

Unit 5 - News



TO THE MOON

Lesson 5A

"Fake news"

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Objective:

By the end of the lesson, you will be able to use relative clauses to talk about news.



Vocabulary:

News and social
media

Grammar:

Defining relative
clauses

Speaking:

Retelling a news
story

Speaking!

How important is it to
understand what is
happening in your country,
or the world?

How do you decide if
something you see online
is real or fake?





1. Do you think they are real or fake? Why?
2. Imagine the photos are in a newspaper or magazine. What might the news stories be?

Real or fake?

News that travels fast

Christopher Blair, who lives on the U.S. East Coast, is one of the world's most creative news writers. He isn't a **journalist**. He writes articles for a newspaper. He writes news stories which are not true. He invents them and **publishes** them. He writes about anything: politics, a famous athlete or someone who has been in the news recently. First, he writes a **headline** which will get attention. Then, he adds a few details and before long, he has written a **blog post** which is about 200 words long. He **posts** his story **online**, sits back and watches the 'likes' and 'shares' begin. Sometimes he gets thousands of views in just minutes.

Maarten Schenk, who lives in a small town near Brussels, Belgium, works from home. He sits at his desk in front of three computer screens. On one of the screens, he suddenly notices a lot of activity. The USA is waking up, and there's a news story which is being shared by lots of people on Facebook and other social networks. Schenk is a man who likes to **find out** the truth. He does some fact-checking, goes to his website, and starts to type. His job is to tell the world that what he's seeing online – the story that's currently going viral about a U.S. politician – is completely invented. It's **fake news**.

Blair and Schenk are in a game of cat and mouse, and the mouse usually wins. Why? Because he's one step ahead. Fact checkers work day and night, but by the time they find the fake news, it's often too late. The story has already spread all the way around the world.

What do Blair and other fake news writers do it? What motivates them? In some cases, their websites began as jokes. They realised they were writing **content** that people wanted to read. Sometimes the motivation is financial. Or maybe it's just the joy of creativity. Instead of publishing short stories and novels, which take months to get out there, they can put their work in front of the world in minutes.

What about Schenk and the fact checkers? Nowadays, they're often employed by social media sites, and their job is to find and spread the truth. It's an old-fashioned type of work: investigating, making phone calls, searching the internet. What motivates them is discovering the lie, and maybe the fact that their job is never finished. For every Maarten Schenk, there are dozens of Christopher Blairs producing stories like rabbits out of a hat.



	T	F
1. Christopher Blair works for a traditional newspaper.	☐	☒
2. Blair always writes news stories about similar topics.	☐	☒
3. Maarten Schenk needs to work quickly to discover the real facts about a story.	☒	☐
4. Schenk is often unable to stop a fake news story from spreading.	☒	☐
5. Christopher Blair and Maarten Schenk are working against one another.	☒	☐
6. People who write fake news are not motivated by money.	☐	☒
7. Fact checkers are used by social media companies to reduce the amount of fake news.	☒	☐

Vocabulary!

News and social media



(to) publish

(to) find out

(to) post online

Content

Journalist

Blog post

Headline

Fake news



(to) publish: to make information, a book, or an article available for people to read.

(to) find out: to discover or learn something new.



(to) post online: to put information, photos, or videos on the internet for others to see.

Content: information, videos, photos, or other material shared online.

Journalist: a person whose job is to write or report news.

Blog post: an article written and published on a blog.

Headline: the title of a news story or article.

Fake news: false or misleading information presented as real news.



3A. Look at the words in bold in the article. Match them with the meanings (1–8).

publishes

journalist

find out

posts online

headline

fake news

content

blog post

1. makes a story available for other people to read, in print or online **publishes**

2. someone who writes about the news for a newspaper, radio, TV, etc. **journalist**

3. to discover information **find out**

4. uploads a story on the internet **posts online**

5. the title of a story in the news, usually printed in large letters **headline**

6. news that is invented and not true **fake news**

7. the main information in the news story **content**

8. an article on someone's personal webpage **blog post**



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3B. Complete the sentences using the correct form of words and phrases from the previous activity.

1. I sometimes **post** my own ideas online on social media.
2. When I look at newspapers I never read a full article – I only read the **headline**.
3. I think it's difficult to **find out** if a story is fake news.
4. I think it's important for **journalists** who write for newspapers to check the facts.
5. I try to write a **blog post** twice a week, sharing my thoughts and feelings.
6. I think it's pretty easy to spot **fake news**. This kind of story never contains facts and the writers are not well respected.



