

# Weekly Newscast Lesson Plan



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



## Calgary

## May 8, 2017

### 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      Calgary explores 2026 Olympic bid (0:12)

### Setting the Scene



Canadian figure skater Brian Orser at the opening ceremonies of the XV Olympic Winter Games in Calgary on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 1988 (Paul Chiasson/Canadian Press) (CBC file photos)

The Olympic Games are a popular event for Canada. Many Canadians watch the games and follow the careers of the athletes. At the Summer Olympics, Canada often wins medals in athletics (such as running), rowing and swimming. At the Winter Olympics, Canada often wins medals in hockey, skating, skiing and curling. Canada has hosted the Olympic games three times: the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal; the 1998 Winter Olympics in Calgary; and the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

### Pre-listening Questions

Do you like watching the Olympics? Which sport is your favourite?

Do you know any Canadian Olympic athletes? Why are they famous?

What do you know about the 1988 Calgary Olympics?

## 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 National Music Centre will **host** several concerts this summer.
  - a. attend an event that others have organized
  - b. organize an event that others can attend
2. If the meeting has more than ten people, I think we need a **chair**. We can't run it ourselves.
  - a. guest or visitor
  - b. leader or organizer
3. This project will be complicated. You should form a **committee** to make decisions together.
  - a. a group of people chosen to do a job
  - b. a group of people chosen to interview for a job
4. Martha is going to Vancouver to meet with our clients. She will send me an **update** after the meeting.
  - a. a report of recent information
  - b. a report of a bill or money owing
5. The city wants to build new energy-efficient offices. Tom's building company placed a **bid** to do the job.
  - a. an offer to sell materials
  - b. an offer to do a job with certain conditions (e.g., price, schedule)
6. Canada, on **average**, wins more Winter Olympics medals than Summer Olympics medals.
  - a. a number that is unexpected or disappointing
  - b. a number or level that is typical of a group or series
7. Calgary is known as a driving city. Even so, a government **report** says that Calgary has the fewest traffic jams in Canada.
  - a. an official document that gives information about a topic
  - b. an official request for more information about a topic

### **Extra words to help you better understand the listening:**

**rink** – a sports arena with ice, used for hockey and other ice sports

**in good shape** – not damaged or broken; can be used easily

**We encourage you to study these new words using this link:** [https://quizlet.com/\\_3fnn9k](https://quizlet.com/_3fnn9k)

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. \_\_\_\_ To host the Olympic games, Calgary would need a new rink and ski lift.
2. \_\_\_\_ This report came from the chair of the committee looking into hosting.
3. \_\_\_\_ Calgary has not decided if it will try to host the Olympics again.
4. \_\_\_\_ Calgary would have to make an official bid for the 2026 Summer Olympics.
5. \_\_\_\_ According to Rick Hanson, they already know what it would cost taxpayers.
6. \_\_\_\_ The committee compared the costs of the past four Winter Olympics.
7. \_\_\_\_ The average cost of those Olympic Games was 3.2 million dollars.
8. \_\_\_\_ Hanson says the cost of the 2026 games will definitely be less for Calgary.
9. \_\_\_\_ He says some of Calgary's old Olympic facilities can still be used.
10. \_\_\_\_ Calgary hosted the Winter Olympics before, in 1998.
11. \_\_\_\_ Hanson says there are more sporting events now than in 1988.
12. \_\_\_\_ He says a final report will go to City Council by mid-June.

### **Food for Thought**

How would hosting the 2026 Olympics benefit Calgary and Canada?

What are some disadvantages of hosting the Olympics?

If the city has to build new Olympic facilities, how can Calgary re-use those structures after the games?



## News story #2      Alberta begins \$25-a-day daycare program (1:12)

### Setting the Scene



Alberta Premier Rachel Notley visits the Intercultural Child and Family Centre in Edmonton (CBC) (CBC file photo)

For many Canadian families, daycare is a concern. Across the country, families struggle with daycare options for their young children. In many places, there aren't enough daycares to serve all the families in a community. Also, daycare facilities can be very expensive, especially for families who don't have much extra money. This issue is a concern for city, provincial and federal governments. Alberta recently announced a \$25-a-day daycare option in the province. This plan is supposed to help families who struggle with daycare costs. It will also create new jobs in Alberta.

### Pre-listening Questions

Do you have children in daycare? Do you think the service is good?

What are the benefits of sending children to daycare instead of staying at home?

In your home country, is daycare common? Or are children mostly at home with family?

