

# WORDS IN THE NEWS

## Teacher's pack



**BBC WORLD SERVICE**  
LEARNING ENGLISH



# Words in the News

## Carol Thatcher wins TV show – 07 December 2005

(story link: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2005/12/051207\\_cthatcher.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2005/12/051207_cthatcher.shtml))

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Words in the News – Carol Thatcher wins TV show – 07 December 2005 – Intermediate Reading Skills  
 Core materials Lesson Plan

	Activity	Approx time in mins	Teacher	Boardwork
P R E R E A D I N G  T E X T		5	Generate interest about today's topic by asking students about reality TV. Do they watch it? Do they like it? Is it just cheap TV? Does it encourage bad behaviour?	
	Pre-teach essential vocabulary	10	<p>Elicit/present key vocabulary that students need either to understand the key points in the text or to understand and/or answer any questions that you'll set them later in the lesson. The vocabulary is from Words in the News (so you can elicit the vocabulary by using the explanations provided online or below). You could either pre-teach the vocabulary at this stage of the lesson or you could use the vocabulary building activity from further down this lesson plan. Have students working in small groups together and ask them to try to match the vocabulary with the definitions. Encourage them to work with the other groups to pool their knowledge. When they have done as much as they can, if they have dictionaries, ask them to look up the words to check their answers and to find out the definitions of any words they were not sure of. If not, check their answers and give them help with any words they aren't sure of. Whichever method you use to elicit/present the vocabulary, you should then model it (say it clearly, highlighting the word stress) and get them to repeat the words after you.</p> <p><b>I'm a Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here</b>          A real-life (or reality) television programme which features well known personalities living together in unusual places like the</p>	



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Activity	Approx time in mins	Teacher	Boardwork
		<p><b>jungle</b>  <b>showed the spirit of an iron lady</b>          demonstrated that she had a very strong will and personality          (Margaret Thatcher was also known as "the iron lady")</p> <p><b>being caught on camera</b>          having your photograph taken without knowing about it</p> <p><b>So what would mother have made of it all?</b>          What would her mother have thought about the reality television show?</p> <p><b>my ma's sort of programme</b>          my mother's first choice of television programme</p> <p><b>she was glued to every episode</b>          she watched every programme with great interest</p> <p><b>unlikely national treasure</b>          someone who would not be considered to be a much loved personality by the British public</p> <p><b>a true British eccentric</b></p>	

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Activity	Approx time in mins	Teacher	Boardwork
		<p>someone who has habits or opinions that other people think are slightly strange and show the real characteristics of British people</p> <p><b>an outsider to win</b>          someone who is definitely not expected to win</p> <p><b>the bookmakers</b>          people who take your money when you bet and give you money when you win</p>	
Written record	5 - 10	<p>Write the words on the board, eliciting spelling as you write.          Elicit and show the word stress of each item and word class, if appropriate.          Give students some time to copy your boardwork into their notebooks.</p>	<p><b>I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here</b></p> <p><b>showed the spirit of an iron lady</b></p> <p><b>being caught on camera</b></p> <p><b>So what would mother have made of it all?</b></p> <p><b>my ma's sort of programme</b></p>



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Activity	Approx time in mins	Teacher	Boardwork
			<p><b>she was glued to every episode</b></p> <p><b>unlikely national treasure</b></p> <p><b>a true British eccentric</b></p> <p><b>the bookmakers</b></p> <p><b>an outsider to win</b></p>
Set gist question Students read text the first time		<p>Tell the students they are going to read a text about the winner of a recent reality TV show in the UK called <i>I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here</i>.</p> <p>Give them a time limit (1 - 2 minutes) to read the text quickly to find the answer to the question on the board.</p>	<p>Everyone predicted that Carol Thatcher would win the TV show.</p> <p>True or false.</p>
Check answer	2 - 3	<p>Elicit students' answers and mark the correct answer on the board.</p> <p>Paragraph 3 says 'She was an outsider to win'</p>	<p>Everyone predicted that Carol Thatcher would win the TV show.</p> <p>True or <u>false</u>.</p>