☰ 1A. Choose the correct word to complete the sentences.

1. The magazine _____ my article yesterday.

☐ a. made

☐ b. produced

☒ c. published

2. Have you seen the _____ on the front page of the newspaper this morning?

☒ a. headline

☐ b. sign

☐ c. title

3. A _____ wants to interview me for the local newspaper.

☒ a. journalist

☐ b. mechanic

☐ c. plumber

4. I'm going to _____ this photo online later if that's OK with you.

☐ a. place

☒ b. post

☐ c. set

5. We _____ out about the history of the town on a local website.

☐ a. brought

☐ b. filled

☒ c. found

6. You need to write some more _____ for our new blog.

☒ a. content

☐ b. knowledge

☐ c. subjects



1B. Complete the article with the words below.

content

fake

find

headlines

journalist

online

post

published



April Fool!

People usually think of (1) **fake** news as bad because it's not true, but on one day of the year – 1 April – people enjoy seeing it in newspapers and (2) **online**. This day is known as April Fools' Day. It's a day when people write things that aren't true to play a joke on other people. For example, a blogger shares some amazing, but completely false, news

in a blog (3) **post**. Or a (4) **journalist** writes a story about a strange event that didn't actually happen. Look in newspapers or on news websites on 1 April, and you'll see stories under (5) **headlines** like Pet cat talks! I like to look through the news on this day and decide which stories I think are false. I might even do some quick research to (6) **find** out if I'm right. Of course, sometimes I see a story which a newspaper or news site has (7) **published** that doesn't seem real, but the (8) **content** of the article is actually true. That's because the world is full of very strange but true stories.



Grammar!



4A. Complete the sentences about the article with *who*, *which*, *when*, *where* or *whose*.

1. Christopher Blair is a journalist **who** writes fake news.
2. He writes news stories **which** are completely fake.
3. This is the room **where** Maarten Schenk works.
4. He makes a note of the time **when** a story is first shared on social media.
5. This is the politician **whose** story went viral.



4B. Look at the above activity. Which sentences can the relative pronoun be replaced by *that*?

- ☒ Sentence 1
- ☒ Sentence 2
- ☐ Sentence 3
- ☒ Sentence 4
- ☐ Sentence 5

Defining Relative clauses



A clause is a group of words that contains a subject and a verb.

'He writes news stories which I like.'



We use relative clauses:

- to add extra information about a noun.
- to identify which particular thing/person we are talking about.
- to avoid repetition.

Relative clauses are introduced by relative pronouns. They join two clauses into one sentence.

'He writes news stories. I like the news stories.'

He writes news stories which I like.



Relative pronoun



Defining relative clauses

We use defining relative clauses to give important information about a person, place or thing. The information is essential in the sentence.

We use **relative pronouns** to join the main clause and the relative clause We use:

- *who* for people.

He's the man **who** took my bag!

- *where* for places.

This is the building **where** we got married.

- *which* for things.

This is the bank card **which** she was looking for.

- *when* for times.

That was the day **when** I graduated from university.

- *whose* for possessions.

Is that the man **whose** phone you picked up?



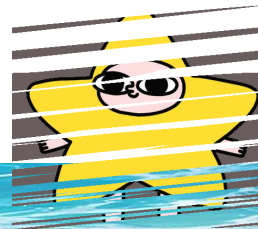
Main clause	Relative clause
This is the house	where we lived.
They started to feel ill on the day	when the spider bit them.

We can use that instead of who or which. We can also sometimes use it to replace *when*.

He's the man **that** took my bag!

This is the bank card **that** she was looking for.

2019 was the year **that** we first met.



1. Complete the sentences using *who*, *which*, *where*, *when* or *whose*.

1. The office **where** I did my work experience.
2. She's the woman **who** I was telling you about.
3. That's the article **which** he wrote for the magazine.
4. That was the moment **when** I realised my mistake!
5. This is the man **whose** laptop I borrowed.
6. She's the girl **who** left the birthday party early.
7. I can't remember the time **when** I last spoke to them.
8. Eva married the man **who** she met online.
9. This is man **whose** blog I was talking about.
10. This is the beach **where** I walk every morning.



