scandalous aspects of life in Britain, providing numerous pictures and photos. There is a considerable difference in news value between these two formats: the type of event that might figure in tabloids would not pass the threshold criteria of broadsheet media.

Different categories of news can be distinguished in general: ‘hard’ news, ‘soft’ news, ‘spot’ news, ‘breaking’ news. ‘**Hard**’ news deals with events which are judged as important as well as interesting. ‘**Soft**’ news, on the other hand, consists of information which is considered to be relatively unimportant, or whose availability is not very directly related to the passage of time. ‘**Spot**’ news is the name for events that occur on unpredicted occasions (not through press releases). ‘**Breaking**’ news is the term used to refer to an event which is so incomplete that its profile is difficult to summarize in an authoritative and reliable manner, but whose importance or interest is sufficiently great for a tentative (*пробный*) report to be included in a bulletin none the less. It is more typical of broadcast than print media. The distinctive feature of ‘breaking’ news is the relatively low degree of detail of the information, deriving from its timing.

There are two types of journalists. **General reporters** write about a wide range of events while specialist journalists, like crime reporters, education correspondents or political staff, concentrate upon their own areas of expertise. Many papers also have **columnists** who describe issues or events from their personal and subjective points of view. **Feature pages** usually fall in the middle of the paper or in separate

sections and provide in-depth coverage on a wide range of subjects from topical news issues to entertainment, the environment, health, education, women's issues, or fashion. The features are often commissioned from writers with specialist skills.

Some of the feature pages are prepared ahead of the news pages and are often ready up to two days in advance. Others are as up-to-the-minute and as reactive to events as the news pages.

(adopted from: News International Limited Fact Files, 2004;
Briggs, A. Cobley, P. The media. – Essex: Harlow, Longman, 1998. – p. 383–384;
Paul Harvey, Phodri Jones. Britain Explored. – Longman, 2002. – p.141-142)



Answer the following questions:

1. How do newspapers affect the way people think?
2. How has the newspaper business changed in recent years in Britain and Russia?
3. What different types of newspapers, journalists and news are mentioned in the text? What is the difference between them? Give examples of different types of news.
5. What British and Russian broadsheets sell the most copies?
6. What are the oldest British and Russian broadsheets?

Read about the Newspaper Code of Practice.

The Press Complaints Commission is a British organization formed in 1991 to deal with complaints about the behaviour of the press, especially its attempts to find out about people's private lives. It replaced a similar organization, the Press Council.

Fears about the threat of legislation, particularly on the privacy, pushed British newspapers and magazines into a **Code of practice**. They drew it up and the Press Complaints Commission ratified it. The Commission, a non-statutory body supported by the industry, uses the code when considering complaints against newspapers.

The Code is a simple document, a statement of principles and good behavior, a preamble and eighteen clauses. The three opening clauses are: "Accuracy", "Opportunity to reply", "Comment, conjecture and fact".

There are also the keys to good journalistic writing: being clear, being correct, being factual, being neutral, being fair, being concise and being objective. Objectivity consists of reporting verified facts without comment or interpretation answering five

questions: What? Who? When? Where? How? (if possible supplemented by an answer to the question Why?). If faithfully kept these keys enable journalists to cope sensibly with complex stories.

(based on: J. Wilson. Understanding journalism– London: Rutledge, 1996.

J.L. Pinson, B.S. Brooks. Working with words. A Concise Handbook for Media Writers and Editors

– New York: St. Martin's Press, 1993;

Briggs, A. Copley, P. The media. – Essex: Harlow, Longman, 1998. – p. 385).



Discuss the following questions:

6. What is the Press Complaints Commission?
7. What is the Press Complaints Commission Code of Practice?
8. Why do celebrities make formal complaints to the Press Complaints Commission?
9. Will the decision of the Press Complaints Commission stop paparazzi and reporters from intruding further on their private life?
10. What is more important the right to privacy or the freedom of the press?
11. In what cases the freedom of the press is more important than the right to privacy?
12. To what extent should people watch the activities of others?
13. What else can be done to stop paparazzi?
14. When do celebrities prefer to generate publicity?

1 Key concept: Fact and Opinion

Too many readers, unfortunately, read only at a literal level. They can recognize main ideas and distinguish supporting details, but they often stop there and never question what they read. To read newspapers critically means to distinguish fact from opinion, make inferences and see an author's bias and tone.

Separating facts from opinion is not always easy. Usually, a **fact** is defined as something that can be proved, that actually exists, or that everyone agrees is true. Facts tend to state: where, who, when, how. Though facts can change in time (e.g. at one time in the past, it was a 'fact' that the earth was flat) ...

Opinion is usually defined as someone's belief or judgment about somebody or something. Thus opinion is based on an author's (*reporter's, journalist's*) bias or taste preference and is usually subjective (because when the author expresses his judgment, he is implying a truth that may or may not be true or factual) ...

As a critical reader you must also recognize an **author's purpose** for writing. Authors may write to report, explain, inform, entertain, persuade, argue, shock, complain etc. Journalists are supposed to be objective and report only what is factually correct; however, in their zeal to “scoop” other reporters or “to get a story”, they often report misleading statements or unverified information slanting the news. Recognizing an author's purpose is essential to reading beyond words ...

The way words are used creates a **tone**. We can tell whether the reporter's or journalist's attitude towards the subject is serious, funny, honest, sympathetic, personal, stuffy (*ханжеский; костный; консервативный*), gloomy, sad, defensive, insulting, optimistic, pessimistic, professional, concerned, informative, instructive, emotional, emotionless, straightforward (*откровенный, прямой, честный*) etc.

(based on: Adams W.R., Brody J. Reading beyond words.

– Santa Barbra City College, Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 1995, p. 213-311).



Answer the following questions:

1. What does it mean to read critically?
2. How can you detect fact and opinion?
3. Why do we need to recognize an author's purpose and tone?
4. How can journalists and reporters slant news?

2 Key concept: Bias

Newspapers have an important effect on public opinion. There are strong connections between British newspapers and political parties (*e.g. The Times is Conservative/Tory supporter; The Observer & The Guardian (both published by the same company) are Labour supporters; The Daily Telegraph & The Daily Mail is Conservative/Tory*). It is believed that there is hardly an article in a newspaper written in an unbiased manner.

To be critical readers we must be able to recognize an author's bias so that we are not influenced until we have investigated the facts. Read a few definitions of bias and give your own definition based on the ones given below and the commentary above.

Bias is:

- an opinion about whether a person, group, or idea is good or bad which influences how you deal with it (*e.g. political/gender/racial etc bias*) (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English);

- a tendency to support or oppose a particular person or thing in an unfair way by allowing personal opinions to influence your judgment (Cambridge International Dictionary of English);
- a prejudice in a general or specific sense, usually in the sense for having a preference to one particular point of view or ideological perspective. However, one is generally only said to be *biased* if one's views could not be taken as being neutral or objective, but instead as subjective (<http://encyclopedia.thefreedictionary.com>);
- a strong feeling in favor of or against one group of people, or one side in an argument, often not based on fair judgment; to unfairly influence somebody's opinions or decisions (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary);
- to be biased or prejudiced is to have a closed mind about something or somebody (Adams W.R., Brody J. Reading beyond words.– Santa Barbra City College, Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 1995, p. 220).



Read the commentary below about bias. Consider the role of the vocabulary in expressing a reporter's (or, in a wider sense, socio-political institution's) attitude and influencing readers' judgment.

The presentation of news has been of particular interest because of the way in which it can be seen to work ideologically. News coverage in the media is not simply “truthful”, but, on many occasions, is biased.

