

Weekly Newscast Lesson Plan



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with
CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton and the Government of Alberta



Edmonton

March 6, 2016

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide an authentic learning resource

Contents:

- Three news stories
- Vocabulary building activities
- Listening comprehension activities
- Transcripts
- Answer keys

News story #1 Entire family gone (0:14)

Setting the Scene



Tim Carson, his wife, Michelle, and the couple's children Niki (front left), Savannah Leigh-Ann (front centre) and Shawn (front right) are shown in an undated photo. (Carson family)

Amisk is a small Alberta village close to the Saskatchewan border. With a population of just over 200 people, the community is very close. Everyone knows everyone in the village, and when a tragedy happens, the whole village is affected. Unfortunately, tragedy struck the small village last week and the community is shocked and saddened by its loss.

Pre-listening Questions

Have you ever lived in a small village or town?

What are some benefits of living in a small town? What are the drawbacks?

Have you travelled around Alberta and visited any interesting small towns or places?

Vocabulary

Sentence Completion

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Use the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

bungalow (n.)	a house that is all on ground level, there is no second floor
severe (adj.)	very serious problem or illness
disability (n.)	a physical and mental condition where a person cannot use part of his/her body or is unable to learn normally
instant (n.)	happening now, immediately or very quickly
scene (n.)	the place where an event happened
collision (n.)	an accident when two vehicles crash into each other
oncoming (adj.)	a vehicle that is coming toward you
struck (v.)	to hit something (past tense of strike)
fiery (adj.)	to describe something covered in flames

1. There are many services to help students who have a _____ that may affect their success in school.
2. People with _____ disabilities may need to use a wheelchair or even have to live in a hospital.
3. 50 or 60 years ago, most houses in Edmonton were _____, but today many people build two story homes.
4. People who use their phone while they drive are more likely to have a _____.
5. Car accidents happen in an _____, so you must always wear your seatbelt.
6. When driving at night, the lights from _____ traffic make it hard to see the road.
7. I saw a fire truck and an ambulance at the _____ of a car crash yesterday.
8. It looked like a car _____ the stop sign.
9. It must have been a _____ accident because the car was burnt and was covered in water from the firetruck.

Extra words to help you better understand the listening:

head-on collision – an accident when two vehicles drive right into each other

behind the wheel – driving the vehicle

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_37580h

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Task

Multiple Choice

Read the following sentences. Then listen to the audio and choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. The Carson family bungalow was once filled with the _____ of children.	a) laughter b) smiles
2. The family of five lived in the _____ of Amisk.	a) bungalow b) village
3. Savannah Leigh-Ann died last _____ at the age of 15.	a) May b) April
4. Last _____ evening, the rest of the family died.	a) Sunday b) Monday
5. Nikki was only _____ years old and Shawn was _____ years old.	a) 12 / 9 b) 9 / 12
6. They all died in a head-on _____.	a) collision b) collapse
7. A 21-year-old man was driving the SUV that _____ the Carsons' car.	a) truck b) struck
8. The 21-year-old also _____ in the car crash.	a) died b) suffered
9. Tim's sister, Carol Shuttleworth, is still _____.	a) in denial b) in shock

Food for Thought

Do you drive?

What conditions are dangerous to drive in?

What kind of training or lessons do people get before they get a drivers' license?

News story #2 Racial murder in Kansas (1:29)

Setting the Scene



A Kansas man is accused of shooting and killing Srinivas Kuchibhotla, an Indian engineer, shouting “get out of my country” before opening fire in a crowded bar in Olathe, a suburb of Kansas City. (gofundme.com) (CBC file photo)

Gun laws are very different in the United States than they are in Canada. Between different states in the US, the laws differ. In the state of Kansas, no background checks are done before a person buys a gun. Also, by law, people are allowed to carry a gun openly or hidden, without having a permit. If a gun is made in Kansas, it does not need to be registered. Canada has much stricter laws about guns, and it is not common for people to own guns. Death by shooting is many times higher in the United States than it is in Canada.