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	Activity	Approx time in mins	Teacher	Boardwork
	Set specific information questions	5	Use worksheet A or the online quiz to help students understand the text in more detail. Give students a time limit (5 - 6 minutes) to read the text again in more detail and to answer the questions.	
	Check specific information answers	2	Elicit answers True or False. Direct attention to a particular paragraph if an answer is wrong, to try to elicit correct answer (see worksheet A and answer key).	
	Vocabulary consolidation/building	5	Before the lesson, make enough copies of worksheet B so that there is 1 worksheet for every 4 – 5 students. Cut up the vocabulary and explanations. In class, tell students to match the correct word with the right definition.	
	Check answers	2	Elicit answers. If an answer is wrong, ask other students to try to elicit correct answer.	
Total Time Approx		45 mins		



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	Activity	Approx time in mins	Teacher	Boardwork
	Grammar focus	5 - 10	Use worksheet C to focus on reported speech. Tell students to put the direct quotes from Carol into indirect speech.	
	Check answers	3	If an answer is wrong, ask other students to try to elicit correct answer. (see worksheet C and answer key)	
	Follow-up activity speaking	15	Recap on what students said at the beginning of the lesson about reality TV programmes. Tell students they are going to debate the "Reality TV...Get it out of Here". Divide the class in two, tell one half of the class to be pro reality TV and the other half, against it. Put the students in group of 5 or 6 and give them 5 - 7 minutes to prepare what they are going to say and make some notes, if they want to. When they have prepared, give them about 7 or 8 minutes to take it in turns to speak on the topic in pairs. While they are speaking, move around the room listening to them unobtrusively. Makes a note of any errors you hear.	
	Feedback		Give praise for content (e.g. who was the most convincing debaters). Give praise for correct examples you heard. Give feedback on incorrect examples you heard and elicit corrections.	Examples:  Reality TV is a waste of everyone's time. (P) It's just unharful fun (0)
Total time		30		



## Words in the News –Worksheet A

### Carol Thatcher wins TV show – 07 December 2005

Are the following questions true or false? Read the text again and circle the correct answer:

1.	Carol told her mother that she was going to be on the TV show 'I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here'.	T/F
2.	Carol showed how nervous she was when she completed some difficult tests on the show.	T/F
3.	Carol says it's unlikely that Margaret Thatcher will tell anyone what she thought of Carol being on the TV show.	T/F
4.	Margaret Thatcher loves reality TV shows and Carol thinks her mother watched every instalment of the celebrity show she was on.	T/F
5.	Some journalists think Carol is very special to the British, as well as unusual and interesting.	T/F
6.	People who accepted bets about Carol's success on the show made huge profits because everyone expected her to win.	T/F

This quiz is available online. Go to:

(story link [http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2005/12/051207\\_cthatcher.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2005/12/051207_cthatcher.shtml))

At the bottom of the page (Words in the News), follow the link [Do a comprehension test about this story](#)



## Words in the News – Worksheet B - Vocabulary

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Cut up the following vocabulary items. Ask students to match them correctly with the definitions.

1.	I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here
2.	showed the spirit of an iron lady
3.	being caught on camera
4.	So what would mother have made of it all?
5.	my ma's sort of programme
6.	she was glued to every episode
7.	unlikely national treasure
8.	a true British eccentric
9.	an outsider to win
10.	the bookmakers



## Words in the News – Worksheet B - Definitions

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Cut up the following definitions. Ask students to match them correctly with the vocabulary items.

