



Business news

Lesson code: 112C-N6C9-JLII

INTERMEDIATE+ (B2)

 American English

1 Key words

Match the words on the left to their definitions on the right.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. a boost | a. an increase |
| 2. pricey | b. a person who is walking, especially in an area where cars go |
| 3. substantial | c. a time when house prices are going up |
| 4. a pedestrian | d. expensive |
| 5. a property boom | e. in, from, or to other countries |
| 6. overseas | f. large in size, value, or importance |
| 7. range | g. the distance that a vehicle can travel without needing to stop for more fuel |

2 News stories

You're going to read 5 business news stories adapted from newspapers and media outlets. Before you read, choose the best answers to the questions below. Then read the text to check your answers

- Which company is trying to develop self-driving cars?
a. Toyota b. Samsung c. Uber
- Which city's property prices fell by 15% in 2018?
a. London b. Singapore c. New York City
- Which company announced in February 2019 that it was releasing a foldable smartphone?
a. Samsung b. Apple c. Huawei
- What is the US unemployment rate as of April 2019?
a. 3.7% b. 6.1% c. 9.1%
- How much does the fastest street-legal car cost?
a. \$600,000 b. \$1 million c. \$2.5 million



Uber's self-driving car business receives new investment

April 19 2019

Uber has raised \$1 billion from a group of investors including SoftBank Group Corp and Toyota Motor Corp. This gives the company a much-needed funding boost for its pricey self-driving ambitions.

The funding allows Uber to transfer some of the

substantial cost of developing self-driving cars onto outside investors. However, many people are still concerned about self-driving technology. A crash in March 2018 involving an Uber self-driving SUV killed a pedestrian in Tempe, Arizona, and forced the company to shut down its biggest testing operation.

London property prices fall as much as 15% as Brexit effect deepens

March 12, 2018

House prices in parts of London have fallen as much as 15% over the past year due to the impact

of the EU referendum. They were once at the centre of the UK property boom.

Samsung releases first foldable phone

February 21, 2019

Samsung has released a foldable smartphone called the Galaxy Fold. The Fold will go on sale in just over two months time and experts seem to be very excited by the news. Samsung say the 'Galaxy Fold' opens up to create a 7.3in (18.5cm)

tablet-like display. The phone also has six cameras - three on the back, two on the inside, and one on the front - which means it could take photos from many different positions.

US unemployment hits 49-year low

April 4, 2019

The U.S. unemployment rate has reached 3.7% – the lowest level recorded since December 1969. This is a positive sign as other data, such as weak

consumer and business spending, and slow growth overseas, mean that U.S. economic growth has been slower this year



New hyper car faster than a jet

April 18, 2018

Automobili Pininfarina has launched one of the world's most exciting new cars at an event in New York. The company's new \$2.5 million all-electric hypercar produces a massive 1,900 horsepower and reaches 60 miles per hour in under two seconds. That makes it the fastest street-legal car ever built by an automaker, even quicker than a

Formula One race car.

Earlier in the year, Pininfarina said that the car will reach 180 mph in less time than an F-16 fighter jet. All of that acceleration comes from electric motors that are powered by a 120 kWh battery and should have a range of around 300 miles on a single charge.

3 Checking understanding

Answer the questions below.

1. What difficulty did Uber experience when testing self-driving cars?
2. Why did house prices in London fall in 2018?
3. Why does the Galaxy Fold have six cameras?
4. How is the US economy performing?
5. How does Pininfarina's new hypercar accelerate so quickly?

4 Collocations

Match the verbs on the left to the expressions on the right to form phrases from the texts.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. raise | a. a low level |
| 2. go | b. a new car |
| 3. reach | c. an operation |
| 4. launch | d. funding |
| 5. shut down | e. on sale |

Create your own sentence for each phrase.



5 Grammar - Tenses for talking about the news

Complete the rules below with 'simple present', 'simple past' and 'present perfect'.

1. We often use the _____ in article headlines to capture the reader's attention, for example 'US unemployment **hits** 49-year low'.
2. We use the _____ to talk about a very recent event for the first time, for example 'The U.S. unemployment rate **has reached** 3.7%'.
3. We use the _____ to talk about a completed event in the past, for example 'A crash in March 2018 involving an Uber self-driving SUV **killed** a pedestrian in Tempe, Arizona.'