2. Choose the sentences where you can use *that* instead of a relative pronoun.

- ☐ 1. That's the office where I did my work experience.
- ☒ 2. She's the woman who I was telling you about.
- ☒ 3. That's the article which he wrote for the magazine.
- ☒ 4. That was the moment when I realised my mistake!
- ☐ 5. This is the man whose laptop I borrowed.
- ☒ 6. She's the girl who left the birthday party early.
- ☒ 7. I can't remember the time when I last spoke to them.
- ☒ 8. Eva married the man who she met online.
- ☐ 9. This is man whose blog I was talking about.
- ☐ 10. This is the beach where I walk every morning.



☰ 2A. The sentences below have a mistake. Choose the best option to correct the mistake.

1. That's the café which I met Mia.

☐ a. when

☐ b. that

☒ c. where



2. Jill is the journalist who's husband you met earlier.

☐ a. who

☒ b. whose

☐ c. that

3. I've just read a story who can't possibly be real.

☐ a. when

☐ b. where

☒ c. which

4. Do you remember the day which we got really wet in the rain?

☒ a. when

☐ b. where

☐ c. who

2C. Rewrite the sentences. Use a relative pronoun.

1. I like articles. The articles teach me something.

I like articles **which teach** me something.

2. I have a friend. His job is really unusual.

I have a friend **whose job is** really unusual.

3. I like going to places. I know they will be quiet.

I like going to places **where I know** will be quiet.

4. I remember that day. We first met online then.

I remember the day **when we first met** online.

5. I have a neighbour. She shares everything about her life online.

I have a neighbour **who/that shares** everything about her life online.

6. There's a page on this website. You can find really strange news stories there.

There's a page on this website **where you can find** really strange news stories.



Speaking!



Guess the Person / Thing !

1. You have to think about a famous person, object, place, movie, song, job, etc.
2. You have to describe it without saying the name.
3. Your classmates will have to guess it.

Use relative clauses to describe it!

Example

- “It’s a movie that has blue aliens.” - “ Avatar.”

More examples

He’s the person who sings “Shape of You.”

It’s a place where people go to see animals.

It’s something which you use to cut paper.

Student A

BREAKING NEWS ... Journalist Amy Ellis reports

WHALE LANDS IN FARMER'S FIELD

A 30,000 kg whale has landed in a farmer's field in Arkadelphia, 482 km off the coast of Louisiana. The whale, which was picked up by the powerful winds of Hurricane Delta, was 15 m long. Jerry O'Bourke, 97, had the surprise of his life when he discovered the whale outside the back of his house. O'Bourke, who has been a farmer all his life, says he has never seen such an incredible thing. Other animals that have been picked up by hurricanes include cats, frogs, dogs and cows.

Student B

WORLD NEWS DAILY REPORT

SPIDER BITE!

Three brothers from La Paz, Bolivia, were taken to hospital after being bitten by a black widow spider. The boys, who were aged eight, ten and twelve, let the spider bite them because they wanted to develop superpowers, like their favourite superhero. Soon afterwards they felt ill and had to be taken to hospital. Luckily the boys survived, and went home after spending a week in hospital.

