

Structure of a Newspaper Article

Newspaper articles have 7 important parts to them:

- **Headline:** The title of the article. Usually printed in **bold** letters. The title should be catchy and tell the reader what the article is about.
- **Byline:** The name of the author of the article.
- **Dateline:** A heading that tells where a story is being reported from. (Usually this is where the event took place.)
- **Interviewee:** The person being interviewed in the article.
- **Lead:** The first few sentences of the story. These lines tell the 5 WH's of the story (Who, What, Where, When, Why & How).
- **Explanation:** After the lead paragraph has been written, the writer must decide what other facts or details the reader might want to know. The writer must make sure that he/she has enough information to answer any important questions a reader might have after reading the headline and the lead paragraph. This section can also include direct quotes from witnesses or bystanders.
- **Additional Information:** This information is the least important. Thus, if the news article is too long for the space it needs to fill, it can be shortened without rewriting any other part. This part can include information about a similar event. The journalist's opinion should not be expressed in the article—just report the facts.

Headline

Who, What, Where, When, Why, How

Supporting details

Quotes from interviewees

Additional information

Headline: High flying escape ends in death

Byline: By Robin Sloan, July 14

Dateline: LONDON

Lead paragraph: Icarus, son of the famous inventor, Daedalus, has plunged into the Aegean Sea and drowned while attempting to escape from the island of Crete. The tragedy took place early yesterday afternoon. His body has not yet been recovered.

Explanation: Icarus and his father had made wings from wax and bird feathers they had collected over the years while imprisoned on the island of Crete. They attached the homemade wings to their arms and, using a flapping motion, lifted off from the island shortly before noon. While making their escape, Icarus flew too close to the sun. As a result, the heat melted the wax on his wings which caused the feathers to drop off. The wings collapsed and Icarus fell into the sea and drowned.

Additional Information: Daedalus, sobbing from the distant shore where he had landed safely, said, "My last words to Icarus before we left the island were to stay close and not fly too high! He just didn't listen! Why didn't he listen to me?" Daedalus and Icarus had been held prisoner by King Minos on the island of Crete, and had been forced to build a labyrinth at the palace of Knossos. It was known to be the most difficult maze in the world to navigate successfully.

When was the story written? _____ **Who**

wrote the story? _____ **Where was**

the story reported from? _____

What happened? _____

Who did it happen to? _____

Where did it happen? _____

When did it happen? _____

How did it happen? _____

Who is the interviewee? _____

High flying escape ends in death

By Robin Sloan, July 14

LONDON—Icarus, son of the famous inventor, Daedalus, plunged into the Aegean Sea and drowned while attempting to escape from the island of Crete early yesterday afternoon. His body has yet to be recovered.

Icarus and his father had made wings from wax and bird feathers they had collected over the years while imprisoned on the island of Crete. They attached the homemade wings to their arms and, using a flapping motion, lifted off from the island shortly before noon. While making their escape, Icarus flew too close to the sun. As a result, the heat melted the wax on his wings which caused the feathers to drop off. The wings collapsed and Icarus fell into the sea and drowned.

Daedalus, sobbing from the distant shore where he had landed safely, said, “My last words to Icarus before we left the island were to stay close and not fly too high! He just didn’t listen! Why didn’t he listen to me?”

Daedalus and Icarus had been held prisoner by King Minos on the island of Crete, and had been forced to build a labyrinth at the palace of Knossos. It was known to be the most difficult maze in the world to navigate successfully.