

**Overview**

**Watch the video podcast. Which of the speakers have similar news interests and opinions on the media to you?**

**1** Read the sentences below about how Val usually gets her news. Then watch the video podcast from 0:11-0:31 and delete the incorrect word.

Hi. I start work <sup>1</sup> quite / very late, so in the mornings I <sup>2</sup> usually / normally read the papers or <sup>3</sup> look at / go on news web sites: it's important for me to <sup>4</sup> find out / learn what's <sup>5</sup> happening / going on in the world. Today, I'm <sup>6</sup> interviewing / asking people about the media and the news. How do you usually get your news?



**2** How do you usually get your news? Look at the people below and read the different forms of news media. Then watch the video podcast from 0:30-1:06 and match the people (A-F) to the news media they use (some people use more than one way to get their news).



A  
Joanna



B  
Adrian



C  
Mairi



D  
John



E  
Helen



F  
Taherali

- 1 Newspapers E.....
- 2 Television .....
- 3 Radio .....
- 4 Internet .....

**3** What kinds of news stories interest you most? Look at the people below and read what kinds of news stories they're interested in. Then watch the video podcast from 1:08-2:00 and match the people to the correct statements.



A  
Joanna



B  
Adrian



C  
Mairi



D  
Taherali



E  
John



F  
Helen

- 1 I do like sports.
- 2 I like a bit of celebrity gossip, just to break up the day.
- 3 I like to read about politics, of course, and what's happening in the country.
- 4 I don't enjoy the, sort of, more popular culture news stories.
- 5 I study conflict and development so I'm interested in world affairs.
- 6 ... it's very important to know what the health stories are ...

D

**4** How has modern technology and new media changed our relationship with the news? Look at the people below and read their answers. Then watch the video podcast from 2:02-2:45 and complete what they say.



Adrian

On my <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ I can go on the Internet and I can just see what the <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ are. I can see news developments as, as they happen, almost in <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.



John

There are many different <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ and therefore you often compare and contrast what different <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ are saying.



Taherali

Often you don't <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, so you don't have to – it doesn't discriminate against people who don't have money.



Mairi

We used to rely on the <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ from TV, from different outlets and now with things like Twitter people can spread <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, but it does run the risk that it's not always <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.

**5** In your opinion, does the media use its power responsibly? Look at the people below and read their answers. Then watch the video podcast from 2:48-3:45 and write true (T) or false (F) next to each answer.



A Adrian



B Joanna



C Mairi



D John

1 He thinks the media behaves responsibly most of the time.  
\_\_\_\_\_

2 He doesn't like news about celebrities.  
\_\_\_\_\_

3 She thinks the media itself doesn't understand how powerful it is. \_\_\_\_\_

4 She thinks the media uses its power irresponsibly everywhere in the world. \_\_\_\_\_

5 He is very satisfied with the way the news media reports stories about health. \_\_\_\_\_

**The way we speak**

6 The people below talk about the media. Read what they say and complete their sentences using words and phrases from the podcast with a similar meaning to the words in the brackets. Then watch the video podcast from 2:48-3:45 and check your answers.



Adrian

I think in general yes, but <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (sometimes) I think it's irresponsible. I think, for example when they <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (follow constantly famous people), for example, I don't think that's very responsible news. I don't even think it's very good news.



Joanna

I think the media has a lot of power and it doesn't always appreciate <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (how much) it can affect things.



John

In my area – I'm especially interested in the area of health – often you get these health stories about immunization or about some latest <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (panic) about cancer and this causes <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (a lot of fear), and yet when you go down to the real truth it's often based on very <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (weak, not convincing) foundations. So, I think the media do have a, a duty to use their power responsibly.

**Personalisation**

7 Write a short paragraph giving your views on the news media. Use Val's questions to help you.

- How do you usually get your news?
- What kinds of news stories interest you most and why?
- How has modern technology and new media (the internet, etc.) changed our relationship with the news?
- In your opinion, does the media use its power responsibly?

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**BBC LINK**

Police in the UK have begun using social media networks to inform the public and as an aid to investigation.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/8363064.stm>


