

# Features of a Newspaper



Look at the **Features of a Newspaper Report Activity Sheet**.

Discuss this headline with your partner using the checklist to help you decide which techniques have been used.



## Out of This World Express

25<sup>th</sup> December 2015

### APOLLO-GIES FROM OUTER SPACE!

Pensioner receives Christmas Eve telephone call from astronaut in mix-up. by Martin Gilson

Yesterday, Tim Peake tried to call home from the International Space Station (ISS) but accidentally dialled the wrong number due to a technical blunder.

Major Peake was intending to call his family with a festive greeting but a 'spreadsheet error' resulted in him ringing the West Sussex landline of retired teacher, Betty Barker. When he began the conversation with, "Hello, is that planet Earth?", Mrs Barker was convinced she had received a prank call. The call was made at around 11 p.m. British time and she explained to reporters that she immediately assumed the caller was a Christmas Eve reveller, asking about a pub or club called 'Planet Earth'. After replying, "No," to the British astronaut's question, the puzzled pensioner hung up the call.

It was not until the next day that Mrs Barker discovered the identity of the mystery caller, when her husband, Pat, 84, saw the story reported on the eight o'clock morning news. The grandmother expressed her amazement at being called by the high-profile ISS crew member, saying, "It's been a bit unbelievable to be thrust into this situation."



The International Space Station is Peake's base for the next five and half months.

Peake, who has been in space since 15<sup>th</sup> December, realised there had been a mistake and apologised on Twitter, describing it as, "Not a prank call... just a wrong number!" He explained that his list of telephone contacts had been entered into a spreadsheet which had rounded up the number, resulting in the mistake.

Fortunately, the widely-viewed Christmas Day video message sent by the British astronaut and his fellow ISS crew members, Scott Kelly and Tim Kopra, was free from technological errors! Peake is the first British astronaut to spend Christmas in space and is due to return from his historic journey in June next year.

# Features of a Newspaper



What features did you find?

Did you notice that although newspaper reports are mostly in the past tense that some parts are not?

For example, the caption underneath the photograph is often written in the present tense and the concluding paragraph often incorporates the present tense and the future tense to say what might happen next.

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# 5 Ws

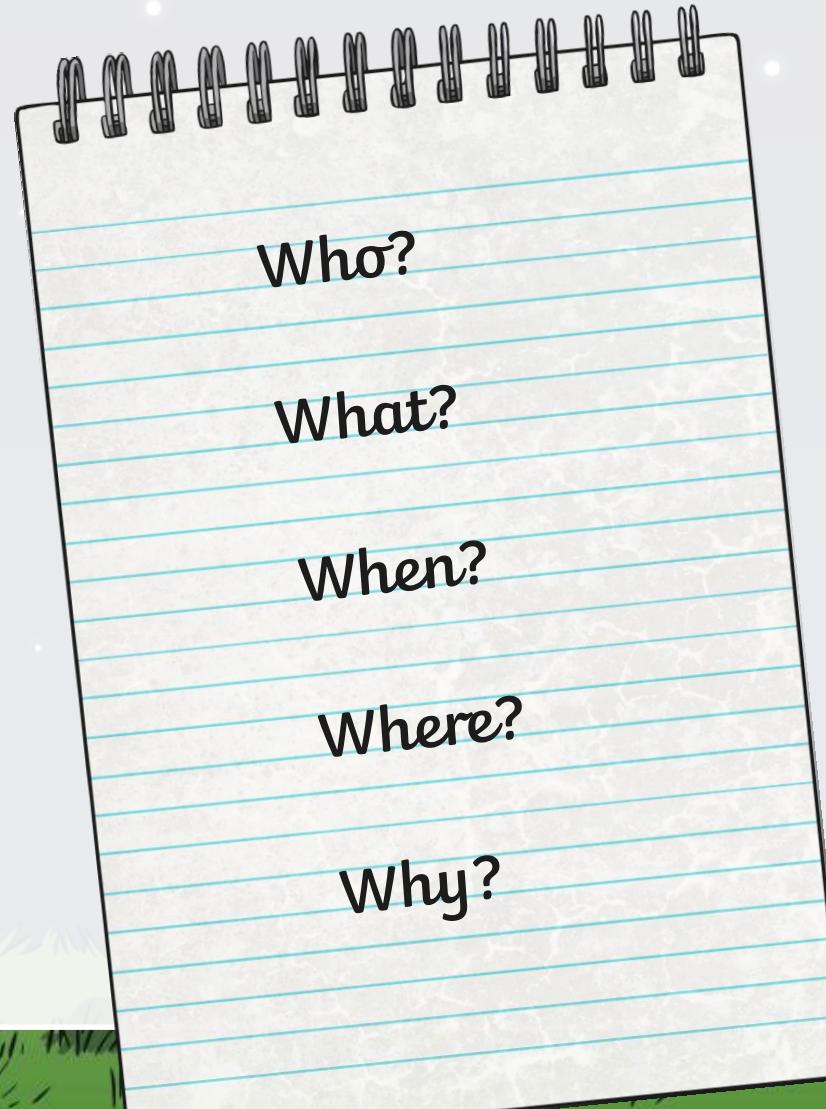


All newspaper reports start with an introduction.

These introductions should provide the reader with all the key information about the story.

We say that 5 Ws are answered in an opening paragraph in newspaper reports.

Which questions words beginning with 'W' do you think need to be answered in the first paragraph?



