6.1.3 Breaking news

(This activity was inspired by Kieran Donaghy.)

Application/function	Video camera / smartphone
Focus	Re-enacting an interview about a current news story, questions, the past simple; typical vocabulary for news bulletin
Level	Pre-intermediate – upper-intermediate
Age	Lower secondary – upper secondary
Time	50 minutes preparation in the classroom, the rest at home
ICT skills	Handling the basic functions of your smartphone
Equipment	Smartphone, Internet access, prepared *Wh*-questions, a handout with news phrases (see *The text*)
Preparation	In advance of the lesson, prepare an overhead transparency or projector slide with examples of *Wh*-questions:

- *Who is it about?*
- *What happened?*
- *When did it happen?*
- *What actually happened?*
- *Where did it happen?*
- *Why did it happen?*
- *How did it happen?*

In class

1 Tell your students that you are going to talk about news stories.

2 Ask them what they generally want to find out about a breaking news story.

3 Elicit some typical *Wh*-questions and write them on the board.

4 Project your sample questions on the board and go through them with the class.

5 Ask the students to get into groups of three, and to imagine that they are a news team working on a particular item of breaking news.

6 Give them plenty of time to prepare a script of a short news story in which they answer the *Wh*-questions projected on the board. Give them the handouts you have prepared with useful phrases for news reports.

7 Remind them to decide on a title for their news report.

8   When they have finished writing their scr…, te…hem that two of
the students in the group are going to p…e… the …ws bulletin.
The third student is the studio director w……:
•   to make sure the other stude… …a co……nt presentation
without looking at the script al……me
•   to set up the scene (cho… a lo…tie…
•   to tell the news announce…s w…re to stand
•   to record the news bulletin o… …rtphone

9   Get them to rehearse and af…… …ccess…ul rehearsal, the director
records the news bulletin o… a s…rtphone.

10 Allow time in class for the s…… … watch each other's news
bulletins.

For homework, ask your …… …do som…post-production editing
using an app from the …p gallery …ection

Top Tip: Your stude… …uld use an autocue (e.g. www.cueprompter.
com) in order to enhan… …experien… …f giving a news bulletin and
to add a degree …… …entic…

App gallery
Apps for post-pr…… …editin…
Apple
iMovie
Quik

Andr…
Powe… …… …r Androi…
KineMaster
Q…

…or all d……es
…… …rompter.com

…rases for a news report:
…llo and welcome to ABD news. I am Tom Street with the latest
news.
Our sources tell us that the event happened in …
Here is an exclusive interview with …
•   Let's hear from Jill, who is reporting live at the scene.
•   Stay with us, we'll be right back after this commercial break.
•   And that's all from us for now. Thanks for staying with us.
•   Thanks for watching ABD news.

6.2.9 Screensaver competition

Application/function	Camera / smartphone
Focus	Lesson-specific vocabulary
Level	Beginner – upper-intermediate
Age	Primary – upper secondary
Time	50–60 minutes in class, plus work at home
ICT skills	Handling the basic functions of a smartphone
Equipment	Smartphone, Internet access

Note: If you don't have a computer in need of a screensaver, you could do Activities 6.2. (Photo of the year) or 6.2.10 (Idyllic postcards) instead.

In class

1 Tell the students that you are going to have a class screensaver competition. You're looking for a photo to use as the screensaver on the classroom computer or the one in the computer lab.

2 Ask the students (working individually or in groups) to take a smartphone photo that is related to the current topic of your lessons. For example:
- Life in the city
- Fashion
- Sports
- Politics
- Maintaining a healthy lifestyle

Tell them to send you their images via email or cloud services.

4 Compile the images and number them to make the voting easier later on.

5 Each student or group presents their image to the class, using phrases for picture description. They should also provide background information (why they picked that image, the purpose behind it, how it is related to the topic, etc.).

6 Set up a poll at www.polleverywhere.com or www.mentimeter. com, and let the students vote via their smartphones on which photo they like best. Tell them that they are not allowed to vote for their own image.

6.2.9 Screensaver competition

7   Put the results on the board and then use the winning photo as your classroom and/or computer lab screensaver.

Follow-up

Ask the students to show and tell about their favourite screensavers/ desktop images on their smartphones, laptops, etc.

Top Tip: See www.pixabay.com for copyright free desktop images and screensavers.

6.3.1 Get active

Application/function	Kahoot, www.create.kahoot.it
Similar Application	Quizizz, www.quizizz.com
Focus	Doing an interactive quiz; cognitive kn___ ___e (facts, figures, vocabulary, grammar, etc.)
Level	Beginner – advanced
Age	Primary – upper secondary
Time	Preparing questions at home; ___ ___ ___ in class
ICT skills	Handling the basic functio__ __of a smartphone
Equipment	Smartphone, Internet acc___

Do It Yourself

1 Go to www.creat___ ___ot.it; it is free, but you have to register.

2 Decide on a ___ ___d thi__k of se___ra__ questions about it. In this example, w__ are__ __in__ to creat__ a quiz about Australia.

3 You can wat__ ___ __al on __ov to set up a quiz at ww__ ___ing.com/mindthea__

In class

1 Tell t__ st___ ___hat yo__ __re going to do a quiz about Australia.

2 A__ the__ __o open the b__owser on their smartphones and go to v__ ___ ___it. They __ould then enter the PIN (see the tutorial).

3 ___plain __w Kaho__ works: the students read the questions p___ ___ed on the __ __ard or wall and then type their answers into the__ __artpho___.

4 ___ __he quiz. Interactive quizzes are very motivational and I find that they create a party-like atmosphere.

5 ___ __t your students to give feedback, using the automatically-generated feedback form.

Follo__ ___he students can register themselves on the site and use it to create their own quizzes (e.g. for presentations).

6.3.1 Get active

Top Tip 1: Good topics for quizzes include grammar points (tenses, verb forms, irregular verbs), dates, idioms, translations, famous people and any vocabulary fields.

Top Tip 2: You can also use Kahoot to create discussion and surveys. See the video at www.helbling.com/mind

Top Tip 3: Although there are many things you can do with Kahoot, don't overuse it. The students may get bored with it after a while.

Top Tip 4: You can also use Quizizz to create asynchronous quizzes which can be done at home.