

B5U1

**Welcome to the unit &
Reading (I)**

**Be a critical news
reader!**



What tools do you usually use to keep up with the news?

- Weibo
- Wechat
- Tiktok
- TV
- Radio
- Newspapers
- Advertisements
- ...

mass media



Lead-in

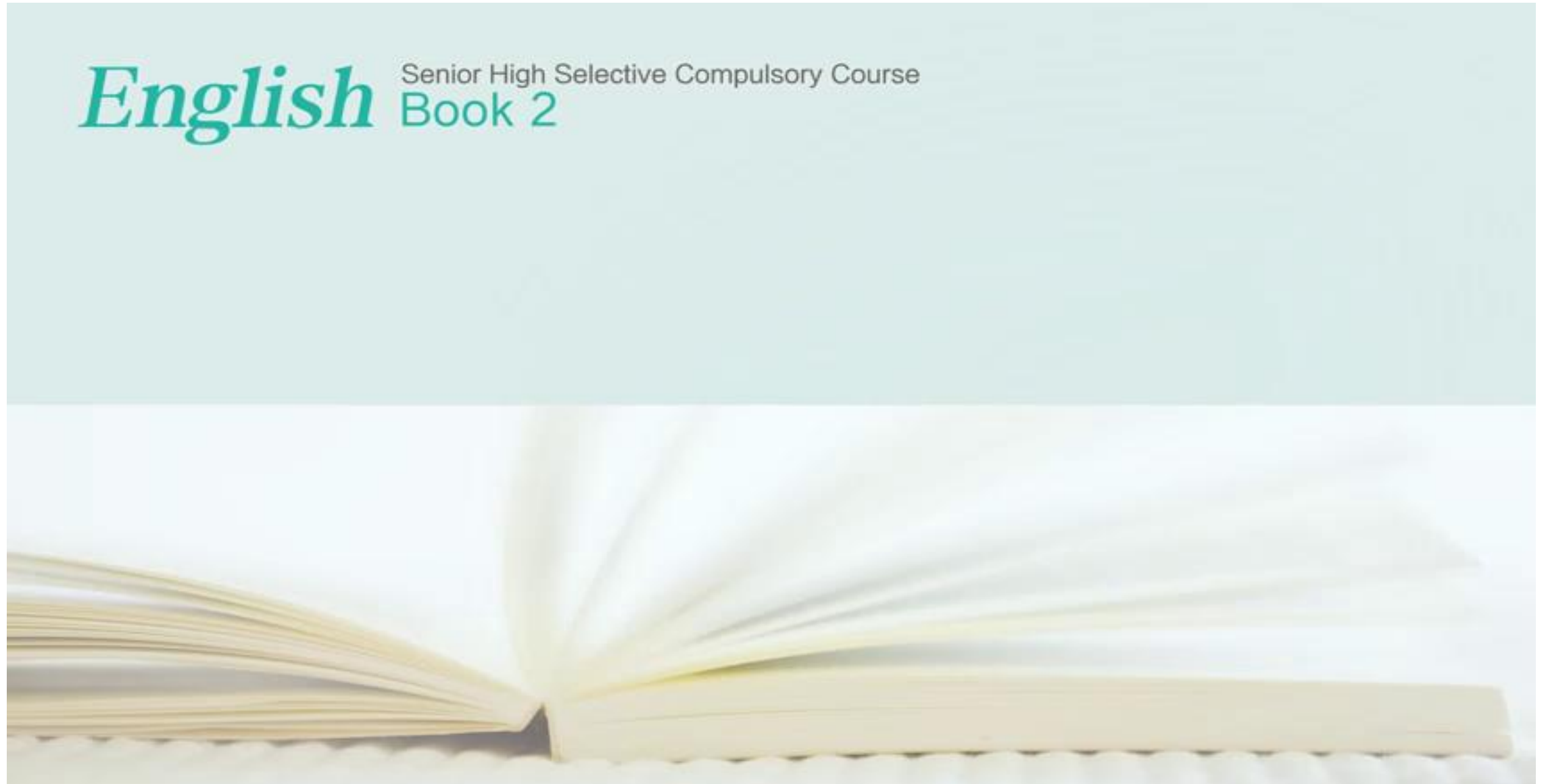
All of us who professionally use the mass media are the shapers of society.

