

The Specifics of Using Video News in English Language Teaching

*Djumaeva Guzal Azizovna*¹

Abstract: This article explores the methodological potential of using video news in English language teaching. Video news, as an authentic and dynamic resource, provides learners with access to real-life language usage, cultural insights, and professional knowledge. The study examines the structure and linguistic features of video news and proposes effective methods for incorporating them into the learning process. Special attention is given to pre-viewing, while-viewing, and post-viewing tasks that develop key language skills such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The article also addresses challenges, such as understanding diverse accents and overcoming technical barriers, and offers practical solutions. The findings demonstrate that video news not only enhances linguistic and cultural competencies but also increases student motivation and engagement, making it a valuable tool in modern English language instruction.

Keywords: video news, English language teaching, listening skills, authentic materials, cultural competence, language skills development, teaching methodology, linguistic features, student motivation.

Introduction

In contemporary English language instruction, authentic materials play a vital role in providing students with access to a genuine language environment. Among such resources, video news stands out as a dynamic and up-to-date format that enhances linguistic, cultural, and social competencies. These materials reflect not only the language in its authentic usage but also the cultural, economic, and political realities of English-speaking countries.

Using video news effectively in English language teaching requires a thoughtful approach to integrate linguistic, cultural, and cognitive skills. Here is the best advice for maximizing its potential:

1. Select Appropriate Content

- **Level-Appropriate Material:** Choose videos that match the language proficiency of students. For beginners, use news with slower speech or subtitles; for advanced learners, include complex topics and diverse accents.
- **Relevant Topics:** Opt for news stories that resonate with students' interests or align with curriculum themes. This ensures higher engagement.

Listening—perceiving and understanding spoken language—is a fundamental skill in language learning. It serves as the foundation for communication and significantly contributes to the development of other skills, such as reading, speaking, and writing. There are two primary approaches to teaching listening:

1. Training listening as an independent skill through specific exercises, treating it as a learning objective.
2. Integrating listening with speaking, reading, and writing, treating it as a means to support the development of broader communicative abilities.

A combination of these approaches allows for effective development of listening skills, transitioning into active oral speech. The use of authentic audio and video materials, including news broadcasts,

¹ An associate professor of Karshi engineering and economics institute, Uzbekistan



optimizes the auditory, visual, and speech channels of students, thereby stimulating their communicative activity.

Structure the Lesson Around the Video

1. Pre-Viewing Activities:

- Introduce key vocabulary and concepts to scaffold understanding.
- Engage students with warm-up questions related to the topic.

2. While-Viewing Tasks:

- Incorporate activities such as noting key details, identifying main ideas, or predicting outcomes to promote active listening.
- Use the "audio only" or "video only" mode to emphasize specific skills.

3. Post-Viewing Exercises:

- Follow up with discussions, summaries, debates, or role-plays to reinforce comprehension and speaking skills.
- Assign creative tasks like drafting their own news report based on the video.

4. Encourage Multimodal Interaction

- Use subtitles for vocabulary building and pronunciation practice.
- Pause videos to clarify complex segments or emphasize language patterns.
- Analyze visual cues (e.g., charts, graphs, or gestures) to enhance interpretative skills.

5. Develop Cultural Awareness

- Highlight cultural elements within the news, such as holidays, traditions, or political systems.
- Compare and contrast news coverage from different English-speaking countries to discuss perspectives and journalistic styles.

6. Overcome Challenges

- **Fast Speech or Accents:** Start with materials featuring clear and neutral accents, gradually moving to diverse accents.
- **Access Issues:** If technology is limited, provide offline materials or links for homework.
- **Language Barriers:** Offer preparatory exercises and encourage repeated viewing for better comprehension.

7. Use Technology Effectively

- Leverage online platforms like BBC Learning English, CNN 10, or EuroNews for accessible and regularly updated news content.
- Assign interactive tasks via apps or tools, such as creating quizzes with platforms like Kahoot or Edpuzzle based on the video content.

Relevance of Video News in Language Teaching

In specialized courses, such as English for students of international relations, news broadcasts from satellite channels are widely utilized. These broadcasts are significant for several reasons:

- They provide professional competence through exposure to current international events.
- They feature authentic, naturally used language, which offers models of pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary.



- They allow students to practice listening alongside visual aids, enhancing comprehension and retention.

The brevity and dynamism of news segments (1–3 minutes per story) make them convenient for classroom integration, offering diverse topics that align with students' academic and professional interests.

Methodological Approaches to Working with Video News

Effective use of video news involves structured stages:

1. Pre-Viewing Activities:

- Activate background knowledge through discussions.
- Introduce key vocabulary and concepts.
- Hypothesize about the content based on preliminary information.

2. While-Viewing Tasks:

- Use different viewing modes (“video only,” “audio only,” or “audio-video”).
- Provide exercises like matching keywords, completing sentences, or summarizing key points.
- Encourage selective listening for specific details.

3. Post-Viewing Activities:

- Facilitate discussions and debates on the video content.
- Assign written tasks such as composing news reports or essays.
- Organize role-playing activities where students act as presenters or reporters.

Challenges and Solutions

- **Language Barriers:** Fast-paced speech and unfamiliar vocabulary can pose difficulties. Subtitles and pre-teaching vocabulary help mitigate these challenges.
- **Accents and Dialects:** Exposure to various English accents (British, American, Australian) broadens students' auditory skills. Gradual introduction of materials with diverse accents is recommended.
- **Technical Limitations:** Issues with equipment or internet access can be addressed by utilizing students' mobile devices or assigning online tasks as homework.

Impact of Video News on Language Skills Development

1. **Listening Skills:** Students learn to process natural speech with authentic intonation and pacing.
2. **Speaking and Pronunciation:** Mimicking presenters enhances pronunciation and fluency.
3. **Vocabulary and Grammar:** News stories contextualize new vocabulary and grammatical structures.
4. **Cultural Competence:** News reports often highlight cultural events and traditions, fostering a deeper understanding of the target culture.

Conclusion

Incorporating video news into English language teaching enhances the development of key language skills, enriches cultural knowledge, and increases student motivation. By optimizing the use of video news, educators can create engaging and effective learning experiences tailored to the diverse needs of their students.



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