There is always the danger of bias (conscious or otherwise) in newspaper writing: the attitudes of the writer (reporter) towards the subject tend to creep in. But by paying careful attention to the language vehicle he uses for these attitudes, we can take care we are not easily fooled.

... Political news, the strongest area of newspaper partisanship, is notorious for bias wrapped up as a fact.

... Objectivity consists of reporting verified facts without comment or interpretation, although most journalists recognize that the choice (on journalist's personal evaluative ground) of which stories to cover cannot be entirely objective as it must involve elements of interpretation. The selection of news is as much a political act as commenting on it.

(based on: L. Taylor, A. Willis Media studies. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1999. – p. 34-35.

D. Crystal, D. Davy Investigating English Style. New York: Longman, 1995. – p. 190-191;

3 Key concept: Lexical Choice in Media

It is clear that the vocabulary of reporting is not without significance. Lexical choices are as significant as syntactic patterns and, indeed, tend to be the items which attract most attention. Skilful journalists and critical readers are aware that the choice of words can influence the way people respond and see things.

We can see that using similar techniques a topic can be presented to the public in very different lights; and it is up to us to judge to what extent this coloring is obscuring the truth of the situation.

The following descriptive scheme for the recognition of **core newspaper vocabulary** and **non-core newspaper vocabulary** can allow us to see the relationship between lexis and ideology.


Core vocabulary is used to describe those elements in the lexical network of a language which are unmarked. **Core words** often:

- have clear antonyms (e.g. fat-thin, hot-cold, emaciated (*истощенный, изнуренный, чахлый*) – ?);
- are generally characterized by collocational frequency (e.g. fat man, fat salary, fat cheque etc; compare with chubby or corpulent);
- do not carry especially marked connotations or associations (e.g. compare thin and skinny).

Recognition of core newspaper vocabulary can enable us to identify the kinds of **non-neutral (non-core) expressive vocabulary** (emotional and biased language) which will be marked for bias or for “ideological” connotations.

(R. Carter, W. Nash Seeing through language.

A guide to styles of English writing. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1995. p. 61-64)

 **Read three abstracts about the same political event** (*MPs' expenses claims – отчет о нецелевом расходовании средств налогоплательщиков членами британского парламента*) **from different** (*both ideologically and due to their format*) **British newspapers. Compare the lexical choice in them and comment on it.**

1. David Cameron's ultimatum to Tory MPs: pay back expenses or face the sack. ... David Cameron forced members of his Shadow Cabinet to pay back thousands of pounds in “excessive” expense claims today and overhauled the Tory party's system for handling allowances (The Times).

2. David Cameron orders shadow cabinet members to pay back expenses claims. ... David Cameron today said he was "appalled" by some MPs' expenses claims as he ordered his shadow cabinet to repay controversial claims and set out stringent new guidelines for Conservative MPs (The Guardian).

3. Ministers urge Brown to get rid of Speaker after his rant over MPs' expenses. ... The abyss awaits. Brown has been tested and found in want of almost every attribute a leader needs. Ministers have told Gordon Brown the Commons Speaker has to go following his finger-jabbing tirade over the expenses crisis, it was revealed today. Several are believed to have telephoned Downing Street to make their feelings clear after his extraordinary outburst against two MPs. ... (The Daily Mail).

4 Key concept: Clichés and Euphemisms

Clichés play a very important role in the vocabulary of newspapers. They serve as ready-made units and represent one of characteristic features of the modern press.

A **cliché** is a saying, phrase or expression which has been overused to the point of losing its original meaning or effect. Some are stereotypes, but some are simply truisms and facts. Most cliché phrases were originally striking, but they lost their force through overuse. These chunks of language known as clichés have a very specific function in the vocabulary of newspapers and are found everywhere: in articles, reports, comments, leads.

A cliché can be literal or figurative in meaning. Here are some examples (see appendix for more):

- the good old days = in the past when things were better
- tip of the iceberg = only the beginning, or just a small percentage
- pearls of wisdom = wise words or advice
- the writing on the wall = something that is about to happen, something that is obvious

- moment of truth = the moment in which something important will be shown or decided
- far-reaching effects – далеко идущие последствия
- to cast in one's lot with – связать свою судьбу
- a burning question – животрепещущий вопрос
- grave concern – серьёзная озабоченность
- an irreparable loss – невозполнимая утрата ест.

Frequent use of euphemisms is another peculiar feature of the lexicon of newspapers. A **euphemism** for something is an indirect word or phrase that people often use to refer to something embarrassing or unpleasant (taboo), sometimes to make it seem more acceptable than it really is.

A euphemism is a substitution of an expression that suggests something offensive to the reader with an agreeable expression, or to make it less troublesome for the speaker, as in the case of doublespeak. The deployment of euphemisms is a central aspect within the public application of political correctness.

A euphemism may also substitute a description of something or someone to avoid revealing secret, holy, or sacred names to the uninitiated, or to obscure the identity of the subject. Some euphemisms are intended to amuse.

Here are some common examples of euphemisms:

- 'pass away' is a euphemism for 'die'.
- 'user fees' is a politician's euphemism for taxes.
- 'physically challenged, differently abled' is a euphemism for crippled
- 'chemical dependency' is a euphemism for drug addiction
- 'intellectually challenged' is a euphemism for being mentally retarded
- 'misspeak' is a euphemism for lie
- 'motivation' is a euphemism for bribe
- 'traditionally built' is a euphemism for overweight
- Несанкционированный отбор – воровство
- Альтернативные методы сбора информации – пытки при допросах

(based on: http://esl.about.com/od/vocabularyreference/a/v_cliche.htm

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cliché>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euphemism>)



What are the reasons for using clichés and euphemisms in newspapers? Think of some more examples of newspaper clichés and euphemisms both in English and Russian.

5 Key Concept: Purr-Words and Snarl-Words

A flourishing non-core newspaper lexicon (emotional and biased language) of the modern press can be divided into two large groups: **purr-words and snarl-words**. These words trigger certain feelings, create strong emotions, visual images, sensory awareness, imply a sense of values and help us to stereotype people, places and ideas.

Purr-words are lexical units of approval (e.g. innovative, flexible, freedom of choice, gleaming, elegant, enduring etc.). Purr-words have positive, approving, complimentary connotations in their semantics and are aimed at stimulating audience's positive reaction to the matter in question.

Snarl-words are lexical units of condemnation (e.g. hacktivist, militant, welfare, whispering campaign (*распространение ложных слухов про своего противника; клеветническая кампания*), punk, nigger, gringo (*англичанин или американец, в Латинской Америке*), radical etc.). Snarl-words have negative (derogative, pejorative), uncomplimentary connotations in their semantics and are aimed at stimulating audience's negative, critical reaction to the matter in question.

Some words become purr-words or snarl-words only in specific contexts. For example, the adjective *political* in such contexts as “The Council has political bias” or “He is too political in his approach” almost invariably implies negative connotations. The same slant is observable in the use of the word *politics* itself.

Thus general public becomes sufficiently sensitive to the verbal tokens of political and social preferences of journalists and is able to infer from the usage of purr-words and snarl-words. Being aware of these devices is another step in reading beyond the words.

(based on: Carter W., Nash. R Seeing through language.

A guide to styles of English writing – Oxford, 1995. – p. 135-137;

Edward S. Herman. Word Tricks & Propaganda.

<http://www.lbbs.org/ZMag/articles/june97herman.htm>;

Adams W.R., Brody J. Reading beyond words.

