



# ICRT NEWS LUNCHBOX

## TEACHING GUIDE

For Teachers and Parents



# FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

ICRT's News Lunchbox program can be a useful tool in the classroom or at home to enhance students' English listening skills and vocabulary while expanding their general knowledge of the world around them.

This guide offers tips on using this resource effectively and provides some ideas for learning activities that can be adapted for any episode of News for Kids and News Bites.



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# SETTING THE LESSON GOAL

A well-defined lesson goal provides a clear direction and focus for both you and your students. When your students know what they're working towards, they're more likely to stay engaged. Here are some examples for your reference.

## VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to understand and use 10 new vocabulary words.

## LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Students will improve their listening skills and demonstrate their understanding by presenting a summary of the news event in speaking or writing.

## PRONUNCIATION PRACTICE

After listening to the podcast and practicing in class, students will be able to accurately pronounce and enunciate sentences in the script.

## DISCUSSION SKILLS

By the end of the class, students will successfully participate in a group discussion about the news topic and express their ideas and opinions using complete sentences.

## CRITICAL THINKING

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to analyze the script and express their own views on the topic, providing at least three reasons to support their opinion.

## CULTURAL AWARENESS

Students will be able to identify and discuss cultural points highlighted in the episode and compare it to their own experiences living in Taiwan.

# CHOOSING THE RIGHT EPISODE

Our ICRT News Lunchbox webpage has a useful search function that allows you to select specific topics that follow the MOE Curriculum and SDGs.

If you are targeting specific vocabulary, you may also search for episodes using the Keyword search function.



**Listen to the episode and look over the script to ensure it'll meet your lesson goal.**



## Warm-up Exercises

Before playing the episode in class, it's important to give students an idea of what they will hear. It's also a good opportunity to elicit knowledge that your students are already familiar with!



# HEADLINE HUNCHES

Write the news headline(s) on the board. Students should take a moment to discuss what they think the story will be about. Have them make a list of vocabulary words related to the subject. Alternatively, have them write complete sentences, and share them in a group.

## OBJECTIVE

Boost students' inferencing skills and vocabulary by deducing the content of a news story based on its headline.

## MATERIALS

- News for Kids or News Bites episode headline
- Whiteboard and markers
- Notebooks or paper for each student

## BENEFITS

- Sharpens inferencing and predictive skills.
- Expands vocabulary in a contextual and engaging manner.
- Encourages collaborative learning and discussion.
- Enhances listening and speaking abilities through group activities and sharing.

# BRAIN CHAIN

Introduce a word related to the podcast's topic, such as "recycling" for an environmental episode. Students then say a word that they associate with the previous word. For example, "recycling" might lead to "plastic," then "bottle," and so on. This game activates prior knowledge, stimulates creative thinking, and prepares students for the vocabulary and themes they'll encounter in the podcast. For more advanced students, a variation could involve associating words that start with the last letter of the previous word, adding an extra challenge to expand vocabulary.

## OBJECTIVE

Activate students' prior knowledge, stimulate associative thinking, and familiarize them with vocabulary and themes related to the podcast's content.

## MATERIALS

- A starter word that is central to the podcast's topic.
- Whiteboard and markers (optional, for keeping track of the chain).
- A bell or buzzer (optional, for timing purposes).

## BENEFITS

- Activates and refreshes students' existing knowledge related to the topic.
- Encourages quick thinking and vocabulary recall.
- Fosters collaborative and associative thinking.
- Preps students for the podcast by immersing them in related vocabulary and ideas.

# ACTIVITIES

## Playing the Episode

Listening to podcasts helps in learning a language. It lets students hear how people really talk, with different ways of speaking and new words. When we only read, we get visual hints. But with listening, we need to understand just by hearing. Students get to hear modern topics and the true sound of the language.

News for Kids ( 國小 )

Download

0:08 / 5:17

Playback speed

• News for Kids 文字檔 (國小)

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Life on Land

Environmental Education

Outdoor Education

Killer Frog Cancelled in North Carolina

Guys! Be careful... That's an African clawed frog! That thing's a killer! RUN!!!

Phew! Those frogs are very scary! They eat any animal they can. ANY animal! 這是非洲爪蛙，牠們很恐怖，什麼動物都吃。

Listen to this scientist...

Scientist: "I haven't found anything they won't eat... bugs and snails, tadpoles, other frogs, small fish... anything! Left alone... they would kill everything until you'd only find the clawed frog left. Then they'd begin eating each other."

