**KEY WORDS IN NEWSPAPER HEADLINES**

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|  | **Word** | **Meaning** | **Example Sentences** |
|  | **Act** | **Take action** | **Food Crisis: Govt. to act** |
|  | **Aid** | **Help** | **More aid for poor countries** |
|  | **Alert** | **warning** | **Flood alert on the western coast** |
|  | **Allege** | **To accuse** | **Woman alleges unfair treatment** |
|  | **Back** | **support** | **America backs India** |
|  | **Bar** | **refuse** | **Political Parties bar Pakistani players in Mumbai** |
|  | **Ban:** | forbid, refuse to allow | GOVERNMENT BANS SMOKING IN PUBLIC |
|  | **Bid** | **Attempt** | **India’s fresh bid for United Nation Seat** |
|  | **Blaze** | **Fire** | **Six die in Textile Market Blaze** |
|  | **Block** | **Delay** | **Cong Blocks Govt Proposal** |
|  | **Blow** | **Bad news** | **Kohli’s injured: blow to India’s world cup hopes** |
|  | **boom** | **Big increase** | **Boom in India’s Internet Usage** |
|  | **Boost** | **encourage** | **New policy boosts export** |
|  | **Brink** | **edge** | **India-Pak on the brink of war** |
|  | **Call for** | **Demand/appeal** | **Students Union call for Minister’s resignation** |
|  | **clash** | **Fight/ quarrel** | **Rival groups clash during voting** |
|  | **clear** | **Find innocent** | **Player cleared of fixing charges.** |
|  | **drama** | **Dramatic event**  **Tense situation** | **Highjack drama at airport** |
|  | **edge** | **Move gradually** | **Indian Edge towards victory** |
|  | **Drive** | **United Effort** | **PM Inaugurates cleanliness Drive** |
|  | **Flak** | **Strong criticism** | **PM Faces flak over Tax rates** |
|  | **Foil** | **Prevent somebody from succeeding** | **Army foils terrorists’ plans** |
|  | **Go Ahead** | **Approval** | **Budget proposal gets PM’s Go Ahead** |
|  | **Hail** | **Praise/welcome** | **America hails Peace Plans** |
|  | **Head** | **To lead** | **Dhoni to head the team for World Cup** |
|  | **Hike** | **Rise in costs/prices** | **Petro; prices hiked by Rs 2** |
|  | **Hit out at** | **Attack with words** | **PM hits out opposition parties** |
|  | **Key** | **Important** | **Terrorists wanted to attack key Posts** |
|  | **lash** | **Criticize strongly** | **Opposition lashes out at PM** |
|  | **loom** | **Threaten to happen** | **VAT on Hotel Bills: New increase LOOMS** |
|  | **mar** | **Spoils** | **Crowd trouble mars match** |
|  | **Mob** | **Angry crowd** | **Mobs burn ST Buses.** |
|  | **Net** | **win** | **Brothers net jackpot prize** |
|  | **Pull out** | **withdraw** | **Indian team pulls out of the Competition** |
|  | **Quiz** | **To question** | **Police to quiz** |
|  | **Rule out** | **Reject** | **Govt rules out changes in Exam dates** |
|  | **Sack** | **Dismissed** | **Striking doctors may be sacked** |
|  | **Set to** | **Ready to/ about to** | **Call charges set to fall** |
|  | **toll** | **Number killed** | **Accident toll rises to 23** |
|  | **Split** | **Disagree** | **Committee Members split on Cricket with pakistan** |
|  | **Slump** | **Fall** | **Oil slums below 30 dollars a barrel** |
|  | **Troops** | **soldiers** | **50 indian troops on special mission** |
|  | **stun** | **Surprises/shocks** | **Local boy stuns world champion in Chess** |
|  | **quit** | **Resign/leave** | **Dhoni to quit after world Cup?** |

**Newspaper Headlines** often include key words that may or may not be commonly used. They are chosen because they are shorter and require less space and also because of the effect that they may produce on the learners. Headlines are also written in a special style which basically consist of simplifying the grammar.