– Santa Barbra City College, Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 1995, p. 317-318)



Here is a list of words that basically mean the same, yet their connotative meaning may be either complimentary or uncomplimentary. Circle the word you think is uncomplimentary.

unimaginative / practical

phony / imposter

cautious / cowardly

sensitive / touchy

fat / heavy

tight / thrifty (*бережливый*)

gullible / trusting

come clean / acknowledge

conceited (*самодовольный*) / proud

noise / racket (*грохот*)

6 Key Concept: Buzzwords

Buzzwords (*специальные термины, произносимые с целью произвести впечатление на дилетантов; модные словечки*) have become the token of the modern press. A buzzword (also known as a fashion word or vogue word) is an idiom, often a neologism, commonly used in managerial, technical, administrative, and sometimes political environments. Though apparently ubiquitous in these environments, the words often have unclear meanings when placed in the vocabulary of newspapers.

Buzzwords are typically intended to impress one's audience with the pretense of knowledge. For this reason, they are often universal. They typically make sentences difficult to dispute, on account of their cloudy meaning.

Buzzwords differ from jargon in that they have the function of impressing or of obscuring meaning, while jargon (ideally) has a well-defined technical meaning, if only to specialists. A buzzword may or may not appear in a dictionary, and if it does, its meaning as a buzzword may not match the conventional definition.

Buzzwords can function to describe new concepts or to control thought by being intentionally vague. In management, stating organizational goals by using words with unclear meanings prevents anybody from questioning the directions and intentions of these decisions, especially if many such words are used.

... The "buzz value" of words is readily allowed to obscure their figurative implications not so much by mixed metaphor as by a progression of casual figurative contradictions. Inevitably such phraseology settles into cliché.

Here are some examples of contemporary buzzwords given by the Internet resource:

ambush marketing 20th June 2010

robocall 20th April 2010

mononymous 11th May 2010

hurt locker 30th March 2010

hacktivist 4th May 2010

augmented reality 23rd March 2010

grey vote 27th April 2010

(based on: <http://encyclopedia.thefreedictionary.com/buzzwords>
Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, 2005;
Carter W., Nash. R Seeing through language. A guide to styles of English writing
– Oxford, 1995. – p. 135-137;
<http://www.macmillandictionary.ru/buzzword>)



Read the following up-to-date quotes from newspapers containing buzzwords. Clarify the contextual meaning of the words in bold. What are the reasons for using buzzwords in these sentences instead of their neutral, more understandable equivalents? What are some contextual synonyms of these buzzwords? Give examples of buzzwords in the Russian language.

8. Tony Blair will seek to use the **diplomatic breakthrough** with Libya to secure similar concessions on weapons of mass destruction from Iran and Syria. Ministers believe that his New Year offensive will restore his fortunes.
9. The urgency of the new leader's task was underlined yesterday by a **Conservative think tank** which said the party could have just four years to save itself as the main rival to Labour.
10. A schoolgirl has won a landmark injunction banning her 20-year-old boyfriend from sending her text messages on her mobile phone ... The case highlights ... the disturbing trend of so-called **textual harassment**.
11. When Everton were knocked out of the League Cup last week, their manager Mo Marley said: "This will be a great test of the famous Everton **bouncebackability**."

7 Key concept: Neologisms

Neologisms often become popular by way of mass media. After being coined, neologisms invariably undergo scrutiny by the public. A **neologism** (from Greek νεολογισμός "néos" [neos] = new; "λόγος" [logos] = word) is a word, term, or phrase which has been recently created ("coined") — often to apply to new concepts, to synthesize pre-existing concepts, or to make older terminology sound more

contemporary (*so called genuine neologisms*). Neologisms are especially useful in identifying inventions, new phenomena, or old ideas which have taken on a new cultural context (e.g. e-mail).

Neologisms can also refer to an existing word or phrase which has been assigned a new meaning (*so called semantic neologisms*).

Neologisms are often created by combining existing words (*e.g. munny*) or by giving words new and unique suffixes or prefixes (*e.g. trifecta*). Those which are portmanteaux (*языковая контаминация, слово-гибрид*) are shortened (*e.g. motel = motor + hotel*). Neologisms can also be created through abbreviation or acronym, by intentionally rhyming with existing words, or simply through playing with sounds.

Evolution of neologisms:

- Unstable – extremely new, being proposed, or being used only by a very small subculture (also known as *protologism*).
- Diffused – having reached a significant audience, but not yet having gained widespread acceptance.
- Stable – having gained recognizable and probably lasting acceptance.

(based on: <http://encyclopedia.thefreedictionary.com/Neologism>;

J.L. Pinson, B.S. Brooks Working with words.

A Concise Handbook for Media Writers and Editors. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1993)



Try to match neologisms with their meanings. Which words in the definitions helped you guess the right meaning of the neologisms? The first one has been done for you.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| <u>h</u> 1. tanttoo | a. people who are easily persuaded and tend to follow what other people do |
| __ 2. moblivious | b. the situation of having three major achievements in a profession, sport, or other pastime |
| __ 3. sheeple | c. a piece of information, especially a newspaper article or headline, that is very shocking or exciting |
| __ 4. to greenwash | d. a piece of information about a film, book or electronic game which can spoil the enjoyment of someone experiencing it for the first |
| __ 5. munny | e. to try to convince people that you are doing something which is good for the environment by being involved in small, environmentally-friendly initiatives, especially as a |

way of hiding your involvement in activities which are damaging to the environment

___ 6. spoiler

f. the state of being oblivious whilst using your mobile device when, for example, walking or driving

___ 7. marmalade dropper

g. a male nanny.

___ 8. trifecta

h. a temporary mark on the skin created by wearing a sticker of a pleasing shape whilst sunbathing



What are the reasons for using neologisms in newspapers?

What neologisms from the list above are genuine / semantic?

Classify them into core and non-core newspaper vocabulary categories.

8 Key Concept: Idioms

Though there is no clear division among units of the vocabulary of newspapers into core and non-core categories, most of idioms (or phraseological units) can be classified as belonging to non-core expressive categories. From the point of view of pragmatic function of idioms their stylistic potential is very important.

An **idiom** is an expression whose meaning is not compositional – that is, whose meaning does not follow from the meaning of the individual words of which it is composed. Idioms are often classified as figures of speech. Idioms typically admit two different interpretations: a literal one and a non-literal (or figurative) one. Idioms are often colloquial metaphors. The most common ones can have deep roots, traceable across many languages. Many idioms are clearly based in conceptual metaphors. Catch phrases and clichés while related to idioms, are not idioms in the sense discussed here. Also to be distinguished from idioms are proverbs, which take the form of statements.

Idioms intensify a reporter's concept even better when placed in a text's strong positions such as the beginning (headline, sub-headline, lead) and the ending of an article.

(based on: <http://encyclopedia.thefreedictionary.com>)



Here are some genuine newspaper headlines and last sentences of articles containing idioms. Will an audience's reaction be positive or negative to the matters discussed in these articles?

9. The whips came in and then, finally, at 7.18pm the Chief Whip smiled and we knew that the Government had won, though **by a whisker** (= *by a very small amount*).
10. Leaders **blow hot and cold** (= *to change your opinion about something often*) on tackling climate change.
11. Mr. Sevan resigned on Sunday, denying the report's findings and arguing that he **was being made the scapegoat for** the UN's current troubles.
12. David Cameron, 38, the shadow education secretary, is thought **to be neck-and-neck with** Mr. Clarke (= *level with somebody in a race or competition*).
13. Significantly, almost half of the 51-strong intake of new Tory MPs are undecided. The votes of as many as 20 are still very much **up for grabs** (= *available for anyone who is interested*).