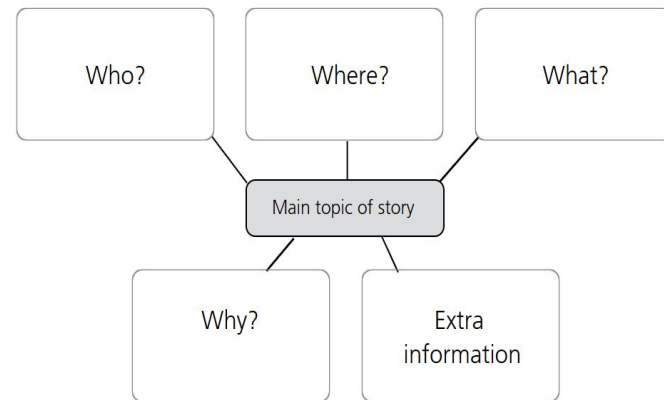
Student C

LOCAL NEWS

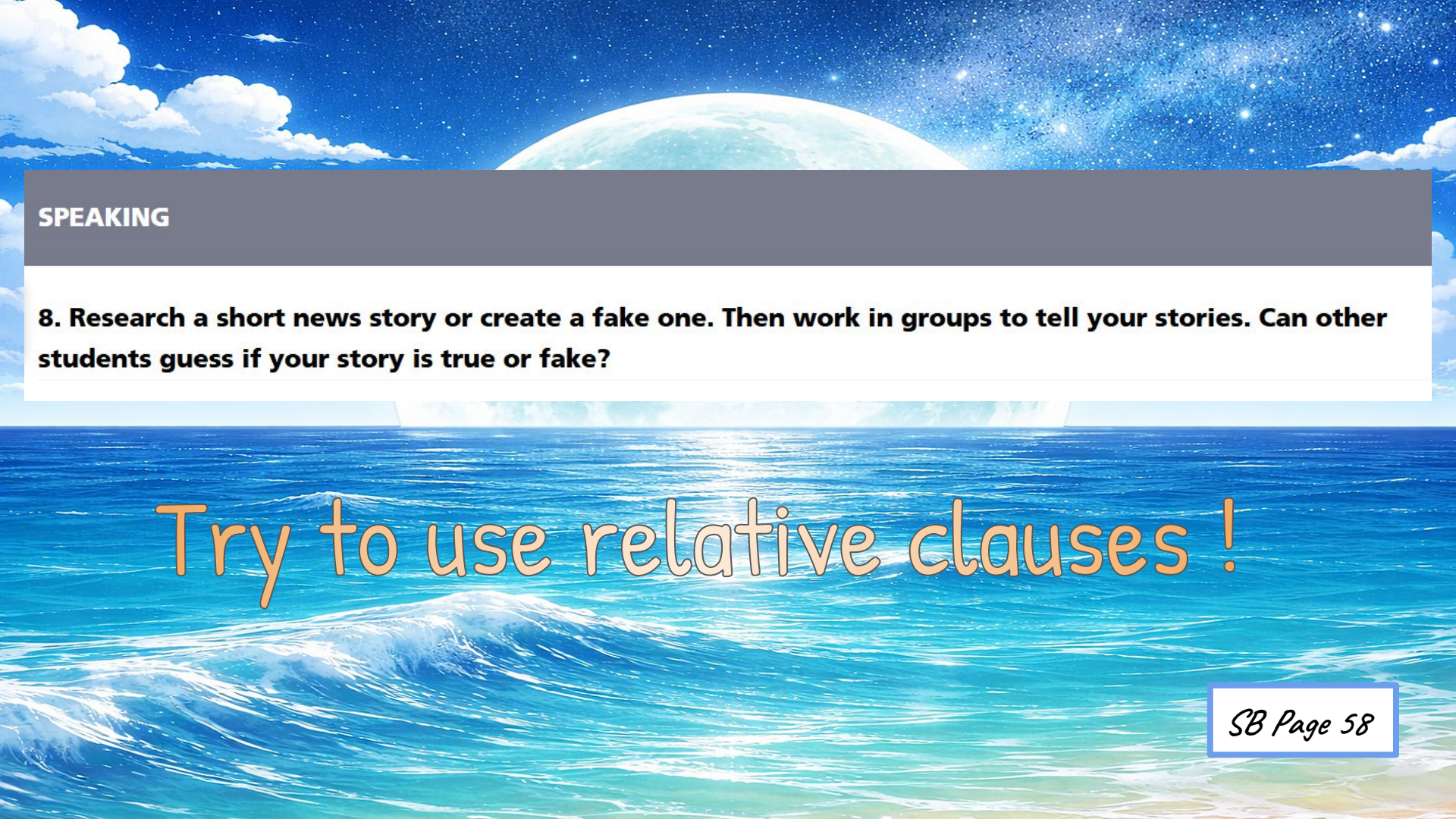
YOUR PIZZA DELIVERY!

A man who lives in Belgium keeps receiving pizzas which he never orders. Every day for nearly ten years, deliveries of pizzas and other fast food arrive at his house, but he never orders them. Jean Van Landeghem says he waits in his house every day until he hears the delivery scooter on the street. One day, ten delivery drivers arrived in a single day, and one of them tried to deliver fourteen pizzas. The 65-year-old has reported the problem to the police.

Work in groups of three, students A, B and C. Read your news story and prepare to retell it. Use the word web to make notes to help you.



Which one do you think is fake news?
Check your answer on page 146.



SPEAKING

8. Research a short news story or create a fake one. Then work in groups to tell your stories. Can other students guess if your story is true or fake?

Try to use relative clauses !



Kahoot!

[https://create.kahoot.it/details/defining-relative-clauses/
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