

Unit 10: Current events, Lesson A

Before you watch

A Complete the sentences with the phrases in the box. There is one extra phrase.

bomb went off	fueled speculation	ruled out the possibility
compensate the victims	mobilized riot squads	

- 1. A _____ downtown. The devastating blast took down three buildings, killed 10 people, and injured countless others.
- 2. Authorities have _____ of a second shooter in last month’s mass shooting in a library downtown. Footage recovered from a camera on the street showed a single shooter leaving the scene.
- 3. The company that was responsible for last year’s chemical spill has taken responsibility and agreed to _____. This announcement came just in time because many people have been forced to abandon their homes.
- 4. The protests downtown continue for a third week. The vital vote is scheduled for this evening and police have _____ just in case the demonstrations become violent tonight.

While you watch

A Watch the video. Then, cross out the topics that aren’t mentioned in the video.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. oil spill
cleaning up an oil spill
compensating victims | 3. someone announcing a campaign for president
someone announcing a campaign for senator
the president having surgery |
| 2. an explosion
a terrorist attack
a plane crash | 4. protesters camping out at the stock exchange
stocks recovering
stock market plunge |

B Which news story contains the sentences? Check (✓) first, second, third, or fourth.

	first	second	third	fourth
1. Investors might have been worrying unnecessarily after the stock market plunged to an all-time low last month.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Investigators are not sure what caused the explosion, but have not ruled out the possibility that it was a terrorist attack.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Local businesses were rumored yesterday to be considering legal action, claiming for loss of income and livelihood.	_____	_____	_____	_____

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	first	second	third	fourth
4. While the senator seems not to be announcing her campaign just yet, . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. The marches seem to have been going peacefully so far.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. . . . the president will be undergoing routine surgery later this week . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. A spokesman for the oil company said that they are committed to compensating victims affected by the spill.	_____	_____	_____	_____
8. Three people were reported to have been acting suspiciously in the financial district, . . .	_____	_____	_____	_____

After you watch

A Read the news article topics. Then, write a few sentences about each topic as if you were writing a news article.

1. a big advance in cancer research

2. country-wide economic problems

3. mass food poisoning caused by a bad crop of spinach

B What was the most important event in the news this week? How many places did you see it (newspaper, television, online, etc.)? Why was it important? Which media source had the best coverage and why? Write a paragraph about this week's most important news story and what you thought about it.
