Weekly Newscast Lesson Plan

Learning English with CBC

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

Alberta

Edmonton   May 1, 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   Remembering Anthony (0:13)

Setting the Scene

People gather around a memorial for 19-month-old Anthony Raine outside the Good Shepherd Anglican Church on Tuesday night. (Catherine Bouchard/CBC) (CBC file photo)

Parents are responsible for taking proper care of their children. In Canada, parents who are no longer together can share custody of their children. Both parents should agree on who will be responsible for the children's welfare and expenses. The government trusts parents to give the proper care and love to their children. Unfortunately, there are sad cases in which children are not treated well by their parents. If these situations are discovered, the government can step in and help protect the child. If these situations go unnoticed, the children may not be properly protected.

Pre-listening Questions

What are some responsibilities parents have in order to take proper care of their children?

If parents need help caring for their children, who can they call or ask?

Are you a parent? If not, would you like to become a parent one day? Why or why not?

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.*

Answer	**Word from the story**	**Related words**
_____	**crowd (n.)**	a) baby, child
_____	**memorial (n.)**	b) occurred, taken place
_____	**toddler (n.)**	c) accuse, allege
_____	**charge (v.)**	d) blue, black skin
_____	**injury (n.)**	e) group, mass
_____	**bruise (n.)**	f) surprising, wonderful
_____	**hurting (n.)**	g) grieving, feeling sadness
_____	**happened (v.)**	h) remembrance, display
_____	**amazing (adj.)**	i) pain, wound

Extra words to help you better understand the listening:
second-degree murder – killing on purpose but not having planned

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_3ej2dd

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. _____ of people gathered at Good Shepherd Anglican Church on Tuesday.	a) hundreds	b) thousands
2. They were _____ the life of 19-month-old Anthony Raine.	a) celebrating	b) remembering
3. The toddler's body was found _____ a blanket outside the back of the church.	a) hidden by	b) covered with
4. The crowd met at a _____ of flowers, toys, candles and notes.	a) memory	b) memorial
5. Police have _____ Anthony's father and his father's girlfriend with second-degree murder.	a) changed	b) charged
6. Anthony died of head _____.	a) injuries	b) bruises
7. Police _____his body was at the church for three days before he was found.	a) believe	b) suggest
8. Anthony's aunt said, "both sides of the family are _____over this."	a) hugging	b) hurting
9. She also said, "It's amazing how there's a lot of people out there who _____."	a) are concerned	b) care

Food for Thought

How can people deal with the sadness of this terrible crime?

How can society better protect children?

What can or should people do if they think a child is being abused by an adult?

News story #2   Soldier dies at training base   (1:28)

Setting the Scene

Sgt. Robert J. Dynerowicz of the Royal Canadian Dragoons was based at CFB Petawawa in Ontario. (Department of National Defense) (CBC File photo)

Canadian Forces Base (CFB) in Wainwright Alberta is 200 kilometres south east of Edmonton. The $583km^2$ property was once known as Buffalo National Park. In 1940, the land was leased to the Government of Alberta, and the Department of National Defense built a training facility. CFB Wainwright is now one of 11 training bases for the Canadian Army. Soldiers will spend time in one of the training bases to learn the skills they will need before they are stationed abroad.

Pre-listening Questions

How much do you know about the Canadian Army?

Does your home country have a large army?

Why do countries need armies?

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.*

training (n.)	learning or practicing of new skills
sergeant (n.)	a low-ranking person in the army, air force or police
base (n.)	a place where people in the military work and sometimes live
conditions (n.)	how good or bad something is, the state something is in
factor (n.)	one of many things that may cause an event or influence a situation
gravel (n.)	small rocks used to make roads
slick (adj.)	slippery, can easily cause things to slide or lose control
colonel (n)	a high-ranking person in the army

1. There are three Canadian Army _____ in Alberta.

2. These places are used for the _____of soldiers.

3. Soldiers begin as _____in the army. After years of service, some soldiers become _____.

4. A person's decision to join the army could be influenced by many _____, such as job security, family and beliefs.

5. The working _____ in the Canadian Army are very good, but going overseas can be very difficult.

6. The roads in the countryside are not paved, they are only sand and _____.

7. These roads get very _____ in the rain, so you must drive slowly and carefully.

Extra words to help you better understand the listening:
light armoured vehicle – a tank or a fully enclosed vehicle with a gun on the top

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_3ej2sm

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Page **6** of **15**

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. _____ An American soldier is dead after a training accident in CFB Wainwright.

