

Weekly Newscast Lesson Plan



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



Edmonton

April 18, 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 Malala Yousafzai an honorary Canadian (0:14)

Setting the Scene



Malala Yousafzai gives a full speech to the Commons (CBC file photo)

Honorary Canadian citizenship is a symbolic honour given to people who have achieved great things, or have tried to make the world a better place. The Governor General gives the honour to people approved by Parliament. A person who receives Honorary Canadian citizenship does not swear an oath and does not receive any rights or privileges from the country. The honour is a symbol of Canada's respect for the person and their special actions that benefit the world. Only six people in the world have received this honour.

Pre-listening Questions

Who are some well-known people who have helped make the world a better place?

Humanitarians are people who work to make life better for people. Can you name any humanitarians from your country?

Do you think it is a good idea to give people honorary citizenship? Why?

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.*

honourary (adj.)	a title or position given to someone as a symbol of respect
activist (n.)	a person who works hard to make social or political changes
ceremony (n.)	an important set of actions done in front of others to celebrate something
praise (v.)	to admire or approve of a person or their actions
fortunate (adj.)	describes someone who is in a good situation or has good things happen
urge (v.)	to strongly suggest
speech (n.)	a formal talk about a specific topic
defenseless (adj.)	to be unable to protect or help oneself

1. People living in Canada often consider themselves _____ because of the rights and freedoms of its people.
2. In some parts of the world, people are _____ against their government or its military.
3. Often, _____ speak about the sad or terrible situations that exist in the world. These speakers try to _____ others to help fight inequalities and to help make the world a better place.
4. Many countries have a _____ to celebrate the actions of a brave citizen. The leader of the event may give a _____ to speak about the hero's great actions. The speaker will _____ and thank the person for their brave actions.
5. Many universities give a famous person an _____ degree to show their respect for the person's work.

Extra words to help you better understand the listening:

Taliban – a group that took control of Afghanistan in 1997 and that follows extreme laws of Islam

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: <https://quizlet.com/3cqhn8>

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

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. ____ Malala Yousafzai is now an honorary Canadian citizen.
2. ____ Yousafzai is a Pakistani activist.
3. ____ She was given the award last Tuesday.
4. ____ Yousafzai worked for the right for children to have an education in her home country.
5. ____ Yousafzai was shot in the head by the Taliban in 2013.
6. ____ She survived the shooting and later won a Nobel Prize for her work.
7. ____ In her speech to the House of Commons, she praised Canada for its openness to those less fortunate.
8. ____ She also urged Canadians to continue to close their homes to dangerous people.
9. ____ Malala would like Canadians to continue to help defenseless children and families.
10. ____ Malala is the youngest person to become an honorary Canadian.
11. ____ Malala is 19 years old.

Food for Thought

How can people around the world help defenseless children and families?

Which countries have unequal education for males and females?

News story #2 Canada will introduce new laws about airline travel (1:13)

Setting the Scene



(Francois Lenoir/Reuters) (CBC File photo)

It is a common practice for airlines to oversell flights. Many people cancel their travel plans at the last minute. To avoid empty seats, airlines estimate how many people will cancel, based on past experiences, and then will book that many more seats. This way, the airline will not lose money. Unfortunately, when people do not cancel, there will be more people wanting to fly than seats available. In this case, an airline must bump some passengers. Usually, airlines ask for volunteers to take the next flight, and those volunteers are given money to thank them for changing flights.

Pre-listening Questions

Have you flown in an airplane? What airline have you flown?

Were your flights full, or were there empty seats?

Have you ever seen or heard of people being bumped from flights?

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>
_____	bump (v.)	a) pulling something along the ground
_____	practice (n.)	b) to have sold more tickets than there are seats available
_____	violent (adj.)	c) something needed according to the rules
_____	dragging (n.)	d) to move someone off a flight because there are not enough seats
_____	overbook (v.)	e) to make something smaller or less significant
_____	requirement (n.)	f) bags used for travelling
_____	compensation (n.)	g) before the time needed to do something
_____	oversold (v.)	h) something often or regularly done
_____	luggage (n.)	i) money or gift given to someone who has suffered a loss
_____	minimize (v.)	j) with much anger or aggression, not peaceful
_____	in advance (prep.)	k) to reserve more seats than really exist

Extra words to help you better understand the listening:

spokesman – a person who speaks for a company

bill of rights – rules or laws about the rights of people

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_3cq1f

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

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. Canada will introduce new laws _____ for travelers bumped from flights.	a) this fall b) this spring
2. There has been anger _____ of bumping passengers recently.	a) about the practice b) about the event
3. A passenger was _____ off an overbooked United Airlines flight in Chicago.	a) violently dragged b) angrily pushed
4. Bumping rules _____ in an air passenger bill of rights.	a) will be excluded b) will be included
5. The bill will set clear requirements _____ when flights are oversold or luggage is lost.	a) for repayment b) for compensation
6. Passengers can _____ of being bumped by pre-paying for a selected seat.	a) increase the chances b) reduce the chances
7. Passengers can also check-in online up to 24 hours _____ of the flight.	a) in the middle b) in advance
8. _____ at the airport will also help reduce chances of being bumped.	a) Arriving early b) Arriving on time

Food for thought

What would you do if you were bumped off a flight?