科學家說，非洲爪蛙什麼都吃，包括昆蟲、蝸牛、蝌蚪、其他的青蛙、小魚等等。如果你把非洲爪蛙放在一起，牠們會把所有的動物殺光，然後開始吃同類！

African clawed frogs have long, sharp claws. They use them to rip up other animals!

非洲爪蛙有又長又尖銳的爪子，可以撕開獵物的身體。

In just 4 months this killer frog can lay thousands of eggs. The eggs turn into tadpoles. Some tadpoles become frog food...

這種青蛙四個月之內就可以生下好幾千顆卵，這些卵會孵化成蝌蚪，再變成更多非洲爪蛙！

These frogs smell very bad! They taste bad too. So no other animals eat them.

牠們又難聞又難吃，所以沒有動物會吃。



# WORD DETECTIVE

During the podcast, students should write down words they don't know. Emphasize that it's okay if the lists vary among students; everyone's vocabulary knowledge is different. After listening, list these words on a whiteboard. First, students should guess the meanings from how the words were used in the podcast. Next, check the real meanings in a dictionary. Then, ask students to make sentences with the new words. For extra practice, they can use these words in a short story as homework. In the next classes, review these words to help students remember them better.

## OBJECTIVE

Enhance vocabulary acquisition by identifying, noting, and defining unfamiliar words from the podcast episode.

## MATERIALS

- Notebooks or paper for each student
- A whiteboard or chart paper for the master list
- Dictionaries (print or online) for reference

## BENEFITS

- Allows students to actively engage with the content, making them more attentive listeners.
- Builds vocabulary in a contextual manner, ensuring better retention.
- Encourages collaborative learning, as students share and define words as a group.
- Fosters critical thinking, as students try to infer meanings based on context before looking up definitions.

# SENTENCE SCRAMBLE

Provide a number of sentences from the episode script in non-sequential order. You may choose to print them out or dictate them to your class. Ensure your students understand the sentences by going over any unfamiliar vocabulary words. You may also read the sentences out loud and have the students repeat after you.

Students should try to reorder the sentences in a way that makes sense to them.

## OBJECTIVE

Improve listening comprehension, sequencing skills, and vocabulary recognition by reconstructing the order of selected sentences from the podcast script.

## MATERIALS

- Selected sentences from the podcast episode.
- Printed copies of these sentences for each group or student (or you can dictate them).
- Audio playback device to play the podcast episode.

## BENEFITS

- Sharpens listening skills as students tune in to catch specific sentences during playback.
- Enhances comprehension by focusing on sequencing and logical flow.
- Introduces and reinforces new vocabulary in a contextual manner.
- Encourages collaboration and discussion, especially if done in groups.

# WHO SAYS WHAT

After playing a News Bites episode, read out sentences from the episode script. Students must guess which of the two hosts says the sentence. Then, play the episode again to confirm the answer. This exercise trains the students' active listening skills!

## OBJECTIVE

Enhance students' active listening skills by focusing on distinguishing between the voices and speaking styles of the two hosts.

## MATERIALS

- Selected sentences from the podcast episode that are clearly spoken by one of the two hosts.
- The podcast episode itself.
- Audio playback device.
- Whiteboard and markers (optional, for keeping track of guesses and results).

## BENEFITS

- Fosters active listening by directing focus on individual speaking nuances.
- Encourages careful attention to details in auditory stimuli.
- Provides a fun, game-like environment for practicing listening comprehension.
- Promotes group discussion and critical thinking about voice differentiation.

# TRUE OR FALSE

Play a podcast episode, having students listen closely to the content. Afterwards, read out a mix of pre-prepared "True or False" statements related to the podcast, with some being factual and others being fictional or exaggerated. Students jot down their answers, and then the class discusses the reasoning behind their choices. Once the debate concludes, reveal the correct answers and clarify any misconceptions. As an extension, students can craft their own "True or False" statements based on the podcast for additional practice or to challenge their peers.

## OBJECTIVE

Enhance listening comprehension and critical thinking by discerning factual statements from fictional ones.

## MATERIALS

- A podcast episode.
- Pre-prepared "True or False" statements based on the podcast content.
- Paper and pencils for each student or participant.