Therefore, in headlines, we usually find:

1. **S**hort words instead of long ones and abreviations.
2. **D**ramatic adjectives and adverbs to attract readers attention.
3. **A**ctive verbs.
4. **C**ultural references.
5. **A** very condensed structure:

* **a**rticles and verb the "**to** **be**" are frequently omitted;
* **v**erbs are simplified:   
  - the **p**resent **s**imple refers to the present or the past;   
  - the **i**nfinitive refers to the future;  
  - the verb "**to** **be**" is also omitted in the passive and in continuous forms;  
  - the progressive **-ing** form is used to show something that is developing.
* **n**ouns and **a**djectives are grouped together without any verbs or conjunctions.
* Following is a list of words that often appear in headlines and the meaning they usually have in this context:

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| **Headline word** | **Meaning** |
| accord (n) | agreement |
| aid (n/v) | assist/ assistance |
| axe (v) | cut, destroy |
| awe (v) | veneration |
| back (v) | support |
| ban (n/v) | prohibition |
| bar (n/v) | exclude, prohibit |
| bid (n) | attempt |
| blast (n) | explosion |
| blaze (n) | fire |
| blow (n) | injury/disappointment |
| boom (n/v) | sudden beneficial increase |
| boost (n/v) | help, incentive |
| bring (v) | to cause, result in |
| bug (n) | disease, virus |
| call (for) (n/v) | demand |
| clash (n/v) | argument, conflict |
| cop (n) | policeman |
| coup (n) | revolution, change in government |
| crook (n) | criminal |
| curb (n/v) | restrain, limit |
| cut (n/v) | reduction |
| deal (n) | agreement |
| drama (n) | dramatic action, |
| drive (n) | campaign, effort |
| envoy (n) | diplomat |
| exit (n/v) | leave |
| fear (n/v) | anxious expectations |
| flee (v) | escape rapidly |
| gems (n) | jewels |
| go (v) | be sold or knock down |
| go-ahead (n) | approval |
| gunman (n) | a man with a gun |
| hail (v) | celebrate, acclaim |
| halt (n/v) | stop |
| hammer (v) | beat |
| haul (n/v) | large quantity that has been stolen |
| head (n/v) | direct, lead |
| hit (v) | affect badly |
| hold (v) | detain, keep in police custody |
| hurdle (n) | obstacle |
| jail (n/v) | prison |
| jet (n) | aeroplane |
| jobless (adj) | unemployed |
| key (adj) | essential, vital |
| kid (n) | child |
| killing (n) | murder |
| link (n/v) | connection |

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| loom (v) | approach (of something threatening) |
| mob (n) | mafia/ uncontrolled crowd |
| net (v) | to capture |
| no (n) | refusal, rejection |
| ordeal (n) | unpleasant experience |
| oust (v) | push out, replace |
| output (n) | production |
| pact (n) | agreement, treaty |
| peril (n) | danger |
| pledge (n/v) | promise |
| plea (n) | strong request |
| poll (n) | election, public survey |
| press (v) | to insist on something |
| press for (v) | demand, ask for |
| probe (n/v) | investigate |
| quit (v) | leave, resign |
| quiz (v) | interrogate |
| raid (n/v) | attack, robbery |
| riddle (n) | mystery |
| row (n) | argument, disagreement |
| scare (n) | alarm |
| seek (v) | request |
| shock (n) | surprising revelation |
| slam (v) | criticise severely |
| slash (v) | reduce |
| smash (v) | destroy |
| snub (v) | reject, turn down |
| soar (v) | increase dramatically |
| spark (v) | cause, produce |
| split (n/v) | divide |
| squeeze (n/v) | shortage, scarcity |
| storm (n) | violent disagreement |
| strife (n) | conflict |
| sue (v) | accuse, appeal |
| switch (n/v) | change, deviation |
| swoop (n/v) | sudden attack or raid |
| talks (n) | discussions |
| threat (n) | menace |
| toll (n) | number of people killed |
| top (n) | exceed |
| urge (v) | recommend strongly |
| vow (n/v) | promise, threaten |
| walkout (n) | strike |
| wed (v) | wedding |
| weep (v) | cry, mourn |
| win (v) | gain, achieve |
| woe (n) | misfortune |
| woo (v) | try to win the favour of |