Understanding Headlines – Business News
by Barney Barrett

Part Two – Activities

Verbs
Choose the verbs to complete the headlines.

Activity One
1 Government ministers ______________ at corruption claims
2 US stocks and euro ______________ after international deal
3 Patent suit ______________ start-up
4 Clarke’s chairman ______________ to take Willson’s role
5 Market-J ______________ wage signal to US business
6 Fraud inquiries rise as focus ______________ from individuals to companies

| hit back | rally | sends |
| shifts | steps down | threatens |

Activity Two
1 MXNTech ______________ deal to modernise government data systems
2 Jones to ______________ as Eastwest Rail chairman
3 Rail disruptions ______________ despite deal
4 EU ______________ daily fines over pollution levels
5 Government eyes more budget cuts as tax receipts ______________
6 Unions and business ______________ millions in race to fund main parties

| levies | loom | pledge |
| slide | strikes | take over |
Activity Three

1 Chief executive head quits to ______________ political role
2 Sanatoma see opportunities in Europe as it ______________ bigger takeover targets
3 Sliced and diced loans ______________ in SE Asia
4 University windfall ______________ way for reinvigorated science strategy
5 Financial regulator ______________ £8m penalty on Angle Insurance for fee abuse
6 Russia’s debt ______________ to junk by Moody’s

| downgraded | eyes | imposes |
| paves | take off | take up |

Activity Four

1 China and West ______________ gap in trade talks
2 Minister ______________ stage for showdown with unions
3 Heli Bank whistleblower ______________ jail in test case
4 US ______________ Indian tech companies for inspiration
5 Gas price ______________ as winter temperatures bite
6 Chief ______________ £1.1m in pay and bonuses

| faces | jumps | looks to |
| narrow | pockets | sets |

Activity Five

1 Ocean Air ______________ into black as cost-cutting pays off
2 President ______________ to eradicate sub-prime mortgage selling
3 Climate change ______________ threat to coastal cities say scientists
4 EU prosecutors ______________ historic raid to sift offshore tax dodge claims
5 Healthcare firm owners dividend ______________ £100m
6 Brazil ______________ $10bn railway deal

| launch | poses | rows back on |
| seeks | soars | tops |
Activity Six

1 Struggle over new pension rules ______________ doubts on further reforms
2 Pressure ______________ on CreditCom leadership
3 University staff to ______________ fresh strikes
4 Angle Insurance gains as FTSE ______________
5 Financial services group ______________ in corruption probe
6 KZT ______________ victory in hard-fought HDI takeover battle

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<td>rises</td>
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Activity Seven

1 Heli Bank chief economist ______________
2 Corporate pension fund hole ______________ larger
3 Leaked documents ______________ clues to next-generation computers
4 Mining industry ______________ battle lines on pollution rules
5 Transport minister ______________ to safeguard rail subsidies
6 SA&C Oil buys pipeline in €795m deal designed to ______________ South American presence

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<th>boost</th>
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Activity Eight

1 Smith gaffe ______________ move into spotlight
2 Farmers ______________ to plant less
3 MXNTech ______________ €750m for new EU data hubs
4 FCBA ______________ 69% profit rise from construction boom
5 Pace of recovery in eurozone ______________
6 Number of workers finding jobs ______________ as wages edge higher

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<td>quickens</td>
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Prepositions
Choose the correct prepositions to complete the headlines.

Activity One
1 Global Metals rides out fall_____ gold to report surge in third-quarter earnings
2 Sliced and diced loans take _____ in SE Asia
3 Clarke’s chairman steps _____ to take Willson’s role
4 Brazil rows back _____ $10bn railway deal
5 Government ministers hit back _____ corruption claims
6 Bus and train operators wary _____ jumping on driverless bandwagon

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Activity Two
1 Pressure mounts _____ CreditCom leadership
2 Fed paves way _____ rate rise this year amid jobs optimism
3 EU sounds _____ new partners as links with East sour
4 Jones to take _____ as Eastwest Rail chairman
5 Ocean Air soars into black as cost-cutting pays _____
6 Government training scheme looks to be _____ course after slow start

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Activity Three
1 US stock shrug _____ China fears
2 Climate change poses threat _____ coastal cities say scientists
3 Struggle over new pension rules cast doubts _____ further reforms
4 Tumbling retail prices take toll _____ high street
5 Heli Bank chief economist bows _____
6 Ex-Heli Bank chief _____ line to chair Angle Insurance

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Word partnerships

Put words in set 1 with words from set 2 to make word partnerships. Choose the correct word partnerships to complete the headlines.