   2. _____ The accident happened last Thursday.

   3. _____ Sergeant Dynerowicz and three others were driving a light armoured vehicle.

   4. _____ They were driving through a training area at the base in northeast Alberta.

   5. _____ Colonel Mialkowski says the weather and road conditions may have been a factor in

   the accident.

   6. _____ He says it was raining at the time.

   7. _____ The highway road they were on was muddy and slick.

   8. _____ The soldiers are members of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, based near Ottawa.

   9. _____ This is the fifteenth death at the training base since 2005.

Food for thought

What skills to you think soldiers learn during training?

Why do you think Alberta has so many training facilities for the Canadian Army?

What are some benefits of joining the army?

News story #3   Canada – U.S. trade war? (2:26)

Setting the Scene

Canadian softwood lumber exports to the United States will be hit with duties of up to 24 per cent, starting next week. (Christer Waara/CBC) (CBC file photo)

Most wood or lumber cut in Canada comes from trees growing on government land. The government is then able to sell the wood for less money than a private company might sell the wood, because a private company would have to pay for the land and would owe taxes. Because the wood comes from government land, Canadian companies are able to sell it for less money than American companies. This, of course, means the manufacturers who need to buy wood can save money by buying Canadian wood. The American companies and government are not happy about this situation.

Pre-listening Questions

What things are made with wood or lumber?

Does your country use a lot of wood? What for?

What are other resources that could be used instead of wood?

Vocabulary

Matching

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

Answer	Vocabulary word	Definition
_____	**battle (n.)**	a) taxes on products coming into or going out of a country
_____	**tariffs (n.)**	b) having to do with trees
_____	**disagreement (n.)**	c) having to do with milk or milk farms
_____	**trade (n.)**	d) existing before now
_____	**complain (v.)**	e) buying or selling of goods between countries
_____	**dairy (n.)**	f) fight or argument
_____	**policy (n.)**	g) wood, timber, logs used for building
_____	**lumber (n.)**	h) to say one is not happy about a situation
_____	**previous (adj.)**	i) a calculated or educated guess about a number or cost
_____	**linked (v.)**	j) a situation where people have different opinions
_____	**forestry (n.)**	k) official rules or guidelines about how something is done
_____	**estimate (v.)**	l) to be joined or related in some way

Extra words to help you better understand the listening:

course of action – plan or behaviour

softwood lumber – wood from a conifer tree, such as pine, spruce or fir

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: **https://quizlet.com/_3ej384**

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Page **9** of **15**

Listening Activity

Multiple Choice

Read the following questions. Then listen to the audio and choose the best answer for each question. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. What might Canada be heading for?
   a. a trade war
   b. a war
2. What is the U.S. planning to put on softwood lumber?
   a. new rules
   b. new tariffs
3. What has been increasing recently?
   a. disagreements about taxes
   b. disagreements about trade
4. What do the U.S. and Canada usually enjoy?
   a. a friendly tax relationship
   b. a friendly trade relationship
5. What has President Trump been complaining about?
   a. Canada's daily policies
   b. Canada's dairy policies
6. What were problems under previous U.S. presidents?
   a. dairy and lumber
   b. forestry and farming
7. What have the countries previously had several disagreements about?
   a. hardwood lumber
   b. softwood lumber
8. What does Carlier think is very disappointing?
   a. U.S.'s course of action
   b. U.S.'s tax activities
9. Approximately how many jobs are directly linked to forestry in Alberta?
   a. 18 000
   b. 1800

Food for thought

Do you think it is fair for Trump to add tariffs on lumber coming from Canada?