## 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.*

<b>reduced (adj.)</b>	made lower
<b>roughly (adv.)</b>	more or less; approximately
<b>critical (adj.)</b>	noting problems and faults of something
<b>expanded (v.)</b>	increased in size or amount
<b>include (v.)</b>	has, contains
<b>financing (n.)</b>	money available for a project, service, or business

1. Most daycare services in Canada are fun for children. They \_\_\_\_\_ games, activities, stories, music and playtime.
2. Some Canadians are \_\_\_\_\_ of daycare systems in Canada. They say the government isn't giving enough support to families. They want more \_\_\_\_\_ for affordable daycare.
3. Families with two working parents often need \_\_\_\_\_ daycare services. They need daycare for younger children, and they need care between working hours, usually 8:00am and 5:00pm.
4. In some cities, parents who want to use daycare services have to wait \_\_\_\_\_ two years. That wait time could be \_\_\_\_\_ if more daycares were built.

### Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

**pilot program** – a small test program, used to see if a larger program can be run

**low income** – a low amount of money earned

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## Listening Activity

### Matching

Read the amounts below. As you listen to the audio, complete the sentences by matching the amount with the correct information that follows.

*Answers are in the appendix.*

Amount	Information
25	• • age range of mothers who can use the program
2 dozen	• • the number of new jobs created
15-21	• • the amount of need for the program, according to Paige MacPherson
1000	• • daily cost of childcare in the pilot program
230	• • the cost of the pilot program
10 million	• • number of daycares where the program is running
0	• • the approximate number of new daycare spaces created

### Food for thought

Do you think this pilot will be successful? Why or why not?

What are some features of a good daycare program?

Do you know other services to help young mothers? What kind of services do they need?

### News story #3 Defence Minister admits to false claims (2:18)

#### Setting the Scene



Canadian Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan (Fred Chartrand/Canadian Press) (CBC file photo)

Canada's Defence Minister, Harjit Sajjan, had an interesting career before entering politics. He worked as a detective for the Vancouver Police Department. He was also a commander in the Canadian Armed Forces. During his time in the army, Sajjan did tours in Afghanistan. Last month, Sajjan spoke at a conference in India about peacekeeping. He said that he had a very important role in a big 2006 military operation called Operation Medusa. This news was reported in Canadian media. Sajjan is now being criticized for not telling the truth about his role in Medusa.

#### Pre-listening Questions

Why are people upset about Sajjan's claims?

Can you think of any other Canadian politicians who have been caught in a lie?

In your country, how does the media react when politicians make false claims?



## 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>
_____	<b>battlefield (n.)</b>	a) the act of quitting officially
_____	<b>demanded (v.)</b>	b) done or happened again and again
_____	<b>resignation (n.)</b>	c) said that something is true (when it is not proven)
_____	<b>falsely (adv.)</b>	d) said that something must be done
_____	<b>claimed (v.)</b>	e) a meeting with a reporter, to get information for news
_____	<b>architect (n.)</b>	f) the feeling that someone or something is good
_____	<b>interview (n.)</b>	g) the location where people are fighting
_____	<b>repeatedly (adv.)</b>	h) someone who designs a plan or project
_____	<b>confidence (n.)</b>	i) in an untrue way

### Extra words to help you better understand the listening:

**the opposition** – in politics, the party that holds the second-most seats in government

**came to light** – became clear; became public

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

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## Listening Activity

### **Short Answer**

Read the questions below. Listen to the audio and answer the questions.

*Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Which government body met again?
2. Who demanded Harjit Sajjan's resignation?
3. Sajjan claimed he was the architect of what type of project?
4. When did he first make that comment?
5. When and where did he make the comment again?
6. Did he apologize?
7. What is Operation Medusa?
8. When did Operation Medusa take place?
9. Does Justin Trudeau want Sajjan to quit his job?

### **Food for thought**

Why do you think Sajjan made this claim?

What can Sajjan do to fix this situation?

Do you think Prime Minister Trudeau is right to stand by Sajjan?

## Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	MAY WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi. I'm Ron Nicolson, and this is Learning English with the CBC for May 8 <sup>th</sup> , with stories that made news over the past week.	0:00
Story 1	If Calgary wants to host the Olympic Games again, it would need a new rink and ski jump, says the chair of the committee looking into that possibility. The committee gave an update on its work to decide whether Calgary should go forward with an official bid for the 2026 Winter Olympics. But Rick Hanson says they don't yet know what it would cost taxpayers. He says they compared the costs of the past four Winter Games and found those Games cost, on average, about 3.2 billion dollars. But Hanson says the cost of the 2026 games could be less than that, because some of the facilities from the 1988 Olympics are still in good shape. However, he says the number of sporting events has grown since then, and more facilities would be needed. A final report will go to city council by mid-July.	0:12
Story 2	The Alberta government has begun its 25-dollar-a-day childcare pilot program. Parents will pay reduced fees at almost two dozen daycares around the province, including the Louise Dean Centre in Calgary. It will provide spaces for young mothers between the ages of 15 and 21. The government says the program has created roughly one thousand new child spaces and 230 new jobs. But the Canadian Taxpayers Federation is critical of the 10 million dollar price tag. Alberta director Paige MacPherson says there is no need for the program because there is already a system in place, which can be expanded to include people on low income. Premier Rachel Notley has said she hopes to expand the program, depending on how the pilot works out, and on the financing available.	1:12
Story 3	Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan walked into a different kind of battlefield as the House of Commons met again. The opposition demanded his resignation after he falsely claimed he was the architect of a major mission in Afghanistan. Sajjan made the comment in an interview in 2015, and again last month in a speech in India. He has apologized repeatedly since it came to light that he took credit for Operation Medusa, a major offensive against the Taliban in 2006. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says he continues to have full confidence in the Defence Minister.	2:18

## Answer keys

### News story 1      Calgary explores 2026 Olympic bid (0:12)

#### Vocabulary

- The National Music Centre will **host** several concerts this summer.
  - attend an event that others have organized
  - organize an event that others can attend
- If the meeting has more than ten people, I think we need a **chair**. We can't run it ourselves.
  - guest or visitor
  - leader or organizer
- This project will be complicated. You should form a **committee** to make decisions together.
  - a group of people chosen to do a job
  - a group of people chosen to interview for a job
- Martha is going to Vancouver to meet with our clients. She will send me an **update** after the meeting.
  - a report of recent information
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- The city wants to build new energy-efficient offices. Tom's building company placed a **bid** to do the job.
  - an offer to sell materials
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- Canada, on **average**, wins more Winter Olympics medals than Summer Olympics medals.
  - a number that is unexpected or disappointing
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- Calgary is known as a driving city. Even so, a government **report** says that Calgary has the fewest traffic jams in Canada.
  - an official document that gives information about a topic
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#### Listening

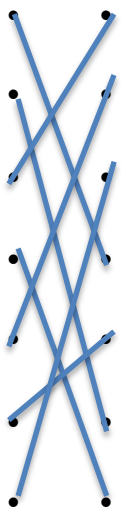
- F To host the Olympic games, Calgary would need a new rink and ski lift.
- T This report came from the chair of the committee looking into hosting.
- T Calgary has not decided if it will try to host the Olympics again.
- F Calgary would have to make an official bid for the 2026 Summer Olympics.
- F According to Rick Hanson, they already know what it would cost taxpayers.
- T The committee compared the costs of the past four Winter Olympics.
- T The average cost of those Olympic Games was 3.2 million dollars.
- F Hanson says the cost of the 2026 games will definitely be less for Calgary.
- T He says some of Calgary's old Olympic facilities can still be used.
- F Calgary hosted the Winter Olympics before, in 1998.
- T Hanson says there are more sporting events now than in 1988.
- F He says a final report will go to City Council by mid-June.

**News story 2            Alberta begins \$25-a-day daycare program (1:12)**

**Vocabulary**

1. Most daycare services in Canada are fun for children. They include games, activities, stories, music, and playtime.
2. Some Canadians are critical of daycare systems in Canada. They say the government isn't giving enough support to families. They want more financing for affordable daycare.
3. Families with two working parents often need expanded daycare services. They need daycare for younger children, and they need care between working hours, usually 8:00am and 5:00pm.
4. In some cities, parents who want to use daycare services have to wait roughly two years. That wait time could be reduced if more daycares were built.

**Listening**

<b>Amount</b>		<b>Information</b>
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## Vocabulary

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<b>h</b>	<b>architect (n.)</b>	f) the feeling that someone or something is good
<b>e</b>	<b>interview (n.)</b>	g) the location where people are fighting
<b>b</b>	<b>repeatedly (adv.)</b>	h) someone who designs a plan or project
<b>f</b>	<b>confidence (n.)</b>	i) in an untrue way

## Listening

- Which government body met again?  
*the House of Commons*
- Who demanded Harjit Sajjan's resignation?  
*the opposition*
- Sajjan claimed he was the architect of what type of project?  
*a major (military) mission*
- When did he first make that comment?  
*in 2015 (in an interview)*
- When and where did he make the comment again?  
*last month, in India*
- Did he apologize?  
*Yes - repeatedly*
- What is Operation Medusa?  
*a major offensive against the Taliban*
- When did Operation Medusa take place?  
*2006*
- Does Justin Trudeau want Sajjan to quit his job?  
*No – he has full confidence in Sajjan*