# Writing a Newspaper Report

# Features of a Newspaper Report

Necessary features

Third Person

Past tense

Other useful features

## BACK TO EARTH WITH A BUMP!

Headline

Reported by Amanda Kelper, Media Correspondent, London

By-line - writer

Last week, British astronaut Tim Peake returned home from an incredible six month stay aboard the International Space Station (ISS), alongside his crewmates Yuri Malenchenko and Timothy Kopra. He is the first British astronaut to have lived on the ISS.

Orientation - 5 Ws who, what, when, where, why

*Landing with a bump! Tim Peake lands safely in Kazakhstan.*

Photo

Caption

The men were launched into space on 15th December 2015. The mission involved conducting experiments, testing out new technology and inspiring the next generation of space travellers. Peake told reporters that the best part of his mission was a spacewalk where he had to make a repair on the space station.

Having circled the planet nearly 3,000 times, the crew returned home to Earth in a capsule, which reached speeds of up to 28,000 kilometres per hour. The touchdown was bumpy due to high winds, however the astronauts landed safely in Kazakhstan, all returning in good health. Having arrived back on solid ground, the astronauts were pulled out of the capsule and carried as their leg muscles were too weak to walk. Whilst sitting in their space suits, the men were checked over by medical staff. During these checks, Peake was asked how it felt to be home, 'The smells of Earth are so strong and it's wonderful to be back in the fresh air.'

More detailed information about the 5 Ws

Quotes – direct speech. What those involved in the event have said

Tim later flew from Kazakhstan to the headquarters of the European Space Agency in Germany where he is getting used to life back on Earth. Scientists are carrying out tests to see how his body has been affected by his time in space.

Peake recently commented on how he'd missed family and friends, and even the rain. Tim said he was now looking forward to spending some quality time with his family. When asked if he'd return to space in the future, he replied, '...in a heartbeat.'

Reported speech

Having been recognised by the Queen for his services to science, Tim is now a CMG, or companion of the order of St Michael and St George. He dedicated this award to his entire team.

Reorientation –what is happening now/what will happen next. **PRESENT TENSE**

Photo courtesy of NASA HQ PHOTO (@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

# Direct Speech or Reported Speech

**Direct speech**

The exact words someone has said.

Uses inverted commas to show what they said.

Varied tense – past, present, future.

e.g. "I'm going to the park," said Alisha.

**Reported speech**

States what someone has said but does **not** have to be their exact words

Does **not** use inverted commas.

Past tense

e.g. Alisha said she was going to the park.

# Rules of using inverted commas for direct speech

- Inverted commas should go at the beginning and end of what has been spoken. "The children are brilliant," said Mrs Smith.
- Always start speech with a capital letter. Mr Roberts exclaimed, "Yes they are!"
- Include a comma before the speech if you have already included your reporting clause. Amy whispered, "Why is it so quiet?"
- Remember to include punctuation at the end of the speech BEFORE the closing inverted comma – this could be a comma, a full stop, a question mark or an exclamation mark depending on **how** the person has spoken. "That cake was lovely," mumbled the girl around her last mouth full.
- When someone new speaks you need to start a new line.

"The girl shouted, "It's over there!"
"What's over there?" asked the boy.

# Activity 1 – Add the inverted commas for direct speech and correct punctuation to these sentences

1) Please can I have some sweets asked Imran

2) Stephanie laughed it was such a funny film

3) I'm so excited shouted James

4) What time are we having dinner whined Thomas

5) Molly whispered shhh, we're meant to be asleep

# Activity 1 - Answers

1) "Please can I have some sweets?" asked Imran.

2) Stephanie laughed, "It was such a funny film."

3) "I'm so excited!" shouted James.

4) "What time are we having dinner?" whined Thomas.

5) Molly whispered, "Shhh, we're meant to be asleep."

# Activity 2 – change the direct speech into reported speech.

e.g. "Please can I have some sweets?" asked Imran.

**becomes**

Imran asked if he could have some sweets.

1) Stephanie laughed, "It was such a funny film."

2) "I'm so excited!" shouted James.

3) "What time are we having dinner?" whined Thomas.

4) Molly whispered, "Shhh, we're meant to be asleep."

Activity 2 – Answers should be similar to those below
(As long as you have **reported** what was said your answer is correct)

1) Stephanie said it was a funny film.

2) James said he was really excited.

3) Thomas asked what time they were having dinner.

4) Molly said they were meant to be asleep.

# Things to remember when writing your newspaper report

- Remember to look back at the features of a newspaper report to make sure you include all of these features in your report.

- When writing your newspaper report you should try to include both direct speech in the form of quotes and reported speech to give more detail from those involved in the event.

- Remember you are **not** writing an interview – you as the reporter of the newspaper article won't have any quotes in the report but may have some reported speech.

For example:

When asked how he felt Tom replied, "I just couldn't believe it!"

Quote from someone involved in the event

**or**

When asked how he felt Tom said he just couldn't believe it.

Reported speech