Current Affairs Vocabulary Brainstorming and Speaking

Brainstorm language for these current affairs categories in teams. You will get one point for each word or phrase which is on your list and not in the answer key.

Disasters and environmental problems

Crimes

Punishments

Verbs connected to crime and punishment

People connected to crime and punishment

Politicians and what they do

Economic figures

Social problems

Words connected to war

International organisations

Other parts of a newspaper/ Other kinds of news
Current Affairs Vocabulary - Suggested Answers

Disasters and environmental problems
Flood, landslide/ avalanche, storm (hurricane/ cyclone/ typhoon), drought, famine/ starvation, volcanic eruption, earthquake, tidal wave/ tsunami, forest fire, crash/ collision/ pileup, fire, acid rain, pollution, oil spill/ oil slick, hole in the ozone layer, global warming, rising sea levels, extinction of endangered animals, illegal logging, tax dodging, epidemic,

Crimes
Theft/ robbery (e.g. bag snatching, pickpocketing, burglary, shoplifting, mugging), (first degree) murder/ homicide, second degree murder/ manslaughter, bribery, blackmail, insider trading, drink driving, arson, smuggling, terrorism, sexual harassment, illegal discrimination, organised crime (e.g. mafia and gangs), rape, assault

Punishments
Prison sentence (e.g. a life sentence), death penalty/ capital punishment, community service, suspended sentence, corporal punishment, fine, compensation/ damages,

Verbs connected to crime and punishment
Arrest, escape/ flee, question, confess, deny, prosecute, break in, threaten, steal, hide, apologise, convict, release, commit, investigate,

People connected to crime and punishment
Lawyer, judge, magistrate, criminal, suspect, victim, prison guard, police officer, private detective, suspect, witness, alibi, jury, court reporter, defendant/ accused

Politicians and what they do
MP, senator, congressman, mayor, local councillor, PM, president, candidate, vice president, MEP, incumbent, shadow minister, minister, The Chancellor (of the Exchequer)/ finance minister, lawmaker, president in waiting, conservative, leftwinger, member of the House of Lords, leader of the opposition, Speaker, cabinet, give a speech, vote, resign, release a statement, stand for election, take bribes, write a manifesto, form a coalition, retract a statement, be interviewed

Economic figures
Inflation, unemployment rate, business confidence, GDP, GNP, economic growth, interest rates, consumer confidence, stockmarket index (e.g. FTSE, Dow Jones), budget deficit, trade deficit, bankruptcies, household debt, national debt

Social problems
Abortion, divorce, bullying (e.g. in the workplace), censorship, child labour, data protection problems, domestic violence, educational standards, birthrate, addiction, globalisation, vandalism (e.g. graffiti), health scares, homelessness, human trafficking, gambling, weapons, immigration, inequality, NEETs, vigilantism, obesity, poverty, e.g. the Working Poor, school absenteeism, sex industry, stress-related illnesses, suicide

Words connected to war
Battle, attack, retreat, pact, ceasefire/ truce, defeat, ethnic cleansing, prisoner of war camp, refugee, civil war, ethnic tensions, invade, capture, defend/ hold off, ally, enemy, mediator,

International organisations
UNHCR, Red Cross, ASEAN, OPEC, IMF, World Bank, NATO, Amnesty International, UNESCO, WTO, WHO, EU, APEC, NAFTA

Other parts of a newspaper/ Other kinds of news
Opinion/ column/ editorial, reviews, listings, crossword, sports, weather, celebrity gossip, political scandal, cartoon

Written by Alex Case for UsingEnglish.com © 2012
Use as many words from above as you can to talk about recent news and news sources.