Find more examples of each tense.

6 Talking about what you've heard/read

When talking about a news event, we often use words and phrases to let the listener know that we do not know if the details are 100% true. Listen to and complete the dialogue below.



according to	as far as I know	apparently
from what I've read		they say

Paul: Have you heard about the new Pininfarina hypercar?

Joe: No, tell me about it.

Paul: Well, _____ ¹, it's the fastest car ever built. It's even faster than an F-16 fighter jet.

Joe: No way! That's impossible.

Paul: It's true. _____ ² the company's website, it can reach 180 mph in less time than a fighter jet.

Joe: How's that even possible?

Paul: Well, _____ ³, it has an electric motor that runs on an incredibly powerful battery.

Joe: How much is it?

Paul: _____ ⁴ it costs around \$2.5 million.

Joe: Wow, who can afford that price tag?

Paul: Well, _____ ⁵, 25 cars have already been reserved in North America, so people are buying it.

Joe: Yep, billionaires I expect.

7 Talking point

In pairs, talk about a recent news story. Try to use some language from this lesson.



Warm-up

Time: 2-4 mins

Ask general questions to get your students to relax, for example: How do you feel today? How was your weekend? Have you watched any news recently?

1 Key words

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

Time: 3 mins

Read the words on the left. Model correct pronunciation. Then ask the students to match the words with the definitions. Monitor the task. Ask students to compare their answers before checking them as a class. For one-to-one lessons, ask your student to read the answers aloud. Correct pronunciation where necessary.

2 News stories

Time: 4-5 mins

Read the instructions and questions to the class and ask for their opinions. Do not correct any of their answers. Simply say 'interesting' or 'we'll see if you are correct'. Allow sufficient time for reading. Ask students to share their answers with the class.

1. c 2. a 3. a 4. a 5. c

3 Checking understanding

Time: 2-3 mins

Read the instructions and ask your students to find the answers in the text by reading it more carefully than before. Ask students to compare their answers then check with the whole class. Ask them to read their answers aloud.

1. A pedestrian was killed during a test.
2. because of the EU referendum result
3. so that it can take pictures from any position
4. consumer and business spending is weak; growth overseas is slow
5. it has an electric motor powered by a 120 kWh battery

4 Collocations

Time: 3 mins

Ask your students to read the words from both columns. They should try to match the words to form possible collocations. Monitor the task and when completed, instruct your students to check their choices in the text.

After the task: Encourage your students to choose five collocations that they think they might use in the future. They then create their own sentences and read them to a partner. In 1:1 lessons, ask your student to read his/her sentences to you. Correct if necessary.

1. d 2. e 3. a 4. b 5. c



5 Grammar - Tenses for talking about the news

Time: 3-4 mins

Include a grammar revision point (if you have the time, explain thoroughly and read all of the rules aloud to the class). Ask if everything is understood. Ask your students to complete the sentences with the words in the appropriate tense. Give your students enough time to finish the task. Ask them to compare their answers and then check by asking everyone to read one sentence aloud.

1. simple present
2. present perfect
3. simple past

Other examples:

Simple present: Uber's self-driving car business receives new investment, London property prices fall, US unemployment hits

Present perfect: Uber has raised \$1 billion, Samsung has released a foldable smartphone, Automobili Pininfarina has launched one of the world's most exciting new cars

Simple past: Earlier in the year, Pininfarina has said that the car will reach 180 mph in less time than an F-16 fighter jet.

6 Talking about what you've heard/read

Time: 4-5 mins

Read the instructions to the class. Ask your students to listen to and complete the dialogue. Go through the answers with the whole class /OR/ Ask your students to read the dialogue in their pairs. Monitor their work. Remember: Praise your students for doing a good job and encourage them to relax for the next task.

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. apparently | 2. according to | 3. from what I've read |
| 4. they say | 5. as far as I know | |

Time: 4-5 mins

Try changing the seating positions of your students e.g. by asking them to move two seats to their right/left. Then ask them to start a discussion. Encourage speaking in pairs or small groups. Monitor the task but do not interfere.