A.	my mother's first choice of television programme
B.	someone who would not be considered to be a much loved personality by the British public
C.	What would her mother have thought about the reality television show?
D.	someone who is definitely not expected to win
E.	she watched every programme with great interest
F.	having your photograph taken without knowing about it
G.	A real-life (or reality) television programme which features well known personalities living together in unusual places like the jungle
H.	people who take your money when you bet and give you money when you win
I.	demonstrated that she had a very strong will and personality (Margaret Thatcher was also known as "the iron lady")
J.	someone who has habits or opinions that other people think are slightly strange and show the real characteristics of British people



## Words in the News – Worksheet C

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### Reported speech

When we want to tell someone what someone else has said we can either use direct speech or reported (or indirect) speech. Here are some examples from today's text:

Carol said "I don't think she was glued to every episode" - direct speech  
Carole says we'll probably never know. – indirect speech

### First verb

In reported speech the first verb is usually in the past tense for example:  
She said she enjoyed her time in the jungle.

### Verb forms

If the **present form** of a verb is used in the direct speech, we use a **past tense** form of it in reported speech. A past tense form in direct speech can change to a **past perfect** or can remain in the **past tense**:

'I am very happy to win to be on TV'  
She said she was very happy to be on TV

### That

You can leave out **that** in reported speech:  
Carole says we'll probably never know.  
Carole says **that** we'll probably never know.

### Pronouns

'I' in direct speech changes to **he** or **she** in reported speech:  
Carol said 'I'm very happy to have won'  
She said **she** was very happy to have won

Here are some comments Carol made about her appearance on the TV show. Imagine you are writing a letter to a friend telling him or her what Carol said. Use reported speech. The first one has been done for you:

1. I am amazed and astonished to win.  
*She said she was amazed and astonished to win.*
2. I think I coped with life in the jungle very well.

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3. I used to live in Australia and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

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4. I was very lucky with my fellow celebs.

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5. We were a very harmonious group.

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6. We all enjoyed it.

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7. The trials were a challenge.

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8. Eating the kangaroo testicle was a bit horrid.

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9. My mother doesn't know I'm on the show.

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10. I'm more interested in switching on the news now.

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## Words in the News

Scientists find giant squid – 28 September 2005

### Answers

#### Worksheet A

1. **False** – Paragraph 1 says 'Carol Thatcher reportedly never told her mother that she was going to the Australian jungle to appear on the show'.
2. **False** – Paragraph 1 says 'Carol ... showed the spirit of an iron lady, when it came to challenges'.
3. **True** – Paragraph 2 says 'So what would mother have made of it all? Carol says we'll probably never know'.
4. **False** – Paragraph 2 says 'I'm not too sure ... that this is my ma's sort of programme. I don't think she was glued to every episode.'
5. **True** – Paragraph 3 says 'Carol Thatcher is described ... as "an unlikely national treasure" and "a true British eccentric"'.
6. **False** – Paragraph 3 says 'She was an outsider to win and as a result the bookmakers have lost a good deal of money.'

#### Worksheet B

1.	G
2.	I
3.	F
4.	C
5.	A
6.	E
7.	B
8.	J
9.	D
10.	H

#### Worksheet C

1. She said (that) she was amazed and astonished to win.  
She said (that) she had been amazed and astonished to win.
2. She said (that) she coped with life in the jungle very well  
She said (that) she had coped with life in the jungle very well
3. She said (that) she used to live in Australia and (that) she thoroughly enjoyed it.  
She said (that) she had used to live in Australia and (that) she had thoroughly enjoyed it.
4. She said (that) she was very lucky with her fellow celebs.  
She said (that) she had been very lucky with her fellow celebs.
5. She said (that) they were a very harmonious group.  
She said (that) they had been a very harmonious group.
6. She said (that) they all enjoyed it.  
She said (that) they had all enjoyed it.
7. She said (that) the trials were a challenge.  
She said (that) the trials had been a challenge.
8. She said (that) eating the kangaroo testicle was a bit horrid.  
She said (that) eating the kangaroo testicle had been a bit horrid.
9. She said (that) her mother didn't know she was on the show.
10. She said (that) she was more interested in switching on the news now.