# 5 Ws



Can you identify the 5 Ws of the newspaper report?

Yesterday, Tim International accidentally dropped a technical blun

Who?

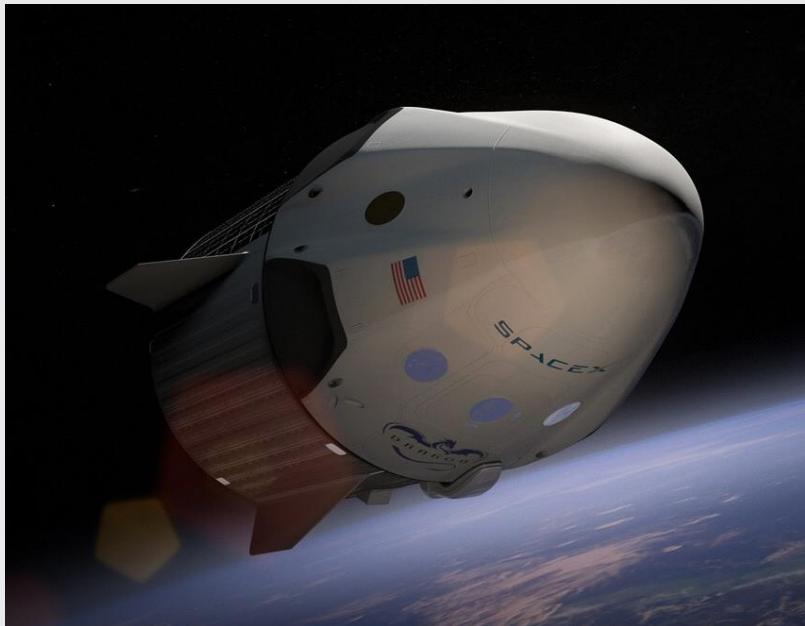
What?



# 5 Ws



Let's turn these facts into an introductory paragraph. Can you say aloud an opening paragraph with your partner?



**Who?** American Astronauts

**What?** Sent a shuttle to Mars

**When?** Yesterday

**Where?** Texas, USA

**Why?** Find out more about Mars

Yesterday, American astronauts launched an exploration probe from Texas, USA, in the hope that they might find out more information about the mysterious planet, Mars.

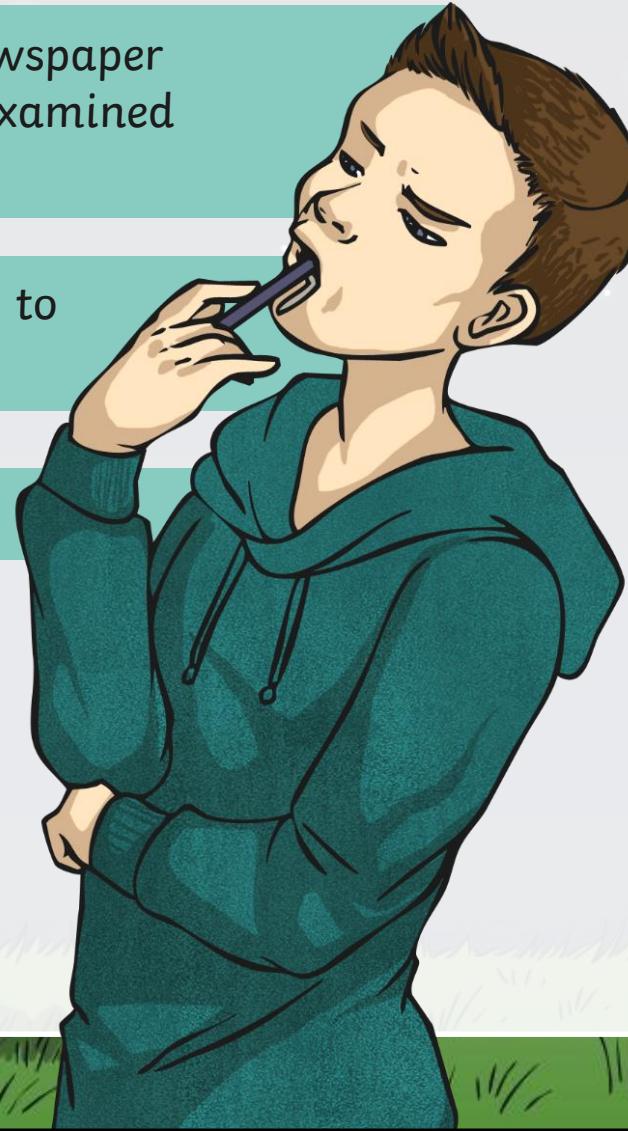
# Name the Features



Today we have explored the features of newspaper reports, looked at effective headlines and examined what is meant by the 5 Ws.

Can you list the features you would expect to find in a newspaper report?

Jot down your ideas on your whiteboard.



# Name the Features



How many of these features did you manage to list?

**A newspaper report should:**

- ✓ include the name of the newspaper;
- ✓ include a headline that uses pun, rhyme or alliteration;
- ✓ include a sub-headline which gives a bit more information;
- ✓ include a 'byline' (the writer's name);
- ✓ include an introductory paragraph that includes the 5 Ws;
- ✓ include pictures with captions;
- ✓ include a commentary of the main events;
- ✓ write in third person and past tense;
- ✓ include direct and reported speech;
- ✓ include a conclusion paragraph to explain what might happen next.