9 Key concept: Transformed Idioms

The ability to comprehend idiomatic expressions is inseparable from the development of figurative language. But in the course of time frequently used idioms lose their “expressive coating” (it has been proved by series of psycholinguistic researches) and cease to be an effective stylistic device. Reporters use different means of transforming idioms to renovate their expressiveness. Transformed idioms have even a greater part to play in establishing stylistic effect in comparison with their original equivalents.

Here are the most commonly used means of transforming idioms in newspapers:

- **the method of structural transformation** (an idiom is changed by adding new components to its structure or exchanging its components for different ones): e.g. Mr. Ross, who quit the Foreign Office last year in disagreement with Government policy on Iraq, said: "We did not **turn a deliberate blind eye**, but there was no serious attempt to stop the smuggling" (*compare: turn a blind eye (to something) - to pretend not to notice something bad that is happening, so you do not have to do anything about it*).

- **the method of semantic transformation** (it is based on returning literal meaning to the individual words composing the idiom or combining literal and figurative meaning of the idiom within one textual structure): e.g. Army **under fire**. British troops **returned potentially lethal fire after being attacked** by rebels. ... Then they **came under fire from the press** (*compare: be / come under fire - to be criticized severely for something you have done*)
- **the method of forming idiomatic unions** (it is based on combining two or more idioms into a relatively larger semantic structure): e.g. Mr. Blair did not say much, but he did not have to. He was back to where he loves to be, **riding solo on the moral high ground** (*compare: be riding on a wave of popularity - to be very popular; to be on the moral high ground - to have a better, more moral, or more powerful position in an argument or competition*).
- **the method of partial usage** (it is based on using only a part of a well-known idiom while the rest of it is prompted by the recipient's intuition and background knowledge): e.g. After a dismal week for Mr. Chirac, including a row over insults to Britain, and losing the bid to stage the 2012 Olympics, it would **be another bitter pill** for the French President (*compare: a bitter pill for somebody to swallow - a fact or an event that is unpleasant and difficult to accept*).



Here are some genuine quotes from up-to-date quality newspapers. Say what means of transforming idioms are used in each sentence. Comment on the stylistic effect these transformations produce.

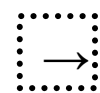
7. Mr. Clarke has been in charge of the charm offensive to win round Labour rebels on top-up fees. **It's like a bull not only in a china shop but in charge of one.**
8. Of course, Merkel **may have more plans up her sleeve** that she is willing to reveal to a skeptical electorate - and may be able to capitalize on a growing consensus that change is needed.
9. The Russian President also drew a parallel between the war and the present-day threat of terrorism, saying today's generation is "obligated to remain true to the memory of our fathers, obligated to build a world order based on security and justice ... and not to allow a repeat of either **cold or hot wars**."
10. **The iron frau** with a tinpot plan for Germany.

10 Key Concept: Marked words

It is universally acknowledged that words marked by lexicographers as «informal»/«spoken» or «written»/«literary»/«formal» have general stylistic effect on the whole sentence or even abstract when intentionally introduced into stylistically neutral or stylistically contradictory newspaper contexts. These words stand out against such a background and produce powerful stylistic and often ironic effect.

Such words can be identified with the help of dictionary labels. Dictionary labels vary from one edition to other. But generally words are classified according to their usage:

- in one region or country (e.g. British English; American English etc.);
- in a particular situation and thus showing particular attitude (e.g. formal, informal, humorous etc.);
- in a particular context or style (e.g. law, literary, written, taboo, spoken, medical, old use etc.)



Now look at the idioms in the list below and decide what their definitions are. Give Russian equivalents and pay close attention to their dictionary labels. Say in what newspaper context they will have stylistic effect.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| j_1. up for grabs | a. (<i>informal</i>) to be serious about doing something even if it involves harming someone |
| __2. call smb. to account | b. (<i>literary</i>) people or things that increase the amount of good or bad in the world |
| __3. to mean business | c. (<i>British English, informal</i>) to keep changing your attitude towards someone or something |
| __4. cast a cloud over smth. | d. (<i>informal</i>) unhappy, sad |
| __5. the forces evil | e. (<i>British English, informal</i>) good enough for a particular standard |
| __6. up to scratch | f. (<i>American English, informal</i>) to blame yourself too much for something |
| __7. out of the blue | g. (<i>literary</i>) to make people feel less happy or hopeful about something |
| __8. to blow hot and cold | h. (<i>formal</i>) to force someone who is responsible for a mistake or a crime to explain publicly why they did it and punish them for it if necessary |
| __9. down in the mouth | i. (<i>informal</i>) if something is very unexpected |

- ___ 10. beating oneself up j. (*informal*) available for anyone who wants to try to have it

11 Key Concept: The expressive power of newspaper vocabulary


Newspaper informational materials do not abound with figures of speech (with the exception of analytical newspaper materials and comments) and thus their role is rather specific as applied to the language of newspapers in general. According to Professor G.Y. Solganik (http://www.gramota.ru/mag_arch.html?id=6) figures of speech are brought into the vocabulary of newspapers for the purpose of influencing readers in their process of evaluating and estimating the things they read about. The most frequently used figures of speech are metaphors, metonymy, oxymorons, epithets etc. Let's revise their meaning as applied to the language of newspapers.

Metonymy is the act of referring to something by the name of something else that is closely connected with it, for example using the White House for the US president and the Kremlin for the Russian President and his Government. Metonymy is the use of a single characteristic to identify a more complex entity.

A **Metaphor** is a word or phrase used to describe somebody/something else, in a way that is different from its normal use, in order to show that the two things have the same qualities and to make the description more powerful, for example a game of football can be used as a metaphor for the competitive struggle of life, theater can be used as a metaphor for certain political activities.

An **oxymoron** (a short phrase that appears self-contradictory the most common form of which involves an adjective – noun combination) is one of figures of speech that appear in the language of newspapers quite often. Oxymoron is a Greek term which can be translated literally as "sharp-witted absurdity".

An **epithet** is a descriptive word or phrase. Epithets are sometimes attached to a person's name. Not every adjective can be called an epithet.

 **Read the newspaper quotations below and find examples of metaphor, metonymy, oxymoron and epithet.**

6. There's a simple paradox about disasters — hurricanes, earthquakes, wars; they produce human suffering and loss in unimaginable quantities but, from the

standpoint of economic growth, the humdrum, essential daily business of getting and spending, they are often a net plus.

7. To try to overcome criticisms that he is too old to lead the party, Mr Clarke is ready to promise an "old pope, young cardinals" regime in which he would pack his shadow cabinet with young talent.
8. I am horrified by a Government run on a basis of spin. The political health of Britain has deteriorated very sharply. The Conservative Party must do something about it, and I am the man to do it," Kenneth Clarke told the Daily Mail.
9. The G8 agreed to disagree on enough of the climate change agenda to produce a deal that Tony Blair could hail as the start of a new US-backed drive to tackle the build-up of greenhouse gases.
10. Secret "back channel" talks, which have been going on for months with both countries, will be stepped up as London and Washington try to capitalise on the surprise U-turn by Col Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan dictator.
11. History trumped his sense of irritation at being asked to vote on a defunct treaty.
12. I do here make humbly bold to present them with a short account of themselves.

12 Key Concept: Means of Humorous and Comic Effect

The ironical effect in newspaper informational texts is often modulated lexically with the help of non-core newspaper items, the switch in formality levels, the use of allusions and word play.