Pre-listening Questions

What are the laws about owning a gun in your country?

Do you think the Canadian laws are strong enough or too strong?

Why do you think the laws in the United States are not nearly as strong as they are in Canada?

Vocabulary

Matching

To help you better understand the words in the news story, match the words with their definitions. Answers are in the appendix.

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
_____	charged (v.)	a) shooting a weapon
_____	attempted (v.)	b) done for specific reasons (political, financial, emotional...)
_____	firing (v.)	c) a person who observed an event or crime
_____	crowded (adj.)	d) steady and not likely to get worse
_____	wounded (adj.)	e) many people in one place
_____	witness (n.)	f) to be put in the care of doctors and nurses
_____	racially (adv.)	g) the physical state or state of health a person is in
_____	motivated (v.)	h) officially accused of a crime by the police
_____	hospitalized (v.)	i) having to do with people from other cultures or ethnic backgrounds
_____	stable (adj.)	j) tried to do something
_____	condition (n.)	k) hurt or injured by a weapon

Extra words to help you better understand the listening:
racial slurs – bad words and phrases against another race

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: <https://quizlet.com/37588k>

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Activity

Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. As you listen to the audio, try to answer the questions. You may have to listen more than once to hear all the answers.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. Why has a man been charged with murder and attempted murder?
2. Where did the event happen?
3. How many people were killed?
4. How many people were wounded?
5. What did some witnesses say motivated the attack?
6. Who is Adam Purinton?
7. What did witnesses say Purinton yelled before the attack?
8. What happened to Srinivas Kuchibhotla?
9. How old is Alok Madasani?
10. How old is Ian Grillot?
11. What happened to Madasani and Grillot?

Food for thought

How can we reduce racism in society?

Do you think stricter gun laws would help reduce shootings?

News story #3 Whitemud Equine Centre (2:22)

Setting the Scene



There are currently 60 horses on site at the Whitemud Equine Centre. Thirty-five per cent of the users have special needs. Ninety-five per cent of users do not own a horse. (CBC file photo)

Horseback riding is a popular sport or activity for people around the world. While it is expensive to own a horse, people can ride horses at different centres and stables in and around the city. One popular and conveniently-located stable in Edmonton is the Whitemud Equine Centre. People interested in learning how to ride a horse can take lessons there. There are also many riding programs for people with disabilities. Riding has been shown to help people relax and connect with nature. It is also a great form of exercise.

Pre-listening Questions

Have you ever ridden a horse?

Is horseback riding popular in your country?

What are some benefits of horseback riding?

Vocabulary

Find the definition (Multiple Choice)

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Read the sentences below and choose the best definition for the words in **bold**.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. The **equine** centre is a great place to try horseback riding.
 - a. relating to nature
 - b. relating to horses
2. The **construction** of a new building downtown is exciting for the city.
 - a. the process of making houses, bridges, etc.
 - b. the process of destroying old houses, bridges, etc.
3. The building construction is thankfully **on target** be completed by the summer.
 - a. going as planned
 - b. not going as planned
4. The new building will **replace** the old building that is falling apart.
 - a. to be used instead of
 - b. to be used differently
5. The new building is much larger than the old one, so the **capacity** will be almost double.
 - a. amount of money it cost
 - b. number of people it will hold
6. Because the old building is falling apart, it will need to be **demolished**. This will make room for parking behind the new building.
 - a. repaired
 - b. destroyed
7. The equine centre has an **arena** where people can ride in the winter.
 - a. a large building with a flat centre area and seats around the outside
 - b. a large building with many floors and offices on each floor
8. Airports always have a **hangar** to keep airplanes, so they can be repaired or kept safe.
 - a. a large building to keep aircraft
 - b. a large building for passengers

Extra words to help you better understand the listening:

executive director – someone who controls or manages a business

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: <https://quizlet.com/3758jy>