Do you think airlines should be allowed to bump people off a flight? Why or why not?

News story #3 Oilers are in the playoffs (2:12)

Setting the Scene



Oilers gear flying off the shelves at United Cycle (Min Dhariwal/CBC) (CBC file photo)

The NHL playoffs are a long hockey tournament in which 16 teams try to beat each other and move on to the next round. Edmonton Oilers fans have been waiting a long time for the Oilers to make it to the playoffs, so fans are very excited to watch the Oilers play. In Round 1, the Oilers will play against the San Jose Sharks. The first team to win four games will move on to Round 2. The team that loses will be out of the playoffs. Oilers fans are eager to support their team and are hopeful for a victory.

Pre-listening Questions

Do you watch hockey? What is your favourite team?

Did you watch the Oilers games last week?

Have you noticed the Oilers fans around the city wearing orange?

Vocabulary

Synonym Matching

To help you better understand the story, choose the pair of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Related words</u>
_____	wait (n.)	a) open to purchase, able to buy
_____	fan (n.)	b) controller, in charge
_____	available (adj.)	c) competition, contest
_____	match-up (n.)	d) show, be evidence
_____	star (adj.)	e) spectator, supporter
_____	management (n.)	f) true cost, real price
_____	opportunity (n.)	g) famous, successful
_____	reflect (v.)	h) period of time, show of patience
_____	face value	i) chance, possibility

Extra words to help you better understand the listening:

turn it around – change the situation from bad to good

upper bowl – In the hockey arena, the first circle of seats closest to the ice is the lower bowl. The second layer of seats, higher and further from the ice is the upper bowl. These seats are cheaper.

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_3cqigt

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 the questions below. As you listen to the audio, answer the questions. You may need to hear the audio more than once.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. How long have Oilers fans been waiting for the Oilers to be in the playoffs?
2. How long did it take for fans to buy the extra tickets made available?
3. How many tickets were made available for the two games last week?
4. What year were the Oilers last in the playoffs?
5. Who is Connor McDavid?
6. What university is Dan Mason a professor at?
7. Mason said the demand for tickets and their high prices reflect what?
8. How much are tickets in the upper bowl?
9. Are tickets cheaper online?
10. How much are tickets online?

Food for thought

What sport are people crazy about in your home country?

Who are some famous athletes from that sport?

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	APRIL WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Don Bell and this is Learning English with the CBC April 18 th , with stories that made news over the past week.	0:00
Story 1	Malala Yousafzai is now an honorary Canadian citizen. The Pakistani activist was given the award at a special ceremony on Parliament Hill Wednesday. Yousafzai worked for the right of girls to an education in her home country...and in 2012 was shot in the head by the Taliban. She survived and went on to win a Nobel prize for her work. In a speech to the House of Commons she praised Canada for its openness to those less fortunate and urged Canadians to continue to open their homes and their hearts to the world's most defenseless children and families. Malala is only the sixth person to become an honorary Canadian citizen - and at just 19, is the youngest.	0:14
Story 2	Canada will introduce new laws this spring for travellers bumped from flights. There has been anger about the practice of bumping passengers after the violent dragging of a passenger off an overbooked United Airlines flight in Chicago. A spokesman for Transport Minister Marc Garneau said bumping rules will be included in an air passenger bill of rights and will set clear requirements for compensation when flights are oversold or luggage is lost. The Canadian Transportation Agency says passengers can minimize their chances of being bumped by pre-paying for a selected seat, checking in online up to 24 hours in advance of the flight and arriving at the airport early.	1:13
Story 3	After an 11-year wait, Edmonton Oilers fans were excited for the playoffs to begin. It only took fans five minutes to buy up the few hundred tickets made available for the two games last week against the San Jose Sharks in a first-round match-up. The Oilers, who last were in the playoffs in 2006, turned it around this year with the help of star player Connor McDavid. Dan Mason, professor of sport management at the University of Alberta, says Oilers fans have been waiting a long time for an opportunity to follow the team in the playoffs and the demand for tickets and ticket prices reflect that. Those prices are around 475 dollars in the upper bowl, but can be much higher online. Most tickets for sale online are double their face value, or higher.	2:12

