

Headline Hunter: The Scoop on Journalism

Learning objective: To identify and construct the key features of a newspaper report, including the 5 Ws (Who, What, Where, When, Why) and formal reportage language.

Max the monkey has been busy investigating a mysterious event at the local orchard. He has gathered the facts but has jumbled his newspaper report. Your task is to act as the Editor. Use the word bank to fill in the blanks in the report structure and then answer the investigative questions to sharpen your journalistic skills.

Word bank: Headline · Byline · Lead Paragraph · Informative · Orientation · Quotes · Formal · Objective

1. 1. Max needs a catchy [BLANK] to grab the reader's attention. Why must this be written in the present tense even if the event happened yesterday? (2 marks)

2. 2. In the [BLANK], you must include the 5 Ws. Explain why it is vital to keep this section objective rather than including your own opinion. (2 marks)

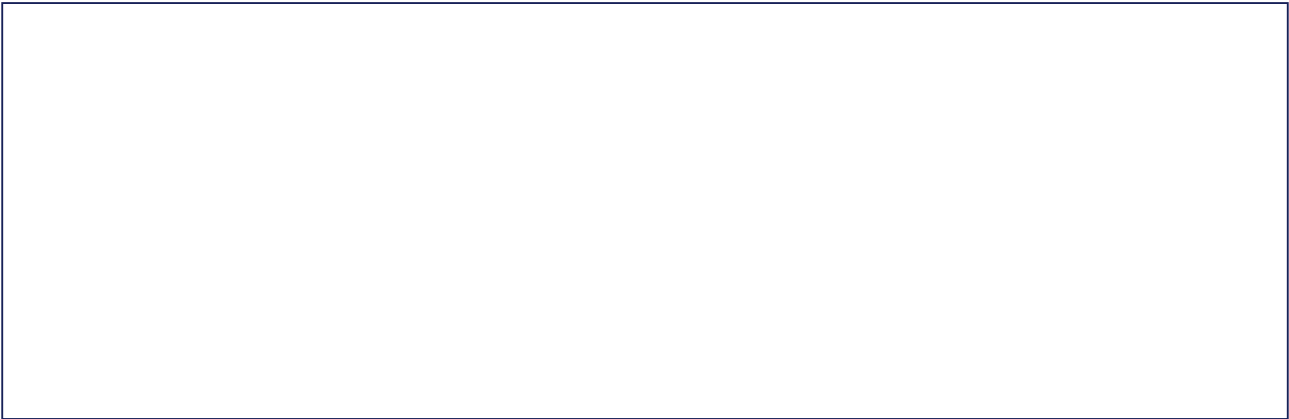
3. 3. Max interviewed an eyewitness. If he includes direct [BLANK] in his report, explain why the punctuation must be precise. (2 marks)

4. 4. Compare and contrast a newspaper report with a creative story. Why does a journalist use a [BLANK] tone instead of descriptive, flowery language? (2 marks)

5. 5. What might happen if a newspaper report failed to include a [BLANK] (the name of the reporter)? Justify your answer. (2 marks)

6. 6. If a local shopkeeper sold a sack of apples for £4.50 and a basket of pears for £2.75, write one formal sentence for your report describing this transaction. (2 marks)

Draw: Sketch a layout for a front-page newspaper. Include a space for a main image, a bold headline, and three columns of text. Label where the caption for the image should go.



Extension challenge: Write a 150-word newspaper report about a 'Great Orchard Mystery' where 500 golden apples went missing overnight. You must include at least two direct quotes, a sub-heading, and a price comparison regarding the cost of the lost fruit (£500 total value).