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Activity

Answering True/False questions

Read the following statements. While you listen to the story, decide whether the statements are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. ____ Construction of the new Whitemud Equine Centre has been delayed.
2. ____ Programs are expected to start this fall.
3. ____ The new outdoor riding arena is 60% complete.
4. ____ Diane David is the executive director of the Whitemud Association.
5. ____ The new centre will replace the current building.
6. ____ The current building was once a World War II airplane hangar.
7. ____ The new building will have triple the capacity as the old building.
8. ____ The centre will be able to use the new building for shows in the winter.
9. ____ The old arena will be demolished next week.
10. ____ The Equine Association plans to offer programs throughout construction.
11. ____ Little Bits Therapeutic Riding Association is one program at the centre.
12. ____ This program provides horseback riding for 152 people with disabilities.

Food for thought

If you have not tried horseback riding, would you like to?

What are some other interesting sports you would like to try?

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	MARCH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Don Bell and this is Learning English with the CBC March 6 th , with stories that made news over the past week.	0:00
Story 1	The Carson family bungalow was once filled with the laughter of children. The family of five lived in the village of Amisk in east central Alberta. Now all of them are gone. The first one lost was Savannah Leigh-Ann, who was born with severe disabilities. She died last April at age 15. Then last Monday evening, the rest of the family was taken in an instant. Tim Carson, his wife, Michelle, their 12 year old daughter, Niki and their 9 year old son, Shawn, all died at the scene of a head-on collision. A 21-year-old man who grew up down the street from the family was behind the wheel of the oncoming SUV that struck the Carsons' car. He also died in the fiery crash. "It's hard enough to know you've lost a friend," said Tim's sister, Carol Shuttleworth, "But when the whole family is gone, I'm in shock still."	0:14
Story 2	A man has been charged with murder and attempted murder after firing into a crowded bar in Kansas City, Kansas. One man was killed and two others were wounded. Some witnesses said the attack was racially motivated. A bartender said that Adam Purinton used "racial slurs" before he started shooting. Other witnesses said that Purinton, 51, yelled "get out of my country" before he opened fire. 32 year old Srinivas Kuchibhotla died in hospital. Alok Madasani, 32, and Ian Grillot, 24, were hospitalized and are in stable condition.	1:29
Story 3	Construction of the new Whitemud Equine Centre is on target and it should open for programs this fall. The new indoor riding arena is 60 per cent complete, according to Diane David, executive director of the Whitemud Equine Learning Centre Association. The centre replaces the current building, which was once a World War II airplane hangar rebuilt in the river valley almost 60 years ago. David says the main thing is that it doubles its capacity. The fact the arena is indoors also means the centre will be able to run small shows in the winter. The old arena will be demolished once the new facility opens, which means the association can continue offering its programs throughout construction. Among the programs offered is the Little Bits Therapeutic Riding Association program, which provides horseback riding for 125 children and adults with disabilities.	2:22

Answer keys

News story 1 Entire family gone (0:14)

Vocabulary

1. There are many services to help students who have a **disability** that may affect their success in school.
2. People with **severe** disabilities may need to use a wheelchair or even have to live in a hospital.
3. 50 or 60 years ago, most houses in Edmonton were **bungalows**, but today many people build two story homes.
4. People who use their phone while they drive are more likely to have a **collision**.
5. Car accidents happen in an **instant**, so you must always wear your seatbelt.
6. When driving at night, the lights from **oncoming** traffic make it hard to see the road.
7. I saw a fire truck and an ambulance at the **scene** of a car crash yesterday.
8. It looked like a car **struck** the stop sign.
9. It must have been a **fiery** accident because the car was burnt and was covered in water from the firetruck.