What other resources does Canada trade with the U.S.?

What goods or resources do Canadians get from the U.S.?

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	MAY WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Don Bell and this is Learning English with the CBC May 1st, with stories that made news over the past week.	0:00
Story 1	Hundreds of people came to Good Shepherd Anglican Church on Tuesday to remember the life of a little boy whose body was left there. 19-month-old Anthony Raine was found covered with a blanket outside the back of the north Edmonton church. On Tuesday night, a crowd met around a memorial of flowers, toys, candles and notes to the toddler. Police have charged Anthony's father, Joseph Crier, 26, and his father's girlfriend, Tasha-Lee Mack, 25, with second-degree murder. Anthony died from head injuries. Police think that the toddler's body, which was covered in bruises, was at the church for three days before he was found. Princess Crier, Anthony's aunt, says "Both sides of the family are hurting over this. There's no words to explain what has happened. It's amazing how there's a lot of people out there who care."	0:13
Story 2	A Canadian soldier is dead after a training accident at CFB Wainwright. The accident happened Tuesday as Sergeant Robert Dynerowicz and three other soldiers were driving a light armoured vehicle through a training area at the base in east-central Alberta. Colonel Conrad Mialkowski says weather and road conditions may have been a factor in the accident. He says it was snowing at the time -- and the gravel road they were on was muddy and slick. The soldiers are members of the Royal Canadian Dragoons based at Canadian Forces Base Petawawa, near Ottawa. This is the fifth death at the training base since 2005.	1:28
Story 3	Canada and the U.S. may be heading for a trade war, or, at least a big battle. The U.S. is planning new tariffs on softwood lumber entering the U.S. from Canada as disagreements over trade between the two countries increase. The U.S. and Canada usually enjoy a friendly trading relationship, but things have gotten worse in recent months. President Donald Trump has been complaining about Canada's dairy policies, saying that Canada is making life "very difficult" for American dairy farmers and that the U.S. government "will not stand" for it. Lumber and dairy issues were also problems under previous U.S. presidents. In softwood lumber, the countries have had several previous disagreements. Alberta Forestry Minister Oneil Carlier says "It's very disappointing our neighbour to the south has chosen this course of action." The Alberta Forest Products Association estimates there are 18,000 jobs directly linked to forestry in the province.	2:26

Answer keys

News story 1   Remembering Anthony (0:13)
Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
e	**crowd (n.)**	a) baby, child
h	**memorial (n.)**	b) occurred, taken place
a	**toddler (n.)**	c) accuse, allege
c	**charge (v.)**	d) blue, black skin
i	**injury (n.)**	e) group, mass
d	**bruise (n.)**	f) surprising, wonderful
g	**hurting (n.)**	g) grieving, feeling sadness
b	**happened (v.)**	h) remembrance, display
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Listening

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News story 2   Soldier dies at training base (1:28)
Vocabulary

1. There are three Canadian Army **bases** in Alberta.

2. These places are used for the **training** of soldiers.

3. Soldiers begin as **sergeants** in the army. After years of service, some soldiers become **colonels**.

4. A person's decision to join the army could be influenced by many **factors**, such as job security, family and beliefs.

5. The working **conditions** in the Canadian Army are very good, but going overseas can be very difficult.

6. The roads in the countryside are not paved, they are only sand and **gravel.**

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Listening
1. __F__ An American soldier is dead after a training accident in CFB Wainwright.

2. __F__ The accident happened last Thursday.

3. __T__ Sergeant Dynerowicz and three others were driving a light armoured vehicle.

4. __F__ They were driving through a training area at the base in northeast Alberta.

5. __T__ Colonel Mialkowski says the weather and road conditions may have been a factor in the accident.

6. __F__ He says it was raining at the time.

7. __F__ The highway road they were on was muddy and slick.

8. __T__ The soldiers are members of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, based near Ottawa.

9. __F__ This is the fifteenth death at the training base since 2005.

News story 3   Canada – U.S. trade war? (2:26)
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Answer	Vocabulary word	Definition
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