News Roundup (B1)

Five Stories for October 12, 2026 | Level B1 | EnglishBridges.com

Before You Read

Discuss these questions with a partner.

1. When did you last read or watch the news? What was the story?
2. Have you ever read a news story and later learned that part of it was wrong? What happened?
3. How might the way people follow the news differ by country, age, or job?

Reading: News Roundup (B1)

This news roundup looks at five stories from the week of October 12, 2026. In fast-moving stories, the facts can change by the hour. On October 9, the Nobel Peace Prize went to Navi Pillay, an 85-year-old South African lawyer and judge. Before she became a judge, Pillay worked as a lawyer in South Africa. The Nobel Committee praised her **courage**. Pillay said she would dedicate the prize to the **survivors** of international crimes.

In France, students have protested for several weeks because their schools are **overcrowded** and have **shortages** of teachers. After the government sent 3,000 **substitute** teachers to the worst schools, the unions still called for new protests. In Saudi Arabia, a **missile** hit the airport in Riyadh on October 10. Saudi officials said that at least 12 people died and more than 300 were **wounded**. When the missile hit the airport, operations stopped for a time. Some international airlines have **suspended** flights to Saudi Arabia. The Houthis, an Iran-backed group in Yemen, said they carried out the attack.

In Russia, a 28-year-old technician at a laboratory in Siberia died of pneumonia of unknown origin. About 200 people were reportedly put under **quarantine**. Nobody has **confirmed** an accident at the laboratory, although **rumors** spread. The World Health Organization said the risk to the public is low, but it asked for more information.

In the Netherlands, a new **ban** on fireworks for ordinary people will apply for the first time at New Year. Supporters say that fireworks injure people and frighten animals. The government invited people to **hand in** fireworks with no fine, and more than 4,000 kilograms had come in by late September.

The lesson is simple: be careful with early facts. In Riyadh, the first count was 12 dead, and later reports said 13 after an injured person died. Readers should **double-check** important facts in a **reliable** second source before they share a story.

Vocabulary: Fill in the Blank

Complete each sentence with a word or phrase from the box. Use each one once.

rumors **reliable** **substitute** **survivors** **ban** **suspended** **wounded** **overcrowded** **confirmed** **double-check** **missile** **shortages** **quarantine** **courage**

1. It took great _____ to speak up when everyone else stayed silent.
2. Rescue workers found three _____ in the broken building.
3. The bus was so _____ that nobody could find a seat.
4. There were food _____ in the town after the storm.
5. Our teacher was ill, so a _____ teacher took the class today.
6. The army tested a new _____ in the desert last year.
7. The doctors worked all night to help the _____ soldiers.
8. The airline _____ all flights because of the storm.
9. The visitors stayed in _____ for two weeks to protect other people.
10. The hotel _____ our booking by email this morning.
11. There are _____ that the old cinema will close next year.
12. The city introduced a _____ on cars in the old town.
13. I do not trust that website. It is not a _____ source.
14. Please _____ the train time before you leave home.

Word Partners: Collocations and Word Families

Part A. Collocations

Match the two halves to make common phrases. Write the letter on the line.

1. show great	_____	**a.** quarantine
2. an overcrowded	_____	**b.** all flights
3. a reliable	_____	**c.** a rumor
4. hand in	_____	**d.** source
5. suspend	_____	**e.** classroom
6. a travel	_____	**f.** courage
7. spread	_____	**g.** your homework
8. go into	_____	**h.** ban

Now choose three of the phrases and write your own sentences.

Part B. Word families

Complete each sentence with the correct form of the word in brackets.

1. She was very _____ to speak up in front of the whole school. (*courage*)
2. We are waiting for _____ that the flight will leave on time. (*confirmed*)
3. I do not trust that website. It is very _____. (*reliable*)
4. Few animals can _____ in such cold weather. (*survivors*)
5. The nurse cleaned the deep _____ on his arm. (*wounded*)
6. The _____ of flights lasted for two days. (*suspended*)

Comprehension Questions

Answer in full sentences.

