

Reporting for the Daily Jungle: Writing a Newspaper Headline

Learning objective: To understand the features of a newspaper headline and write catchy, informative headlines for Year 5 English.

Max the monkey is the editor of the 'Daily Jungle' newspaper, but he needs your help! A headline needs to be short, punchy, and grab the reader's attention. Read the story summaries below and write a newspaper headline for each. Use the word bank to help you include powerful verbs and adjectives. Remember: headlines often leave out small words like 'a', 'an', or 'the' to save space!

Word bank: Snatches · Discovery · Heroic · Giant · Baffling · Rescues · Mystery · Soars · Triumphs · Astonishing

1. 1. Story Summary: Nova the owl found a strange, glowing rock in the forest that hums a tune when the moon is full. Write a headline for this discovery. (2 marks)

2. 2. Story Summary: A very hungry squirrel accidentally stole a basket of picnic sandwiches from Leo the lion, but Leo kindly shared his own lunch instead. Write a headline for this act of kindness. (2 marks)

3. 3. Story Summary: Finn the dolphin helped a lost wooden boat find its way back to the harbour during a thick, grey fog. Write a headline for this rescue. (2 marks)

4. 4. Story Summary: Zara the zebra painted a beautiful mural on the community wall that changed colour when it rained. Write a headline for this artistic event. (2 marks)

5. 5. Why do journalists use short, punchy words in headlines instead of long, full sentences? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a newspaper front page layout. Include a box at the top for your best headline, a space for a photo, and three columns for the article text.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw a newspaper front page layout. The box is wide and tall, providing ample space for a creative drawing that should include a headline box, a photo space, and three columns of text.

Extension challenge: Pick one of your headlines and write the 'lead paragraph' (the first sentence) of the article. Remember to include the 5 Ws: Who, What, Where, When, and Why.