## BENEFITS

- Develops listening comprehension in a focused manner.
- Encourages critical thinking and discernment.
- Facilitates group interaction and collaborative reasoning.
- Makes learning about current events and news more engaging.

# NEWS GAPS

Prepare a transcript with blanks in key or challenging phrases. Inform students they'll fill these gaps as they listen. Play the podcast once for general understanding, then distribute the modified transcripts. On a second playback, students fill in the gaps. Afterward, let them compare answers with peers. Conclude by discussing the correct answers and the context of each filled word or phrase, and consider an extension where students craft their own sentences or blank-filled excerpts.

## OBJECTIVE

Enhance students' listening comprehension and vocabulary recall by having them fill in missing words or phrases from a news podcast transcript.

## MATERIALS

- A transcript of the selected podcast episode with certain words or phrases blanked out.
- Audio playback device to play the podcast.
- Pens or pencils for students.

## BENEFITS

- Encourages focused and active listening.
- Aids in vocabulary retention by prompting students to recall words based on context.
- Fosters collaborative learning during peer reviews.
- Provides an engaging way to interact with real-world news content.



# ACTIVITIES



## Evaluation

After hearing a podcast, it's important to think about it and see what we understood. This helps us know our strong and weak points. "Evaluation" tasks let us dive deeper into what we heard. They make sure we really got the main ideas and help us think more about the content. This makes us better listeners and thinkers.

# BROADCAST BREAKDOWN

Students transform into news anchors by first listening to a podcast episode, taking detailed notes on key points. After reviewing their notes, they collaborate in groups or pairs, sharing outlines and refining their summaries. Each student then crafts a concise news report and presents it to the class in true anchor style. Presentations can optionally be recorded for reflective feedback. The activity wraps up with a discussion on the nuances of news reporting and insights gained from the exercise.

## OBJECTIVE

Enhance students' listening comprehension, recall, and presentation skills by having them listen to, summarize, and then present news stories from the podcast.

## MATERIALS

- An episode of News for Kids or News Bites.
- Audio playback device.
- Notebook and pens/pencils for students.
- (Optional) A video camera or recording device for capturing student presentations.

## BENEFITS

- Enhances listening skills with a focus on comprehension and recall of details.
- Builds confidence in public speaking and presentation.
- Promotes collaboration and constructive feedback.
- Offers real-world application of listening and speaking skills.

# NEWS NARRATIVES

Begin with a short segment of a News for Kids or News Bites episode. Students listen without note-taking and then attempt to retell the story verbally. After discussing the accuracy and main points, the segment is replayed for a second round of retelling and refining. This cycle continues with varying segments. For added challenge, introduce a timed retelling to enhance fluency. Conclude with a reflection on learned vocabulary and retelling strategies.

## OBJECTIVE

Enhance students' listening comprehension, memory retention, and verbal fluency by having them listen to, internalize, and then verbally reproduce segments of the news podcast.

## MATERIALS

- An episode of News for Kids or News Bites.
- Audio playback device.
- Notebook and pens/pencils for students.
- (Optional) A stopwatch or timer.

## BENEFITS

- Reinforces listening comprehension skills.
- Challenges memory and recall.
- Provides structured practice in verbal fluency and storytelling.
- Exposes students to real-world language in context.

# PODCAST REVIEW

Students listen to a News for Kids or News Bites episode, critically evaluating its content, delivery, and relevance. After noting their insights, they draft reviews addressing guiding questions. They exchange these drafts with peers for feedback and then refine their comments. **Students can post their finalized reviews on the podcast's website comment section.**

## OBJECTIVE

Encourage students to critically engage with the podcast content, practice written communication skills, and share their perspectives on your website's comment section.

## MATERIALS

- Access to the News Lunchbox landing page.
- Computers/tablets with internet access

## BENEFITS

- Promotes critical thinking and active engagement with content.
- Enhances written communication skills.
- Provides authentic interaction with the broader community of podcast listeners.
- Boosts confidence as students see their opinions valued in a public forum.



[www.icrt.com.tw/app/news-lunchbox/](http://www.icrt.com.tw/app/news-lunchbox/)

# THANKS FOR TUNIN' IN!

Whether you're a teacher, a parent, or even a student yourself, following the tips and activities in this guide can make your News Lunchbox experience more interactive and educational. So go ahead, tune in, and turn your daily news intake into a fun learning adventure. Remember, every episode is a new chance to grow smarter and more informed about the world. Happy listening!

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