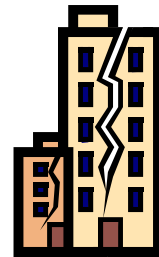


Topic: The News

Let's get started . . . When you were a child, what was some important news that you heard? How did you hear about it? Did you tell other people about it? Do you remember where you were when you heard it?

Story: "To old-timers in the San Francisco Bay area, every World Series of baseball brings back memories of the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989. Those who lived through it remember the time and date—5:04 pm, October 17—like it was yesterday." Andrew Alden remembers that he was cleaning his house when the trees in the yard began to wave and dance. The floor moved suddenly beneath him. Then Andrew turned on the radio to listen to the World Series baseball game in San Francisco. The World Series game had stopped. Andrew heard terrible news - parts of San Francisco were in flames, the Bay Bridge was broken, and people were trapped under a fallen freeway. Since then, every year during the World Series of baseball, Andrew remembers the big earthquake.



In pairs for 10 minutes, ask and answer these questions:

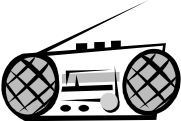
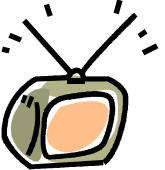





Talk about some **really good news** you heard in your lifetime. Did everyone agree that it was good?

Talk about some **really bad news** you heard in your lifetime. Did everyone agree that it was bad?

Share your partner's answers with the group.

Interview 3 people about news and where they get it. Write their names in the left column, and then write yes or no for each category. Say, "Do you get news from _____?" and then ask them to explain.

Name	Radio	Television	Newspaper	Internet	Word-of-Mouth
					

Discussion Questions - talk in pairs or small groups:

What news will you never forget? What news is easy to forget?

Do you get news in your native language and in English? Explain. How did you get news in your native country? Is it different from how you get news now? Explain.

Human interest stories are about individual people that are not famous or powerful. A human interest story may be about someone who had major problems in life, and overcame them. Or it may be about an "unsung hero" - someone who did a great thing but isn't honored or celebrated. Do you like these kinds of stories? Can you give an example of a human interest story that you remember?



Compare radio, television and newspaper (media) content in your native country with media content in the U.S. How is it the same or different?

What are important issues facing our world today? For example . . .

. . . war

. . . unemployment

. . . nuclear weapons

. . . pollution

. . . global warming

. . . hunger

. . . poverty

. . . education

. . . international cooperation



Are you interested in store ads (advertisements) in the newspaper, radio or television? Do you save coupons or information about sales and discounts? Give examples.

Do you read the comics in English or your native language? Explain.



New vocabulary: old-timers, World Series of baseball, wave, flames, trapped, fallen, freeway, word-of-mouth, human interest, "unsung hero", nuclear weapons, pollution, global warming, poverty, cooperation, discounts

Keep talking about it this week: Ask friends about good news or bad news they remember. Write down their answers and be ready to share with the group at the next TalkTime.

More: Videos about the Loma Prieta earthquake -

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VwOus0fbqVs>,

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0lAXStQCjr8&feature=related>