

NEWSPAPER LANGUAGE – HEADLINE ENGLISH

National papers in UK can be characterized as belonging to one of two distinct categories: the quality papers, or broadsheets and the popular papers, or tabloids. They use larger headlines and write in a simpler style of English. Broadsheets devote much space to politics and other serious news, the tabloids concentrate on human interest stories, often on sex and scandal. Both types devote equal amounts of attention to sport. The broadsheets are twice as large as the tabloids.

TASK: divide the following newspapers into tabloids or broadsheets:

The Daily Mirror, the Guardian, The Daily Mail, The Sun, The Independent, The Times, The Daily Express, The Daily Telegraph, The Financial Times, The Star:

Tabloids:

broadsheets:

Newspaper English differs from general English, as the journalists must express main ideas in short articles. They try to catch the reader's eye by using as few words in a headline as possible. The language of headlines is therefore unusual in a number of ways.

- Grammar words like articles or auxiliary verbs are often left out / Royal Family quits/
- A simple form of a verb is used /Queen Opens Hospital Today/
- The infinitive is used to express the future /President to visit Iran/

Newspaper articles and headlines use a lot of distinctive vocabulary:

Newspaper word	meaning	newspaper word	meaning
Aid	help	key	essential
Axe	cut, remove	link	connection
Back	support	bar	exclude, forbid
Bid	attempt	oust	push out
Blast	explosion	blaze	fire
Plea	request	boost	encourage
Clash	dispute	ploy	clever activity
Curb	limit	probe	investigation
Drive	campaign, effort	quit	leave, resign
Go-ahead	approval	hit	affect badly
Riddle	mystery	strife	conflict
Threat	danger	vow	promise
Wed	marry	gems	jewels

NOTE: Newspaper headlines often use abbreviations, e.g. PM = Prime Minister, MP = Member of Parliament....

TASK 1

Match the headlines with their topics:

Headlines

1. PM BACKS PEACE PLAN
2. MP SPY DRAMA

topics

- a. marriage of famous actress
- b. royal jewels are stolen

3. SPACE PROBE FAILS
4. QUEEN'S GEMS RIDDLE
5. STAR WEDS
6. KEY WITNESS DEATH THREAT

- c. person who saw crime in danger
- d. proposal to end war
- e. satellite is not launched
- f. politician sells secrets to enemy

TASK 2

Explain the meaning of the following headlines:

SHOP BLAZE 5 DEAD

MOVE TO CREATE MORE JOBS

GO-AHEAD FOR WATER CURBS

BID TO OUST PM

PRINCE VOWS TO BACK FAMILY

NEW TENNIS CLASH

BOMB BLAST CENTRAL LONDON