

## Welcome to the CBC Newscast Lesson!

The CBC EAL Newscast is a listening lesson for students who are learning English. The lessons are for students who are at Canadian Language Benchmarks 3 and 4 (high beginner / low intermediate). Each newscast has a lesson file and an audio file.

### The Lesson File

You will need to print the lesson file first. Here's what you will find in each lesson.

#### 1. A vocabulary match exercise for each story

Learning new vocabulary before you listen makes it easier for you to understand the story.

#### 2. Questions on the main ideas or details of each story

Can you listen to a news story and understand the main ideas? Are you hearing the most important details? Answer the questions and find out!

#### 3. A transcript for the newscast

If you are having difficulty understanding the story when you listen, you can use the transcript to help you.

#### 4. Answers to the questions in the lesson

The answers are at end of the lesson on page 5.

#### 5. An internet link or other resource suggestion

Some stories will have an internet link or suggest another resource you can use to find more information.

*(Note: CBC does not endorse and is not responsible for the content of external websites)*

### The Audio File

Click on this file to hear three real world news stories read by a CBC news reader. The first is a Manitoba story. The second is a Canadian story. The third is an international story. All of the stories are in the same audio file

There are new stories and lessons every Thursday.

**Now you are ready to begin. Read on!**

## Story 1: New Muslim families want kids excluded from certain school activities

**Step 1: Learn new vocabulary.** Learning new vocabulary before you listen makes it easier for you to understand the story. Can you match these vocabulary words with their meaning? The first one is completed for you as an example.

Vocabulary Word		Meaning
1. <u>e</u> to be excluded	a)	to try to do what someone has asked you to do
2. ___ certain activities	b)	to divide into different groups
3. ___ a co-ed class	c)	a geographic area governed by a school board
4. ___ an elementary school	e)	to not be allowed to take part in something
5. ___ a school division	f)	a school for younger children
6. ___ to separate	h)	to be considered necessary or essential
7. ___ to accommodate someone	i)	specific or particular activities
8. ___ to be required	j)	a class where both male and female students participate

**Step 2: Listen to the first story** in the audio file. Focus on listening for the main ideas and key information. Listen as many times as you need to.

**Step 3: Answer questions about the story.** Which of the following statements about the story are true? Which are false? Underline or circle the correct answer. The first one is completed for you as an example.

1.	Twelve Muslim families have requested that their children be excluded from co-ed gym classes and music classes.	<u>True</u>	False
2.	The families have asked the School Division to separate boys and girls in both these classes.	True	False
3.	The parents want their children kept out of music classes for cultural and religious reasons.	True	False
4.	According to Shahina Siddiqui, there are cultural and religious reasons to keep young children out of these classes.	True	False
5.	The Louis Riel School Division has said it is unable to accommodate the parents' request.	True	False
6.	All elementary students in Manitoba must take music and gym.	True	False

**To find out more:**

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/no-co-ed-phys-ed-music-muslims-115354939.html?path=/breakingnews&id=115354939&viewAllComments=y>

## Story 2: Harper meets with Obama at White House

**Step 1: Learn new vocabulary.** Learning new vocabulary before you listen makes it easier for you to understand the story. Can you match these vocabulary words with their meaning? The first one is completed for you as an example.

Vocabulary Word		Meaning
1. <u>c</u> the White House	a)	people in positions of authority in an organization
2. ___ a border	b)	information about someone's identity, for example, their credit card information, address or telephone number
3. ___ to be secure	c)	the official residence and workplace of the President of the United States
4. ___ an agreement	d)	to be safe and protected
5. ___ cargo	e)	to be reasonable; to treat justly and equitably
6. ___ officials	f)	when two or more people make a promise to do something
7. ___ to be concerned	g)	a boundary between two countries which exist side by side
8. ___ personal information	h)	goods or materials carried from one place to another on board a ship or a plane
9. ___ to be fair	i)	to be worried

**Step 2: Listen to the second story** in the audio file. Focus on listening for the main ideas and key information. Listen as many times as you need to.

**Step 3: Answer questions about the story.** Does option a) or option b) make the sentence correct? Underline or circle your answer. The first one is completed for you as an example.