Answer keys

News story 1 Malala Yousafzai an honorary Canadian citizen

Vocabulary

1. People living in Canada often consider themselves **fortunate** because of the rights and freedoms of its people.
2. In some parts of the world, people are **defenseless** against their government or its military.
3. Often, **activists** speak about the sad or terrible situations that exist in the world. These speakers try to **urge** others to help fight inequalities and to help make the world a better place.
4. Many countries have a **ceremony** to celebrate the actions of a brave citizen. The leader of the event may give a **speech** to speak about the hero's great actions. The speaker will **praise** and thank the person for his/her brave actions.
5. Many universities give a famous person an **honourary** degree to show their respect for the person's work.

Listening

1. T Malala Yousafzai is now an honorary Canadian citizen.
2. T Yousafzai is a Pakistani activist.
3. F She was given the award last Tuesday.
4. F Yousafzai worked for the right for children to have an education in her home country.
5. F Yousafzai was shot in the head by the Taliban in 2013.
6. T She survived the shooting and later won a Nobel Prize for her work.
7. T In her speech to the House of Commons, she praised Canada for its openness to those less fortunate.
8. F She also urged Canadians to continue to close their homes to dangerous people.
9. T Malala would like Canadians to continue to help defenseless children and families.
10. T Malala is the youngest person to become an honorary Canadian.
11. T Malala is 19 years old.

News story 2

Canada will introduce new laws about airline travel (1:13)

Vocabulary

Answer	Vocabulary word	Definition
<u>d</u>	bump (v.)	a) pulling something along the ground
<u>h</u>	practice (n.)	b) to have sold more tickets than there are seats available
<u>j</u>	violent (adj.)	c) something needed according to the rules
<u>a</u>	dragging (n.)	d) to move someone off a flight because there are not enough seats
<u>k</u>	overbook (v.)	e) to make something smaller or less significant
<u>c</u>	requirement (n.)	f) bags used for travelling
<u>i</u>	compensation (n.)	g) before the time needed to do something
<u>b</u>	oversold (v.)	h) something often or regularly done
<u>f</u>	luggage (n.)	i) money or gift given to someone who has suffered a loss
<u>e</u>	minimize (v.)	j) with much anger or aggression, not peaceful
<u>g</u>	in advance (prep.)	k) to reserve more seats than really exist

Listening

1. Canada will introduce new laws _____ for travelers bumped from flights.	a) this fall b) this spring
2. There has been anger _____ of bumping passengers recently.	a) about the practice b) about the event
3. A passenger was _____ off an overbooked United Airlines flight in Chicago.	a) violently dragged b) angrily pushed
4. Bumping rules _____ in an air passenger bill of rights.	a) will be excluded b) will be included
5. The bill will set clear requirements _____ when flights are oversold or luggage is lost.	a) for repayment b) for compensation
6. Passengers can _____ of being bumped by pre-paying for a selected seat.	a) increase the chances b) reduce the chances
7. Passengers can also check-in online up to 24 hours _____ of the flight.	a) in the middle b) in advance
8. _____ at the airport will also help reduce chances of being bumped.	a) Arriving early b) Arriving on time

News story 3

Oilers are in the playoffs (2:12)

Vocabulary

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Related words</u>
<u>h</u>	wait (n.)	a) open to purchase, able to buy
<u>e</u>	fan (n.)	b) controller, in charge
<u>a</u>	available (adj.)	c) competition, contest
<u>c</u>	match-up (n.)	d) show, be evidence
<u>g</u>	star (adj.)	e) spectator, supporter
<u>b</u>	management (n.)	f) true cost, real price
<u>i</u>	opportunity (n.)	g) famous, successful
<u>d</u>	reflect (v.)	h) period of time, show of patience
<u>f</u>	face value	i) chance, possibility

Listening

1. How long have Oilers fans been waiting for the Oilers to be in the playoffs?
11 years
2. How long did it take for fans to buy the extra tickets made available?
Five minutes
3. How many tickets were made available for the two games last week?
A few hundred
4. What year were the Oilers last in the playoffs?
2006
5. Who is Connor McDavid?
the Oilers' star player
6. What university is Dan Mason a professor at?
University of Alberta
7. Mason said the demand for tickets and their high prices reflect what?
The fact that Oilers fans have been waiting a long time for the team to be in the playoffs
8. How much are tickets in the upper bowl?
\$475.00
9. Are tickets cheaper online?
No, they can be much higher
10. How much are tickets online?
Double their face value, or more (\$950.00 +)