

BBC producer killed in Somalia (Thurs10 Feb)

WARM UPS

CHAT: Talk in pairs or groups about the BBC / journalists / being a producer / the African continent / dangerous jobs / Somalia / putting your life on the line...

To make things more dynamic, try telling your students they only have one minute (or 2) on each chat topic before changing topics / partners. Change topic / partner frequently to energize the class.

JOURNALIST BRAINSTORM: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with journalists. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

DANGEROUS JOBS: Talk to your partner / group about the following dangerous jobs. Which three would you do, and which three would you never do?

- a. TV news war correspondent
- b. coal mine
- c. land mine clearer
- d. soldier in Iraq
- e. skyscraper construction worker
- f. deep sea diver
- g. fighter pilot
- h. fire fighter
- i. spy
- j. logger
- k. F1 driver

BEING A JOURNALIST: The following is a short list of the things needed to be a journalist and go to dangerous places. Tell your partner if you have these qualities, and give examples to show how:

- a. bravery
- b. a desire to find the truth
- c. dedication
- d. independence
- e. stamina
- f. never-ending patience
- g. excellent people skills
- h. intuition
- i. guts
- j. ability to think on your feet
- k. composure
- l. a sense of humor

PRE READING EXERCISES

WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries, or a search engine, to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'news' and 'report'.

TRUE / FALSE: Predict from the headline whether these statements are true or false:

- a. A BBC producer has been shot dead just after arriving in Somalia. T / F
- b. The producer was on vacation in Somalia. T / F
- c. She had a lot of experience reporting in Africa. T / F
- d. She was shot in the back outside her hotel. T / F
- e. Her news reporter was also shot. T / F
- f. The murderers were arrested just minutes later. T / F
- g. Mogadishu is usually a very safe city. T / F
- h. Ms Peyton put her life on the line to bring us the news. T / F

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | | |
|-----|-----------|-------------|
| (a) | produce | gunned down |
| (b) | series | globe |
| (c) | largely | make |
| (d) | shot | unhurt |
| (e) | occurred | number |
| (f) | unharmed | mainly |
| (g) | world | deeply |
| (h) | greatly | anarchic |
| (i) | lawless | happened |
| (j) | dedicated | committed |

INTERNET / WEB LINKS:

The BBC World Service:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/index.shtml>

CIA fact file on Somalia

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/so.html>

BBC report on how guns and lawlessness are everywhere in Somalia:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/4076011.stm>

Somalia news from Africa:

<http://allafrica.com/somalia/>

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases based on the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| (a) | just after | the world |
| (b) | on the African | not yet been caught |
| (c) | shot in | lawless as Mogadishu |
| (d) | escaped | arriving in Somalia |
| (e) | all over | without risk |
| (f) | She will be greatly | continent |
| (g) | The murderers have | unharmed |
| (h) | in a city as | the back |
| (i) | going to dangerous countries is never | on the line |
| (j) | putting their lives | missed |

GAP FILL

BBC producer killed in Somalia (Thurs10 Feb)

BNE: A BBC producer has been _____ dead just after arriving in Somalia to produce a series of news reports on the _____. Kate Peyton, aged 39, worked as a journalist and producer for the BBC for twelve years, _____ on the African continent. She arrived in the Somali capital Mogadishu with her reporter Peter Greste and was shot in the _____ outside her hotel. Mr. Greste, who was next to Ms Peyton when the shooting occurred, escaped _____. The BBC's head of news said about Ms Peyton, "Kate was one of our most experienced and respected Foreign Affairs producers who had worked all over Africa and all over the world. She will be _____ missed, both professionally and personally." The murderers have not yet been caught, nor are they likely to be in a city as lawless as Mogadishu, _____ for scenes of mobs dragging dead US Marines through the city streets in 1993. Being a journalist and going to dangerous countries is never without risk and every news reporter knows the dangers. It shows how dedicated they are to bringing us the news by putting their _____ on the line.

unharmed shot infamous lives largely greatly country back

DISCUSSION: Ask each other the following questions:

- a. What do you think of Ms Peyton?
- b. Would you like to do her job?
- c. If your boss asked you to go to Somalia, what would you say to him/her?
- d. Do you think the job of an international news correspondent is always exciting?
- e. How dangerous is being a news reporter?
- f. Should news agencies ask their reporters to put their lives on the line?
- g. What would the world news look like if journalists only went to 'safe' countries?
- h. Have you ever wanted to be a journalist?
- i. If you were a journalist, in which news department would you choose to work – sports, Hollywood, computers, science, wars, financial, domestic, fashion, other?
- j. Have you ever put your life on the line?
- k. Is your job without risk?
- l. Are you interested in going too dangerous countries?
- m. Do you want an exciting job involving danger and risk, like Ms Peyton's, or a sedate and safe office job?

HOMEWORK

LETTER TO KATE: Write a letter to Kate Peyton telling her your thoughts on her being a journalist and going to dangerous countries.

MY DREAM JOB: Being a journalist was probably Ms Peyton's dream job. Write about yours – How long have wanted to do it? Why? Any plans?

BBC producer killed in Somalia (Thurs10 Feb) Pre-Intermediate +

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