

10B Grammar

Passive reporting verbs

Interview 1 – Deputy Minister of Culture

A journalist will interview you.

You have prepared some answers to possible questions.

- This is a difficult post and very few people want the responsibility.
- You remember the Minister from school and you did work together somewhere once.
- You decided to leave business and enter politics because of your social conscience.
- The accounts for this year have still not been finalised.
- You have rented a yacht but have no time to use it because of the pressures of work.
- There is a new flexi-time system for staff where they can start late if they finish late.
- Those staff uncomfortable with flexi-time have been transferred to another Ministry.
- The Ministry is trying to promote censorship laws which protect the public from unfair reporting.

Interview 1 – Journalist

You will interview the Deputy Minister of Culture. Ask the Deputy Minister about the stories of corruption and abuse of power, being careful to use passive reporting verbs to keep your sources secret and not make direct accusations.

- The Deputy Minister was the only candidate allowed to apply for the post.
- The Deputy Minister and Minister are old school friends and former business partners.
- The Deputy Minister left business because she/he was fired for misuse of company finances.
- 800,000 euros are unaccounted for in the latest accounts of the Ministry.
- The Deputy Minister bought a new yacht costing an estimated 800,000 euros.
- Staff at the Ministry have been made to work overtime for no extra pay.
- Several staff who complained about this were fired.
- The Ministry recently closed down a website which was critical of its work.

Interview 2 – Minister of Culture

A journalist will interview you.

You have prepared some answers to possible questions.

- The ancient Ministry of Culture building has been renovated (at last!).
- Funding for many arts projects has been frozen in the current economic crisis.
- All government workers have had a salary increase.
- There are problems with a new software system for calculating wages.
- My partner has been very ill recently.
- My health is not great so I've taken up swimming.
- There is a new initiative to fund business projects which promote culture.
- I've just been on a business trip to Barbados.

Interview 2 – Journalist

You will interview the Minister of Culture. Ask the Minister about the stories of corruption and abuse of power, being careful to use passive reporting verbs to keep your sources secret and not make direct accusations.

- An extension to the Ministry of Culture building cost the taxpayer two million euros.
- At the same time funding for the arts has been cut.
- The Minister's salary has increased 300% since coming to office.
- Cleaners in the Ministry have not been paid for three months.
- The Minister's partner works as his secretary on a large salary but is never seen at work.
- The Minister received a personal loan to build a swimming pool in their mansion.
- The Minister's son also received a loan to start a tourism company.
- The Minister has just come back from a six-week holiday in Barbados, at the tax payer's expense.