

True stories?

Aims

Practice making statements about the news.

Language focus

Grammar

Review of verb tenses

Set-up

Pair and group activity

Lesson link

For use after Unit 1, Lesson A

Time

25 minutes

Preparation

Duplicate one copy of the worksheet for each student.

- Put students in pairs. Distribute the worksheets and ask students to read the six prompts. Answer any questions about vocabulary. Point out that each prompt uses a different verb form and that students' sentences should use the same verb form. Have students work with their partners to write true and false sentences for as many items as they can in five to seven minutes. Tell them to choose prompts that are the most interesting for them or that they know the most about.
- Put each pair with another pair to form a group of four. Tell them to start by having one pair choose a prompt and read their true and false sentences about that prompt. The other pair then has to guess which statement is true. They continue taking turns reading pairs of sentences and guessing. Encourage them to say why they think a statement is true, for example: *I saw that on the news on TV last night.*
- As students are working, walk around to monitor the activity and help as needed. Check that students are using different verb forms in their statements. If some students find it hard to come up with ideas, make suggestions. Make note of any errors or problems to review later.
- When the time is up, follow up by asking a few students to report on statements that "fooled" their classmates – false statements that classmates thought were true, or true statements they guessed were false.

Procedure

- Introduce the activity by asking students if they believe everything they hear or read in the news and why or why not? If possible, elicit examples of things students do not believe.
- Tell students they are going to work in groups and practice making true and false statements about news stories in their community. They imagine they are writing the first sentence of a news story. Model the activity by making two statements about what a well-known person was doing recently. One statement should be true and the other false. For example, one statement might be: *Yesterday, the president was talking to the prime minister of Canada about business opportunities.* After making two statements, ask students to guess which statement was true.

True stories?

	Write the first sentence of a news story about . . .	True news	False news
1.	something a leader in your country or community was doing yesterday.		
2.	a restaurant or coffee shop that has opened in the past six months.		
3.	something that happened when your city or town had a bad storm or other disaster.		
4.	something a famous celebrity is going to do next year.		
5.	a new movie or play that is showing in your city or town right now.		
6.	a record that a popular athlete or sports team hopes to break in the future.		