

WRITE AN ATTENTION-GRABBING HEADLINE

Headlines should grab the reader's attention. They should be short and are not usually complete sentences. Here are some tips for making a complete sentence into a headline.

- 1 Delete *a, the,* and all possessive adjectives.
- 2 Delete all forms of the auxiliary verb *be* (e.g., *is, are, was, were*).
- 3 Use the infinitive to talk about future events.
- 4 Use the simple present to talk about current or recent events.
- 5 Group nouns together wherever you can (for example, *house prices, New York hotel*).

Look at these examples.

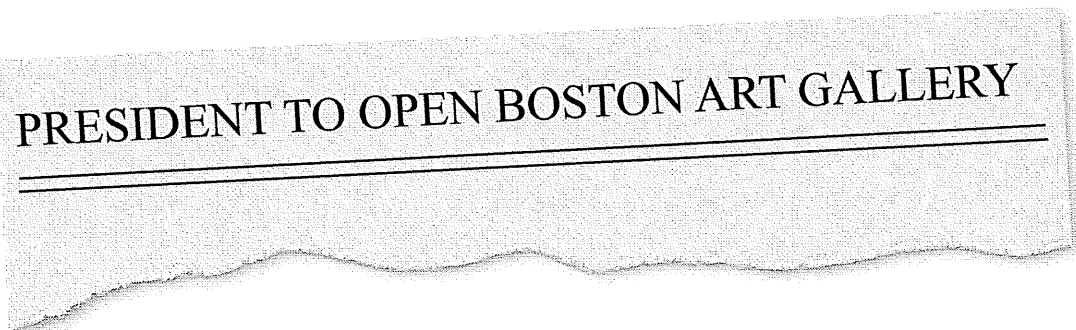
Sentence: Jennifer Lawrence's new movie has broken box office records in its opening week.

Headline:



Sentence: The president is going to open an art gallery in Boston.

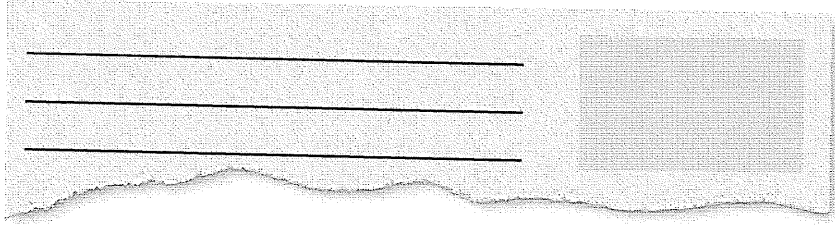
Headline:



Now write headlines for these sentences.

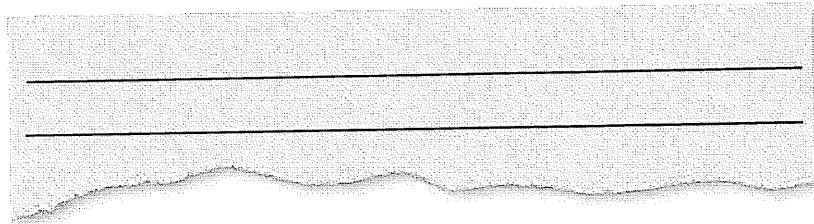
A friendly dolphin has saved a teenage boy from drowning.

Headline:



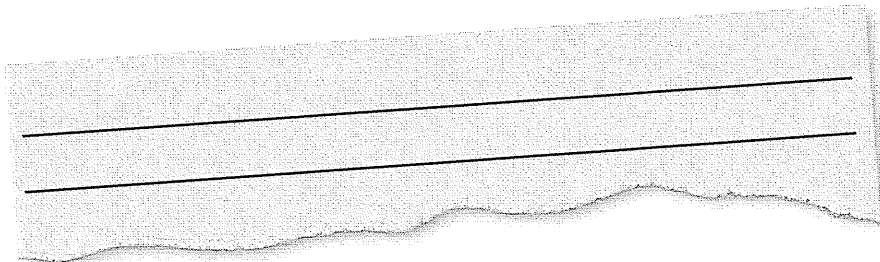
The Memphis Grizzlies suffered their third defeat at home last night.

Headline:



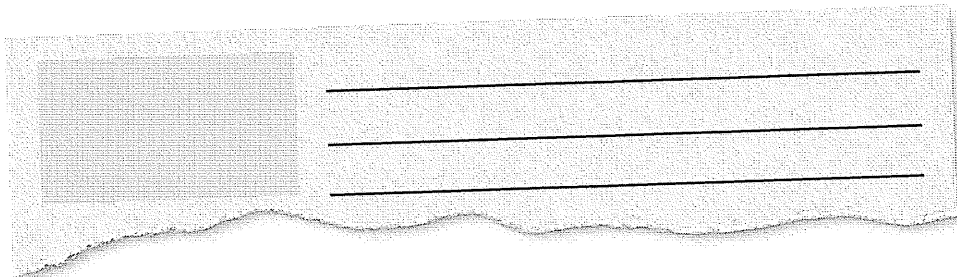
A pair of sunglasses worn by Elvis Presley were sold to a businessman from Texas for \$1 million.

Headline:



Frontman Dusty Biebs is going to marry his make-up artist on Christmas Day.

Headline:



MAINTAIN THE READER'S INTEREST

The start of a news story should expand on the headline and give the reader some, but not all, of the story's details. It should make the reader want to read the full story.

Look at the headline below. What would you most like to know about the story? Write three questions.

FRIENDLY DOLPHIN SAVES TEENAGE BOY FROM DROWNING

1 _____?

Answer: _____

2 _____?

Answer: _____

3 _____?

Answer: _____

Trade questions with another group. Read the story below in Run a grammar check. Does it answer the group's questions? Write the answers on the group's worksheet and then return it to the group.

RUN A GRAMMAR CHECK

When you have written your story, you will need to check that all verbs are in the correct tense and that you've used the passive where you need to. As practice, write the verbs in the story below in the correct form.

A dolphin (1) _____ (save) a boy from drowning in the Adriatic Sea last weekend.

Davide Ceci (2) _____ (sail) with his father when he slipped and fell into the water. He was calling for help when he (3) _____ (feel) something pushing him out of the sea and toward the boat.

"At first, I (4) _____ (not know) what (5) _____ (happen)," 14-year-old Davide told journalists, "but when I realized it was Filippo the dolphin pushing me, I (6) _____ (grab) on to him."

The 380 kg dolphin (7) _____ (be) a popular tourist attraction in the sea near Manfredonia, in southeast Italy, for two years and (8) _____ (give) the name Filippo by local people.