Listening

1. The Carson family bungalow was once filled with the _____ of children.	a) laughter b) smiles
2. The family of five lived in the _____ of Amisk.	a) bungalow b) village
3. Savannah Leigh-Ann died last _____ at the age of 15.	a) May b) April
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5. Nikki was only _____ years old and Shawn was _____ years old.	a) 12 / 9 b) 9 / 12
6. They all died in a head-on _____.	a) collision b) collapse
7. A 21-year-old man was driving the SUV that _____ the Carsons' car.	a) truck b) struck
8. The 21-year-old also _____ in the car crash.	a) died b) suffered
9. Tim's sister, Carol Shuttleworth, is still _____.	a) in denial b) in shock

News story 2 Racial murder in Kansas (1:29)

Vocabulary

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
<u>h</u>	charged (v.)	a) shooting a weapon
<u>j</u>	attempted (v.)	b) done for specific reasons (political, financial, emotional...)
<u>a</u>	firing (v.)	c) a person who observed an event or crime
<u>e</u>	crowded (adj.)	d) steady and not likely to get worse
<u>k</u>	wounded (adj.)	e) many people in one place
<u>c</u>	witness (n.)	f) to be put in the care of doctors and nurses
<u>i</u>	racially (adv.)	g) the physical state or state of health a person is in
<u>b</u>	motivated (v.)	h) officially accused of a crime by the police
<u>f</u>	hospitalized (v.)	i) having to do with people from other cultures or ethnic backgrounds
<u>d</u>	stable (adj.)	j) tried to do something
<u>g</u>	condition (n.)	k) hurt or injured by a weapon

Listening

1. Why has a man been charged with murder and attempted murder?
He fired into a crowded bar
2. Where did the event happen?
Kansas City, Kansas
3. How many people were killed?
1
4. How many people were wounded?
2
5. What did some witnesses say motivated the attack?
Racism (it was racially motivated)
6. Who is Adam Purinton?
He was the shooter
7. What did witnesses say Purinton yelled before the attack?
Racial slurs ("get out of my country")
8. What happened to Srinivas Kuchibhotla?
He died in hospital
9. How old is Alok Madasani?
32
10. How old is Ian Grillot?
24
11. What happened to Madasani and Grillot?
They were hospitalized and are in stable condition

News story 3

Whitemud Equine Centre (2:22)

Vocabulary

1. The **equine** centre is a great place to try horseback riding.
 - a. relating to nature
 - b. relating to horses
2. The **construction** of a new building downtown is exciting for the city.
 - a. the process of making houses, bridges, etc.
 - b. the process of destroying old houses, bridges, etc.
3. The building construction is thankfully **on target** to be completed by the summer.
 - a. going as planned
 - b. not going as planned
4. The new building will **replace** the old building that is falling apart.
 - a. to be used instead of
 - b. to be used differently
5. The new building is much larger than the old one, so the **capacity** will be almost double.
 - a. amount of money it cost
 - b. number of people it will hold
6. Because the old building is falling apart, it will need to be **demolished**. This will make room for parking behind the new building.
 - a. repaired
 - b. destroyed
7. The equine centre has an **arena** where people can ride in the winter.
 - a. a large building with a flat centre area and seats around the outside
 - b. a large building with many floors and offices on each floor
8. Airports always have a **hangar** to keep airplanes, so they can be repaired or kept safe.
 - a. a large building to keep aircraft
 - b. a large building for passengers

Listening

1. F Construction of the new Whitemud Equine Centre has been delayed.
2. T Programs are expected to start this fall.
3. F The new outdoor riding arena is 60% complete.
4. F Diane David is the executive director of the Whitemud Association.
5. T The new centre will replace the current building.
6. T The current building was once a World War II airplane hangar.
7. F The new building will have triple the capacity as the old building.
8. T The centre will be able to use the new building for shows in the winter.
9. F The old arena will be demolished next week.
10. T The Equine Association plans to offer programs throughout construction.
11. T Little Bits Therapeutic Riding Association is one program at the centre.
12. F This program provides horseback riding for 152 people with disabilities.