Irony is a literary or rhetorical device in which there is a gap or incongruity between what a speaker or a writer says, and what is generally understood (either at the time, or in the later context of history). Irony may also arise from discordance between acts and results, especially if it is striking, and known to a later audience. In this case the aesthetic arises from the realization that an effort is sharply at odds with an outcome:

e.g. Every clause in the communiqué had been fought over for months, but the result was clear on three key points. It acknowledged climate change as a "serious long-term challenge", held humans largely to blame and agreed on the need for urgent remedial action (Times online).

There is a connection between irony and **humor**, when the surprise startles us into laughter. Verbal irony is traditionally defined as the use of words to convey something other than, and especially the opposite of, the literal meaning of the words:

speakers communicate implied propositions that are intentionally contradictory to the propositions contained in the words themselves.

Allusion is a stylistic device or trope, in which one refers covertly or indirectly to an object or circumstance that has occurred or existed in an external context. Allusion is an economical device, a figure of speech that draws upon the ready stock of ideas or emotion already associated with a topic in a relatively short space. It is left to the reader to make the connection:

e.g. Though there is **plenty of fury there will be no sound** (“*The sound and the fury*” by William Faulkner) to accompany the evocative, grainy, black-and-white pictures projected across the front wall of the Buckingham palace (Daily Telegraph).

A **sobriquet** is an allusion as well. A sobriquet is a nickname or a fancy name, usually a familiar name given by others, which is familiar enough to be used in place of a real name without the need of explanation:

e.g. **Jack Straw**, the Foreign Secretary, has been nicknamed “**Ayatollah Straw**” (*Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Jack Straw*) by reformists who joke that he shows up whenever the regime needs a helping hand (The Times).

Word play is a literary technique in which the nature of the words used themselves becomes part of the subject of the work. **Puns** (or **paronomasia**) is a figure of speech which consists of a deliberate confusion of similar words or phrases for rhetorical effect, whether humorous or serious. A pun can rely on the assumed equivalency of multiple similar words (homonymy), of different shades of meaning of one word (polysemy), or of a literal meaning with a metaphor:

e.g. MPs want nothing like a **dame**. ...The study will ask whether titles such as Sir, **Dame**, Lord and Lady should be abolished and honors merged into fewer, simpler categories (The Times).

Obscure words and meanings, clever rhetorical excursions, oddly formed sentences, telling character names and transformed idioms are common examples of word play:

e.g. It was revealed that, in the Cotswold, there are hills that interfere with reception. ... Would the Government look into what could be done? The Government, **used to moving mountains but nothing as insignificant as hills**, was not impressed (The Times).

(based on: <http://encyclopedia.thefreedictionary.com>)



Here are some genuine newspaper headlines and/or subheadings, beginning abstracts too. Explain the double meaning, irony or humor they contain. What linguistic means are used in each case to produce humorous/ironical effect?

14. New Samsung freezers look ... cool.
15. Police found drunk in shop window.
16. Leaders blow hot and cold on tackling climate change.
17. Butter battle spreads.
18. Women who smoke have lighter children.
19. Cream and punishment. Bill Gates was attacked with cream pie.
20. Groundhog Day? Can you repeat that? Clearly it was going to be a long question time... So was yesterday.
21. THE environmental lobby could be excused for feeling like one of the ugly sisters at the Gleneagles G8 summit this week. Any hopes it had of making climate change a focus of world attention has been scotched by the rising clamour over Africa — previously the Cinderella of global politics.
22. An anti-capitalist website sells anti-capitalism t-shirts for a profit.
23. His nose has been broken five times; he still somehow manages to look debonair. You almost expect him to introduce himself by saying: “The name’s Davis, David Davis.”
24. Fun Gun: Prince Charles takes delight in lining up his targets

13 Key Concept: Propaganda techniques

Propaganda is widely used by newspapers, magazines, advertisers, governments – by practically everyone and every group. Propaganda is used to change or convert people to a particular view.

Propaganda techniques can be obvious or furtive (*скрытый, тайный*). So we are hit by propaganda in one form or another every day in all media from radio to billboards.

Not all propaganda is bad. Propaganda can be used for worthy purposes (to raise money for good causes, to pass reform bills for community causes, to develop healthy, positive attitude towards other people’s problems and needs). The trouble comes when our ignorance about the propaganda techniques used causes us to accept

false information. Reading beyond words requires an understanding of some common propaganda techniques. Here are some you need to know if you are to critically detect their use on you.

1. Name calling (labeling) technique uses words (non-core emotional biased language) that have derogative or negative meanings to certain people (snarl-words) to sway them to be for or against a person or a group (e.g. “pro-gay”, “yuppie” (*ироническое название для молодых людей, стремящихся к карьерному росту*), “queer”, “Commie” (*приверженец коммунизма*), “anti-abortion” etc). No facts may be presented, but if the label is used often enough, that person’s name will soon be connected with the label.

2. Glittering Generalities technique is used to win approval through the use of purr-words and phrases that are acceptable by most people (e.g. “motherhood”, “home”, “motherland”, “honesty”, “a family man” etc). They are sometimes used in vague and meaningless ways in hope that the “nice” words will become associated with the person or group being praised.

3. Guilt by Association technique attempts to get people to think that someone is connected with a group or a person that is disliked or distrusted.

4. Distortion or Twisting technique uses only half-truths or part-truths. Rather than telling the whole truth propagandists (journalists, advertisers) sometimes only pick what sounds good or bad and “twist” the facts in a way that best suits their purposes.

5. Slogans. The use of catchy words or phrases is another technique (e.g. “Connecting people”, “Das Auto”, “I’m loving it” etc).

6. Bandwagon technique is used to make people think that everyone is doing it and you’ll be a nerd (*зануда; отталкивающий тип*) if you don’t. So join the majority, jump on the bandwagon before you are left out or thought to be not normal.

7. Transfer technique attempts to associate someone or something well-known with a product, person or an idea and thus transfer that positive reputation to the product, person or concept by stirring up positive images and feelings.

(based on: Adams W.R., Brody J. Reading beyond words.

– Santa Barbara City College, Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 1995, p. 213-311).



Is it easy to detect propaganda in our every day life?

Give one example of each propaganda technique in Russian to illustrate it.

SUPPLEMENTARY READING

Reading comprehension

Mastering reading comprehension skills suggests the ability to use different styles of reading in different situations. These styles are scanning, skimming and detailed reading.

Skimming (reading for the gist) is used for getting the gist of something.

The technique you use when you're going through a newspaper or magazine: you read quickly to get the main points, and skip over the detail. It's useful to skim:

- to preview a passage before you read it in detail
- to refresh your understanding of a passage after you've read it in detail.

Use skimming when you're trying to decide if a book in the library or bookshop is right for you.

Scanning: for a specific focus

The technique you use when you're looking up a name in the phone book: you move your eye quickly over the page to find particular words or phrases that are relevant to the task you're doing.

It's useful to scan the following parts of texts to see if they're going to be useful to you:

- the introduction or preface of a book
- the first or last paragraphs of chapters
- the concluding chapter of a book
- context clues (parts of the text assisting to identification of meanings of new, unfamiliar words and peculiar expressions. Antonyms and synonyms are very

helpful in this respect. Comparison and contrast are used as context clues as they contain implications to the meaning of unknown words).

Detailed reading: for extracting information accurately

This reading style suggests reading every word, and work to learn from the text.

In this careful reading, you may find it helpful to skim first, to get a general idea, but then go back to read in detail. Use a dictionary to make sure you understand all the words used. You may also use the following techniques for detailed reading: detecting context clues, inferences, understanding multiple meaning words. Explanations and example sentences are powerful context clues.



