

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 Clarckes chairman _____ to take Willsons 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

cast	claims	mounts
rises	stage	sued

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

boost	bows out	draws up
grows	offer	vows

Activity Eight

- 1 Smith gaffe _____ move into spotlight
- 2 Farmers _____ to plant less
- 3 MXN Tech _____ €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

earmarks	forecast	hampers
quicken	reaps	surges

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 Clarckes chairman steps _____ to take Willsons 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

at	down	in
of	off	on

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

for	off	on
on	out	over

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

in	off	on
on	out	to

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 _____ _____

<u>Set 1</u>	<u>Set 2</u>
bid	chains
high	fines
imposes	for
levies	investment
overseas	penalty
retail	prices
supply	street

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 _____

Set 1

budget

leaked

rescue

strikes

tax

test

trade

Set 2

case

cuts

deal

documents

plan

receipts

talks

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 MXN Tech 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

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.