In the headlines

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
PRE-INTERMEDIATE | A2-B1

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Match each headline word with its meaning.

1 probe ____	**a** to investigate
2 slam ____	**b** to criticise strongly
3 vow ____	**c** to promise
4 axe ____	**d** to cancel or remove
5 boost ____	**e** to increase or improve
6 slash ____	**f** to reduce sharply
7 rap ____	**g** to criticise or blame
8 curb ____	**h** to limit or control

2 Choose the correct meaning of the headline word.

1 'PM vows to fix economy' (vow = promise / cancel)

2 'Council axes school funding' (axes = cancels / increases)

3 'Police probe robbery' (probe = investigate / celebrate)

4 'Minister slams new law' (slams = praises / criticises)

5 'Firm slashes prices' (slashes = reduces sharply / increases)

6 'Sales boost expected' (boost = increase / decrease)

7 'Report raps officials' (raps = criticises / thanks)

8 'New rules curb spending' (curb = limit / encourage)

3 Complete the headlines with words from the box.

axe | boost | curb | probe | rap | slam | slash | vow

In the headlines

Headline A: Mayor to 1 _____ traffic in city centre
Headline B: Officials 2 _____ to improve services
Headline C: Police 3 _____ missing funds
Headline D: Critics 4 _____ new policy
Headline E: Government to 5 _____ old programme
Headline F: Company will 6 _____ jobs numbers
Headline G: Report to 7 _____ council over delays
Headline H: New scheme to 8 _____ local businesses

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4 Match each headline word with its longer, everyday equivalent.

1 probe ____	**a** increase significantly
2 axe ____	**b** cancel completely
3 boost ____	**c** limit or restrict
4 curb ____	**d** investigate thoroughly

5 Read the text. Write T (true) or F (false).

Understanding headlines

Newspaper headlines often use short, dramatic words to save space and grab attention. 'Probe' means investigate, 'axe' means cancel, and 'slam' means criticise strongly. A headline like 'Mayor vows to curb traffic' simply means the mayor has promised to limit traffic. These short words help fit a lot of meaning into a small space.

1 Headlines use short, dramatic words. T / F

2 'Probe' means to celebrate. T / F

3 'Axe' means to cancel. T / F

4 'Slam' means to praise. T / F

5 'Curb' means to limit. T / F

6 Short words help save space in headlines. T / F

6 Complete the sentences with the correct preposition (over, to, on, for).

1 The minister vowed _____ act.

2 Police probe _____ the incident.

3 The council was criticised _____ the delay.

4 The government plans a curb _____ spending.

OVER TO YOU

Write 3-4 short newspaper headlines using headline words from this lesson (probe, slam, vow, axe, etc.), then explain what each one means.

[ ] Use at least six headline words. [ ] Keep headlines short and dramatic. [ ] Explain each headline clearly.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Headline word meanings

1 a 2 b 3 c 4 d 5 e 6 f 7 g 8 h

2 Choose the correct meaning

1 promise 2 cancels 3 investigate 4 criticises 5 reduces sharply 6 increase 7 criticises 8 limit

3 Headlines

1 curb 2 vow 3 probe 4 slam 5 axe 6 slash 7 rap 8 boost

4 Longer equivalents

1 d 2 b 3 a 4 c

5 Reading

1 T
2 F - it means investigate.
3 T
4 F - it means criticise.
5 T
6 T

6 Prepositions

1 to 2 over 3 for 4 on

Over to you

Answers will vary. Check clear headlines, accurate use of words and clear explanations.