Read the article, study new words and do the following tasks.

1. What is the author's purpose for writing and the tone? How the author's purpose for writing, the tone and attitude work together to lend support to the thesis?
2. Formulate the main idea for each paragraph.
3. Render the article.
4. Highlight unknown words and try to define their meanings using different contextual clues – example sentences, explanations, synonyms and antonyms, comparison and contrast clues.
5. Find multiple-meaning words and define their contextual meaning.
6. Make inferences (Who? What? How? When? Where? Why?) from each paragraph.
7. What core and non-core newspaper vocabulary categories are used?
8. Though there are no blatant value-judgments in the article, what words and phrases expose the columnist's sentiments?

Chelsy Davy announced the end of her five-year relationship to Prince Harry on Facebook, the social networking website.

Her online profile was altered to say: "Relationship: Not in one." As is customary with Facebook, all Miss Davy's friends received a red broken heart graphic telling them that her relationship with the third in line to the throne had come to an end.

When they broke up temporarily at the end of 2007, after Prince Harry missed her 22nd birthday to go to the Rugby World Cup Final in Paris, Miss Davy did not change her Facebook status. According to the News of the World, they split because Davy had become tired of the Prince's reported playboy lifestyle and lack of commitment. It was also reported that the cold Yorkshire weather and fears over her safety and security were making Chelsy unhappy.

Miss Davy, who has never come to terms with the media interest in her life, knew by declaring the split on Facebook now it would be only a matter of time before it became public knowledge.

Their relationship had become increasingly strained by the long periods of separation. Miss Davy, 23, the daughter of a millionaire safari operator in Zimbabwe, is studying law at Leeds University.

The decision of Prince Harry to join the Army Air Corps to train as a helicopter pilot – which will be a minimum two-year course – meant even longer periods apart.

But the Prince was also spending more of his free time partying with his Army friends, to the irritation of Miss Davy.

Clarence House, a spokesman for Prince Charles, yesterday declined to discuss the break-up of Prince Harry, who is entering his second week of helicopter pilot training.

"We have no comment to make," said a spokesman. Prince Harry told his brother, Prince William, and their father, the Prince of Wales. The Queen was also told.

One informed source said: "They are two young people who have gone their separate ways for good. The relationship had run its course. It is entirely amicable and they hope to remain friends. Prince Harry still feels very protective of Chelsy and hopes that the media gives her some privacy."

Prince Harry has also told friends that he is "gutted" by the end of his relationship with Chelsy Davy, according to reports.

The couple still "love each other to bits" but decided to split because their lives were headed in separate directions, it is claimed.

The Prince wanted to focus on his helicopter pilot training with the Army Air Corps, while Miss Davey is due to start as a solicitor after completing a postgraduate law course at Leeds University later this year.

The couple broke up before Prince Harry started his course at Middle Wallop army base in Hampshire last Monday. The split was disclosed on the News of World website on Saturday afternoon.

Colin Myler, the newspaper's editor, received a telephone tip-off last Thursday that the couple had split. The News of the World two weeks ago disclosed the video in which Prince Harry, aged 21, is seen calling an Army colleague a "Paki", and a second one a "raghead", for which he has subsequently apologised.

The couple met in the spring of 2004 and for almost three years conducted a long-distance relationship. The couple are understood to have met through friends when Harry, then 19, had two gap years after leaving Eton, travelling to countries including Australia and Argentina.

After leaving school, Miss Davy went to university in Cape Town, while Prince Harry began his military training at Sandhurst in 2005. They had holidays together in Mozambique and Botswana. In September 2007 she moved to Britain to study for a master's degree in Leeds.

In a television interview to mark his 21st birthday in September 2005, Harry described his girlfriend as "very special". The Prince also said: "I would love to tell everyone how amazing she is. But, you know, that is my private life and once I start talking about that, then I've left my own self open'."

Indeed there had been speculation that the couple might marry after she accompanied him to family gatherings. The couple attended the Concert for Diana together in July 2007, and she was a frequent spectator when Harry played polo. In May 2008 she attended the wedding of Peter Phillips, Harry's cousin, to Autumn Kelly, her first official outing as his girlfriend at a formal royal family function. At the end of last year she also attended Prince Charles's 60th birthday party for family and friends at Highgrove, his Gloucestershire home.

This break up marks the end of the young Prince's first serious relationship.

The focus will now switch to Prince William, who has been dating Kate Middleton since they met at St Andrews University in Scotland. His decision to join the RAF (*the Royal Air Force*) to train as a search and rescue pilot for three years has made the prospect of a Royal marriage seem much less likely.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/theroyalfamily/>

Word bank

to come to terms with something – to accept an unpleasant or sad situation and no longer feel upset or angry about it: e.g. It took years for Samuel to come to terms with his father's death.

run its course – 1) if something runs its course, it continues in the way you expect until it has finished: e.g. Recession in the country has run its course and left an aftermath of uncertainty.

2) develop in the usual way and reach a natural end: e.g. We would let his interest run its course.

tip-off (n.) – a secret warning or piece of information, especially one given to the police about illegal activities: e.g. There was a climate of fear after anonymous tip-offs claiming that live weapons would be used.

to bits – (British English informal) very much or extremely: e.g. I've always wanted a car, so I'm thrilled to bits.



Rewrite the sentences using the words from the word bank.

1. Once the disease is over, it's not likely to return.
2. The fact that you haven't been called after your job interview should be a sign that they are not interested.
3. Little Johnny enjoyed the party immensely.
4. The fact that her daughter was about to leave their house for a long time was something Juliet still had to put up with.
5. The best cure for a cold is to let nature take its course.



Find in the article English equivalents to the following words and phrases.

пилот
службы;

торжественная
официальный приём;

военная база;
ходили слухи о том, что;

впоследствии;
осведомленный источник;

адвокат, дающий советы клиенту,
подготавливающий дела для

барристера и выступающий только в
судах низшей инстанции;

достояние общественности;

навсегда, навеки;

исчерпать себя;

обнародовали видео материал;

Appendix I

Helpful expressions for rendering an article

- The article deals with ...
- The article describes ...; announces ...
- The article informs readers about/of ...
- The article considers/discusses/examines the implications of ...
- The article comments on ...
- The article criticizes ... strongly/sharply/heavily
- The article opens with ...
- The article ends with ...
- ... was pilloried in the article
- The article raises political/social/economic/environmental issues
- The issues addressed in the article are thorny/vexed/complex/sensitive etc.
- The reporter/journalist cites ..., quotes ...
- Reader can easily infer something from the use of ... words
- ... words help readers to interpret implications correctly

- The author's purpose for writing is to report / explain / inform / entertain / persuade / argue / shock / complain
- The tone of the article is serious / funny / honest / sympathetic / personal / stuffy / gloomy / sad / defensive / insulting / optimistic / pessimistic / professional / concerned / informative / instructive / emotional / emotionless / straightforward

Appendix II

Examples of clichés

in the nick of time
couldn't catch my breath
for the life of me
without moving a muscle
without a doubt
to tell the truth
couldn't keep my eyes open
at the drop of a hat
cut to the chase
did not have a pleasant bone in his/her
but to no avail
it was bad enough
like the pot calling the kettle black
got the best of me
put two and two together
to this day
bubble was burst
knows full well
honesty is the best policy
times heals all wounds
next thing I knew
dumb as a rock
bored out of my mind
quiet as a mouse
stopped in my tracks
before I knew it
without a doubt
in a jiffy
without a hitch
stopped in my tracks
little did I know
goose bumps all over

the time of my life
needless to say
well worth the wait
even to this day
frightened to death
scared out of my wits
waste of time
rushed for time
with only seconds to spare
without a care in the world
it couldn't happen to a nicer
a matter of time
lost track of time
seemed to take forever
lasted an eternity
like greased lightning
thought to myself
made a big impression on
thought he/she was hot stuff

<http://www.kristisiegel.com/cliches.html>)

Appendix III

Neither pedantic nor wild?

by Michael McNay

The Guardian has always been a newspaper for writers, and so a newspaper for readers. All the other skills, copy editing, design, typography, illustration, photography, are there to enhance the writing and to make it more accessible, to make the paper a more desirable journal to read - though illustration and photography each has its separate justification as well.