1. Who won the Nobel Peace Prize in this roundup, and what is her background?

2. What did Navi Pillay say she would do with the prize?
3. Why are students in France protesting, and what did the government do?
4. What happened at the airport in Riyadh on October 10? Give two facts.
5. Who said they carried out the attack in Riyadh?
6. What do we know, and what do we not know, about the death of the technician in Russia?
7. What did the World Health Organization say about the risk to the public?
8. What is the new rule about fireworks in the Netherlands, and why do supporters want it?
9. What advice does the writer give about breaking news? Do you agree? Give one reason.
10. **True, False, or Not Given:** *"The unions accepted the government's offer and ended the protests."* Explain your answer using the reading.
11. **Yes, No, or Not Given:** *"The writer believes that the first numbers in a news story are always correct."* Explain your answer using the reading.
12. **Author's purpose:** Why does the writer say that the count in Riyadh changed from 12 to 13? Is it (a) to show that early numbers can change, (b) to prove that the attack was small, or (c) to say that officials always lie?

True or False

Circle T (true) or F (false). Be ready to correct the false sentences.

1. Navi Pillay won the Nobel Peace Prize. **T / F**
2. Pillay worked as a lawyer before she became a judge. **T / F**
3. Navi Pillay is 58 years old. **T / F**
4. The students in France say their schools are overcrowded. **T / F**
5. The unions stopped the protests when the substitute teachers arrived. **T / F**
6. The missile hit the main airport in Riyadh. **T / F**
7. The missile hit an airport in Yemen. **T / F**
8. About 200 people were reportedly put under quarantine in Russia. **T / F**
9. Everyone agrees that there was an accident at the laboratory. **T / F**
10. In the Netherlands, people had to pay a fine to hand in fireworks. **T / F**

Language Focus: Time Clauses

A **time clause** tells us *when* something happens. It starts with a word such as *before*, *after*, *when*, *while*, *until*, or *as soon as*.

Pattern: time word + subject + verb, then the main clause. *After I finish work, I go home.*

Future meaning: use the **present simple** in the time clause, not *will*. *After I finish, I will call you.* (not *After I will finish*)

From the reading:

"**Before** she **became** a judge, Pillay worked as a lawyer in South Africa."

"**When** the missile **hit** the airport, operations stopped for a time."

Tip: If the time clause comes first, use a comma. If it comes second, you do not need one: *I go home after I finish work.*

Part A. Sentence starters

Finish each sentence so that it is true for you.

Time clauses about habits and the past

1. Before I go to sleep, I usually _____
2. When I read a surprising headline, I _____
3. As soon as I wake up, I _____

Time clauses about the future

4. After I finish this class, I will _____
5. I will keep studying English until _____

Part B. Questions

Answer each question in a full sentence. Try to answer using a time word such as before, after, when, while, *or* until. *Then ask a partner.*

6. What do you usually do after you wake up?
7. What will you do when this lesson ends?
8. What do you do while you wait for a bus or a train?
9. What did you do before you came to class today?
10. What will you do after you get home tonight?

Discussion Questions

Discuss with a partner or in a small group. Give reasons and examples.

1. Which of the five stories interests you most? Why?
2. Which news sources do you trust most? What makes them reliable?
3. How do rumors spread in your school, workplace, or family?
4. What do you do when two news reports give different numbers?
5. Who is a person you admire for their courage? Why?
6. What problems do schools in your country have? Which would you fix first?
7. If you could change one thing about your school or workplace, what would it be?
8. Why might students protest instead of writing letters to the government?
9. Should governments always tell the public everything about a health problem? Why or why not?
10. Have you lived near a place where people set off fireworks? How do people and animals react?
11. Do you think fireworks should be banned? What are the good and bad points?
12. Why do some news stories reach people in many countries while others stay local?
13. Is it more important for news to be fast or to be correct? Explain.
14. How can ordinary people help to protect human rights and international law?

Online Practice

Scan the code or visit **englishbridges.com/lessons/news-roundup-oct12-b1** for the full reading, vocabulary activities, the Speed Challenge, typing practice, and AI conversation prompts.