1.	Prime Minister Harper and President Obama met in _____.	a) Ottawa b) <u>Washington</u>
2.	The main topic discussed at their meeting was _____.	a) cargo shipping b) border security
3.	Some government officials are concerned that _____.	a) Canadians already give too much personal information at the U.S. border b) the agreement is unfair to Canada

**To find out more:** <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2011/02/04/harper-obama.html>

### Story 3: Protesters continue to gather in Egypt

**Step 1: Learn new vocabulary.** Learning new vocabulary before you listen makes it easier for you to understand the story. Can you match these vocabulary words with their meaning? The first one is completed for you as an example.

Vocabulary Word		Meaning
1. <u>g</u> anti-government protesters	a)	a fixed period of time
2. ___ to gather	b)	to leave a job or a position
3. ___ to step down	c)	one of the oldest and most influential Islamic movements in the world
4. ___ to run in an election	d)	the leader who is second in command
5. ___ to finish	e)	to assemble; to come together
6. ___ a term	f)	to be a candidate for elected office
7. ___ the Vice-President	g)	people who demonstrate against the government
8. ___ political opposition groups	h)	to complete
9. ___ the Muslim Brotherhood	i)	to govern a country
10. ___ to run a country	j)	political organizations or political parties which oppose the government in power

**Step 2: Listen to the third story** in the audio file. Focus on listening for the main ideas and key information. Listen as many times as you need to.

**Step 3: Answer questions about the story.** Fill in the blank with the correct word from the box below. The first one is completed for you as an example.

1. Anti-government protesters continue to \_\_\_\_\_ in Egypt.
2. The protesters want President Mubarak to \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. The President has said he will not \_\_\_\_\_ in the next election.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ is meeting with \_\_\_\_\_ groups.
5. The U.S. and Israel are \_\_\_\_\_ that an Islamist group may come into power in Egypt.

step down	run	Vice-President
opposition	protesters	concerned
		demonstrate

To find out more: <http://www.cbc.ca/world/story/2011/02/06/egypt.html>

Hi, this is Heather Wells. You're listening to Learning English with CBC newscast for the week of January 31<sup>st</sup>.

### *New Muslim families want kids excluded from certain school activities*

Twelve Muslim families who recently arrived in Manitoba said they do not want their children participating in co-ed gym classes or music classes. Their children attend elementary schools in the Louis Riel School Division. The families have asked for separate gym classes for male and female students. They also want their children kept out of music classes for cultural and religious reasons. However, according to Shahina Siddiqui, the executive director of the Islamic Social Services, there is no cultural or religious reason to keep young children out of these classes. The Louis Riel School Division is looking at ways to accommodate the parent's requests. This may be difficult because music and gym classes are required for all Manitoba elementary school students.

### *Harper meets with Obama at White House*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and U.S. President Barack Obama met at the White House last week. During their meeting, they talked about Canada/U.S. border security. The two countries will work together to make the borders more secure. Part of the border security agreement will make it easier for businesses to ship cargo across the Canada/U.S. border. Some officials are concerned that Canadians already give too much of their personal information at the United States border. The Prime Minister promised the agreement will be fair for both countries.

### *Protesters continue to gather in Egypt*

Anti-government protesters continue to hold demonstrations in Egypt. The protesters want Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to step down from power. The President said he will not run in the next election. However, he also said he will finish the last seven months of his term. The Vice-President of Egypt met with opposition groups to discuss the political situation. One of the opposition groups is the Muslim Brotherhood. It is the first time the government has met with this group directly. Countries like the United States and Israel are concerned that anti-government protests could lead to an Islamist group coming into power in Egypt.

### **Answers for Story 1**

Vocabulary: 1) e; 2) i; 3) j; 4) f; 5) c; 6) b; 7) a; 8) h

Questions: 1) T; 2) F; 3) T; 4) F; 5) F; 6) T

### **Answers for Story 2**

Vocabulary: 1) c; 2) g; 3) d; 4) f; 5) h; 6) a; 7) i; 8) b; 9) e

Questions: 1) b; 2) b; 3) a

### **Answers for Story 3**

Vocabulary: 1) g; 2) e; 3) b; 4) f; 5) h; 6) a; 7) d; 8) j; 9) c; 10) i

Questions: 1) protesters, demonstrate 2) step down 3) run 4) Vice-President; opposition  
5) concerned