It should not be necessary to add that Guardian writers and subeditors should all be interested in the language, in its proper use and its development, and that regular trips to books as wide-ranging as Gowers' *The Complete Plain Words*,

Partridge's *Usage and Abusage*, Orwell's brilliant short essay *Politics and the English Language*, Fowler's *Modern English Usage*, or Kingsley Amis's *The King's English*, are useful in sharpening professional tools as well as for entertainment.

One says it should not be necessary, but it is very obvious all round the Guardian office that uncomfortably many people involved in producing and shaping text for the paper rely more on the casual question, "What's the style for x?" and the casual answer, "I think it's probably y." Journalists who are not sufficiently interested in house style to check the house style guide are not on the face of it very likely to be much interested in style at all.

But our approach to style in its broadest sense is, if anything, more important now than before, first because other newspapers, which may always have had good writing in specialist areas, have caught up fast across a whole range of news and features; second because the Guardian itself employs so many staff on freelance shifts or short contracts who arrive here with no particular idea of what makes this paper different from others, and even staff journalists who are never inducted into what values the Guardian holds particularly close; third, though more obscurely, because of the arrival of the internet: this style guide itself is the first to be published on the world wide web. That makes it accessible in seconds; it cannot get lost or suffer having coffee spilt on it. But though there is no reason in itself why new publishing methods should change the language for the worse, the example of radio and television shows that it can: at the top end, the best correspondents file spoken reports that could grace this newspaper; at the broad base, reporters speak a form of unlively but infectious journalese destined only for the rubbish bin.

House style is the means by which a newspaper seeks to ensure that where there are permissible variants in spellings, the use of acronyms and so forth, a unified approach to these matters is adopted to help in disseminating a sense of rationality and authority in the use of language. What it does not mean is imposing a unified writing style on the newspaper. Many of the reporters, columnists, critics and at least one former editor who once ran a highly idiosyncratic gossip column and who have enlivened the pages of the Guardian and helped to build its international reputation

could hardly have done so had they been edited from the beginning into a homogenous house style. A subeditor can do no worse disservice to the text before him and thus to the writer, the reader, and the newspaper, than to impose his or her own preferences for words, for the shape of sentences and how they link, for a pedantic insistence on grammar in all cases as it used to be taught in school; in the process destroying nuances and possibly even the flow of a piece. And I write this as a career copy and layout editor with the best part of 40 years' service on the Guardian and who regards the skills involved in copy editing not just as desirable but essential.

Editing involves fine judgment, particularly as the paper has so many sections today serving possibly quite different kinds of readership. But fine judgments mean good editing, blanket judgments mean bad editing. A piece written in the vernacular that would be inappropriate on the analysis page or even (even?) in a sports column might pass muster in the Guide, where the demotic language of an NME review would be closer to the mark than the high style of Macaulay or CP Scott. And dealing sympathetically with quirks of writing style certainly does not preclude tidying up cliché-ridden journalese, verbosity, the latest vogue words and phrases, the words and phrases that flatten out meaning, replace a range of better more finely tuned words and concepts, and anaesthetise writing.

The introduction to the Guardian stylebook of 1960, which itself was a revision to the initial guide published in 1928, was headed "Neither pedantic nor wild".

That much has not changed.

• Michael McNay worked for the Guardian from 1963 to 1999. He edited The Guardian Year 2000

England v Germany: why did England fail at the World Cup again?

As England fly home from South Africa after yet another underwhelming World Cup campaign, the post-mortem is already

well under way. Why did Fabio Capello's men fail so spectacularly? Join the debate below.

Despite having the most experienced squad left in the World Cup, a group containing numerous Champions League and Premier League winners, England were soundly beaten by Germany yesterday. But why are the Three Lions so meek on the biggest stage? Why can't they fulfil their potential?

1. Premier League

How much blame should the Premier League assume for the national team's consistent failure? One of Capello's biggest gripes since taking the England job has been the ever-decreasing pool of English players in the top flight. Will the England team ever progress while the biggest clubs shop abroad rather than develop young English talents? Does the Premier League need to think seriously about a quota system?

2. Technique and skill

Or is England's dismal campaign simply down to technical deficiencies? Compared to the other World Cup contenders, Capello's team seemed incapable of retaining possession. They were unimaginative in attack and ponderous and slow to react in defence. So how does the Football Association resolve these technical flaws? Or is the innate English style too entrenched to be changed now?

3. The pressure

And how much blame should the media take for creating unbearable expectation levels around England? The front page of the Daily Mail today has a quote from a column which reads: "If The Few had defended as badly as England, we'd be speaking German now." Is it any wonder the England team play with such fear when the pressure is this great? Or is this simply a convenient excuse for a team of over-privileged but under-performing players?

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/football/world-cup-2010/teams/england/7858311/England-v-Germany-why-did-England-fail-at-the-World-Cup-again.html>

DNA clears ‘killer’ Sean Hodgson after 30 years in jail

A convicted murderer who has spent nearly 30 years in prison for the death of a young woman in 1979 could not have been the killer, according to new DNA tests.

The case of Sean Hodgson, 58, has been referred to the Court of Appeal as a matter of urgency by the Criminal Cases Review Commission and he is expected to be freed next week. The commission said that the findings raised serious concerns about the safety of many other murder convictions and called for a wideranging review of scores of cases.

A spokesman said: “We have decided to contact the Director of Public Prosecutions to discuss the desirability of a project to identify and review similar murder cases arising from the time before DNA testing and where testable forensic evidence still survives, which could confirm or cast doubt on the safety of a conviction, and where the defendant is still alive. A guilty plea or the existence of admissions should not exclude cases.”

Julian Young, Hodgson’s solicitor, said: “Will this open the floodgates? I would say anyone who believes that they’ve been wrongly convicted, and thinks DNA tests would help, should contact a lawyer immediately.”

Hodgson, who is mentally ill and held in the hospital wing of Albany jail, was convicted in 1982 of the murder of Teresa de Simone, 22, whose body was found in her car in Southampton in December 1979.

If the conviction is overturned, Hodgson would be one of the longest-serving victims of a miscarriage of justice. The only comparable case is that of Stephen Downing, who was jailed for 27 years for beating typist Wendy Sewell to death in Bakewell, Derbyshire, but released in 2002. Hodgson has continued to protest his innocence but it was only after his solicitors asked last year for a review and DNA testing, a technique that was not available at the time of his trial, that his case was referred.

Hampshire police have now reopened their files and the force is conducting a new murder investigation to find the real killer. A source said: “It is a live and active inquiry.”

Lord Judge, the Lord Chief Justice, will hear the case next Wednesday and it is understood that arrangements are being made for Hodgson to be released into appropriate care. Prosecutors are not expected to oppose the challenge and the commission said there was “a real possibility that the court will consider the conviction unsafe and quash it”.