Activity One

1 Berlin rebuffs RTG ________ ________ Mannheim Air over job fears
2 European ________ ________ face lengthy turmoil despite rail pact
3 Tumbling ________ ________ take toll on ________ ________
4 EU ________ daily ________ over pollution levels
5 Financial regulator ________ £8m ________ on Angle Insurance for fee abuse
6 UK finances buoyed by influx of ________ ________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Set 1</th>
<th>Set 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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Activity Two

1 MXNTech _______ _______ to modernise government data systems
2 China and West narrow gap in _______ _______
3 Government eyes more _______ _______ as _______ _______ slide
4 Heli Bank whistleblower faces jail in _______ _______
5 _______ _______ offer clues to next-generation computers
6 SlavOil open to _______ _______

<table>
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Rising or falling?

Read the headlines. Are the trends rising (↗) or falling (↘)?

**Activity One**

1 Corporate pension fund hole grows larger
2 FCBA reaps 69% profit rise from construction boom
3 Government eyes more budget cuts as tax receipts slide
4 Prices decline at record pace
5 Dark days round the corner for Heli Bank as profits dive
6 MXNTech climbs on earnings
7 Pace of recovery in eurozone quickens
8 US stocks and euro rally after international deal

**Activity Two**

1 Ocean Air soars into black as cost-cutting pays off
2 UK inflation drops to record low
3 Tumbling retail prices take toll on high street
4 Sliced and diced loans take off in SE Asia
5 Gas price jumps as winter temperatures bite
6 Global Metals rides out fall in gold to report surge in third-quarter earnings
7 Northsouth Rail falls on fears of subsidy cuts
8 Healthcare firm owners dividend tops £100m
Positive or negative?
Read the headlines. Are the stories positive (POS) or negative (NEG)?

Activity One
1 Heli Bank whistleblower faces jail in test case POS / NEG
2 University windfall paves way for reinvigorated science strategy POS / NEG
3 Smith gaffe hampers move into spotlight POS / NEG
4 Government training scheme looks to be on course after slow start POS / NEG
5 SlavOil open to rescue plan POS / NEG
6 MXNTech docks chief’s pay after bad year POS / NEG

Activity Two
1 Struggle over new pension rules casts doubts on further reforms POS / NEG
2 European supply chains face lengthy turmoil despite rail pact POS / NEG
3 BoJ upbeat on economy despite fears over inflation rate POS / NEG
4 MXNTech strikes deal to modernise government data systems POS / NEG
5 MXNTech earmarks €750m for new EU data hubs POS / NEG
6 Rail disruptions loom despite deal POS / NEG

Activity Three
1 Pressure mounts on CreditCom leadership POS / NEG
2 Financial services group sued in corruption probe POS / NEG
3 Climate change poses threat to coastal cities say scientists POS / NEG
4 China and West narrow gap in trade talks POS / NEG
5 Number of workers finding jobs surges as wages edge higher POS / NEG
6 Patent suit threatens start-up POS / NEG
Activity Four

1 Ports dispute chokes off trading routes  POS / NEG
2 Financial regulator imposes £8m penalty on Angle Insurance for fee abuse  POS / NEG
3 Russia’s debt downgraded to junk by Moody’s  POS / NEG
4 City fears new bank rules will deter best people  POS / NEG
5 Fed paves way for rate rise this year amid jobs optimism  POS / NEG
6 UK finances buoyed by influx of overseas investment  POS / NEG
You can get the answer key for these activities by buying  

[Image: Understanding Headlines] by Barney Barrett

As well as the activities, the book contains:

- lots of examples of typical headlines from business news stories with the meaning of each headline explained.
- a mini-dictionary of words that are often used in headlines from business news stories.
- advice on how to use a learner’s dictionary to understand headlines and to build your vocabulary.
- a list of useful resources.

You can buy Understanding Headlines – Business News by Barney Barrett in Kindle format from Amazon.