Miss de Simone, a gas board clerk and part-time barmaid, had been sexually assaulted before being choked to death with the chain of a gold crucifix that she wore around her neck.

Hodgson, of no fixed abode, confessed to a Roman Catholic prison chaplain, Father Frank Moran, that he had killed Miss de Simone when she found him sleeping in her car and began screaming. He said he put his hand over her mouth to try to keep her quiet and ended up killing her.

The confession was made on the first anniversary of Miss de Simone’s death, and Hodgson told the priest that the image of her face was haunting him. The prosecution case was aided by scientific evidence that showed that Hodgson was of the same blood type as the attacker.

But at his trial, at Winchester Crown Court in 1982, Hodgson withdrew his confession and pleaded not guilty. It emerged that he had confessed to hundreds of other crimes, including burglaries that had never been committed, and that the killer’s blood type was common.

Hodgson, who is also known by the first name Robert, did not give evidence. According to *The Times* of February 2 1982, he told the court: “I would like to tell members of the jury I cannot go into the witness box itself because I am a pathological liar.”

But at the end of a 15-day trial, the jury returned a unanimous guilty verdict having deliberated for only 3½ hours. Mr Justice Sheldon, the trial judge, told Hodgson: “It is a verdict with which I entirely agree. I have no doubt whatsoever that you were guilty of this appalling, horrible crime of killing that girl.”

Hodgson was refused leave to appeal against his conviction the next year and has continued to protest his innocence. Last year his case was taken over by a new legal team.

His solicitor asked Hampshire Police to review the evidence and specifically to carry out DNA testing. The Forensic Science Service had stored material from the case in its archives and DNA tests were carried out on body fluids from the crime scene.

When compared with Hodgson's DNA profile, they showed that he was not Miss de Simone's attacker. The case was passed to the CCRC, which referred it to the Court of Appeal as a matter of urgency.

Mr Young said last night of Hodgson: "He is obviously pleased the matter is going forward. He is excited because he is going to be seeing the outside world for the first time in a number of years. We hope he will be released on Wednesday and he will have to make a new life for himself."

Mary Sedotti, Miss de Simone's mother, said she was upset and distressed that her daughter's killer had not been caught and that she was having to relive the events of three decades ago. She added: "He should not have confessed at the time."

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/crime/article5891503.ece>

Up to half of children miss out in school admissions row

Half of all children in some areas of England did not get a place at their first choice school this year, Government figures showed today, as parents complained of a confusing and unfair secondary admissions system.

Of the half a million children who applied to start secondary school in England this year, 92,000 missed out with an average of 83.2 per cent getting into their top choice, up 1.1 per cent on last year. However, in some areas in the South East, the number getting their preferred school dipped as low as 41 per cent - meaning one in two children missed out.

The annual scramble for the best schools - in which middle class parents often play the system by moving or renting closer to desirable schools - has caused at least 25 local authorities to introduce random allocation or lotteries to assign places.

Ed Balls, the Schools Secretary, has said such lotteries should only be used as a last resort and announced an inquiry into whether their use is harming children. Ian Craig, the new Chief Schools Adjudicator will lead the review.

The Government brought in a new statutory admissions code last year aimed at making the process fairer, and toughened up the code to prevent parents cheating the system or schools selecting pupils based on their family background or personal circumstances. Across the country, one child in 25 did not get any of the schools they named on their form.

Sarah McCarthy Fry, the Schools Minister, said today that the Schools department is looking at ways to improve the admissions system but claimed that the School Admissions Code had transformed the process. "We have outlawed unfair and covert admission practices which disadvantaged low-income families and increased social segregation," she added.

But critics suggest it has meant that fewer parents are getting their first choice of school, while parents themselves have reported they still find the system confusing.

Pupils were the most disappointed in London and the South East, where competition for the best schools is fierce. In London one third had to settle for less than their favoured school and 17.8 per cent will be forced to travel to another borough to go to lessons. Nationally, seven per cent of children will have to go to school outside of their Council's area but in Reading the figure jumps to 40.3 per cent.

The worst hit area was Slough, where one in two children missed out on their first choice, one quarter failed to get any of their three preferred schools and almost one in 10 did not get offered a preferred school.

Ms McCarthy Fry said: "Parents have the right of appeal against any application that has been turned down; and over the summer, local authorities and schools will be re-allocating places where others have moved address or chosen a different education for their child."

Opposition parties and parents' groups attacked the Government's inability to raise standards in schools.

Annette Brooke, the Liberal Democrat spokeswoman for children said: "While such huge variations in school performance persist across small areas, it is inevitable that 'good' schools will be oversubscribed and that some pupils will lose out."

Margaret Morrissey of lobby group Parents Outloud said: "I still think we've got a long way to go.

"For those who have missed out] there's no consolation in the Government patting themselves on the back and saying things have improved. Their lives have been devastated."

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/education/article5894375.ece>

Barack Obama sworn in again, but without a Bible

He's sorted out the legalities, but could Barack Obama have made the first political mistake of his presidency?

After constitutional law experts questioned the validity of his swearing-in because of a fluffed line in the oath of office, Mr Obama moved quickly to quash speculation that his presidency was in any way illegitimate.

John Roberts, the Chief Justice charged who helped bungle the oath on Tuesday, was summoned to the White House and, in front of a small pool of reporters, Mr Obama carefully and accurately repeated the 35-word oath prescribed by Article 2 of the Constitution.

The problem was, no-one thought to bring a Bible and Mr Obama decided to go ahead without one.

Legally, that was fine – the Constitution makes no mention of the Bible. Politically, it may prove to be a problem.

"The Obama boobery with the oath, led to a second oath. But the Bible, like the once disdained flag lapel pin, was nowhere to be seen," sniped the Hillaryis44 blog, referring to a row during the presidential campaign over a missing lapel pin.

"Expect a third oath when bitter small town gun- and Bible-toting America finds out."

Mr Obama's likely reaction in the event of a backlash will be that he did not consider last night's oath to be the one that counts. The White House counsel, Greg Craig, said last night that the Administration believed that Mr Obama was "sworn in appropriately" on Tuesday.

"Yet the oath appears in the Constitution itself and out of the abundance of caution, because there was one word out of sequence, Chief Justice John Roberts will administer the oath a second time," he added.

On Tuesday, Mr Obama was sworn in with his left hand on the Bible used by his great political hero, Abraham Lincoln, on his first inauguration in 1861. That book was returned to the Library of Congress straight afterwards.

It is not clear whether Mr Roberts, the Supreme Court Chief Justice, had been expected to bring a Bible with him but it might come as a shock to some of Mr Obama's more devout supporters – he and his family are regular churchgoers – that no Bible was available last night and the ceremony went ahead without one.

The second oath was taken in the White House Map Room, witnessed not by a crowd of two million but four members of the White House press corps. "We decided that because it was so much fun ...," Mr Obama joked as the reporters filed in.

No TV camera crews or news photographers – although pictures were taken by a White House photographer – and even Michelle Obama was absent.

Mr Roberts put on his black robe.

"Are you ready to take the oath?" he said.

"Yes, I am," Mr Obama said. "And we're going to do it very slowly."

Mr Roberts then led Mr Obama through the oath without any missteps.

"Obviously this is not that much of a big deal and the second taking of the oath was just, as the White House lawyer put it, "out of the abundance of caution". But it is refreshing to see that Obama doesn't attach much importance to religious pomp."

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/us_and_americas/article5567187.

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Contractions:

n. – noun

v. – verb

adj. – adjective

adv. – adverb

id. – idiomatic expression, idiom

smb. – somebody

smth. – something

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