--William Bernbach

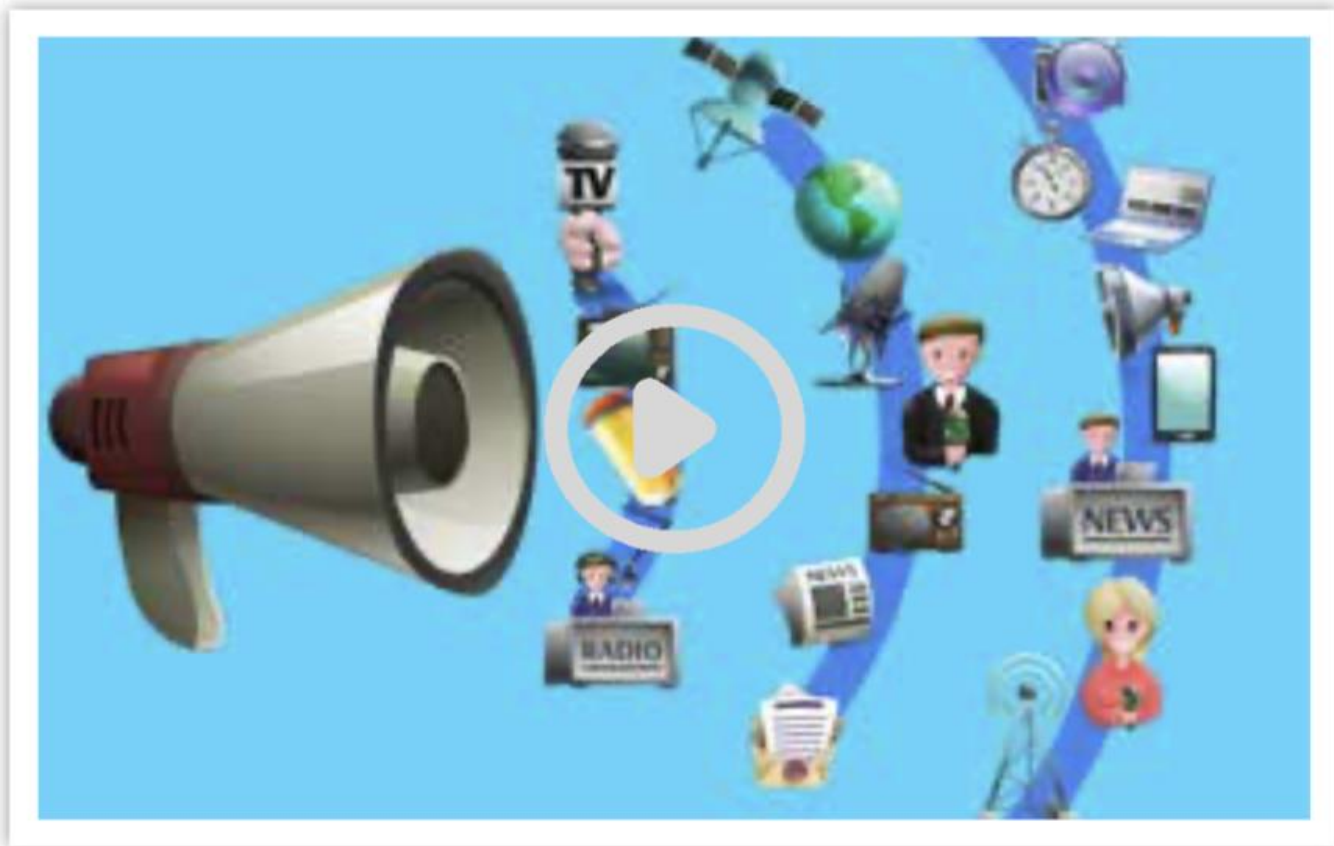


我们所有专业使用大众传媒的人都是社会的塑造者。

➤ Video watching



➤ Video watching



Mass
media

Outdoor media

Print media

Broadcast media

Digital media

➤ Classify types of mass media

- **Weibo**
- **Wechat**
- **Tiktok**
- **TV**
- **Radio**
- **Newspapers**
- **Advertisements**

- **Digital media:**

Weibo, Wechat, Tiktok

- **Broadcast media:**

TV, Radio

- **Print media:**

Newspapers

- **Outdoor media:**

Advertisements

➤ Pre-reading

Do you believe everything you read in a news report? Why or Why not?

Sometimes I do, but it depends on which news report I am reading. If the news is reported by a news agency that I know is **trustworthy**, then I will usually believe the report. However, if the news is from a source that I am not familiar with, I will often check other sources to **compare** the information in the reports. Moreover, if a headline seems to be too **[ɪg'zædʒəreɪtɪd]** **exaggerated** to be true, then I will also check other news reports to **confirm** whether it is a true story.

Firefighters put out
tower block fire



News One

Deadly fire in tower block
causes serious damage



News Two

**What is the difference between the headlines of the
two news reports? Subject./Main content.**

Structure of a news report---Inverted pyramid

Headline

The lead

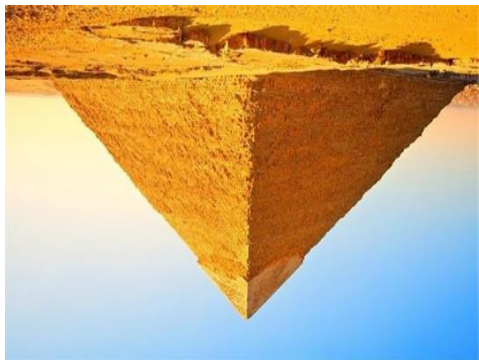
→ **the most important information**

The body

→ **detailed information**

The tail
(optional)

→ **background or
supporting information**





Read the two news reports and the article and complete the tables below.

10 July

Firefighters put out tower block fire

Firefighters quickly put out the Henderson Tower fire last night. The fire, which is thought to have started from the 8th floor, spread quickly through the tower block on Sunday night, leaving people on the upper floors trapped. Fears grew that the number of deaths could reach 5, according to figures released by emergency services. Fire engines and ambulances, called at 9:30 p.m., reached the scene within 15 minutes. By this time, the fire had extended to the 15th floor. Firefighters got the situation under control around 11 p.m. There is concern that the construction company that built the tower block had not followed fire safety rules.




11 July Local news A2

Deadly fire in tower block causes serious damage

A terrible fire broke out on Sunday night, leaving the Henderson Tower seriously damaged. Emergency services estimate that the number of deaths could reach 9. By this morning, 4 people have been confirmed dead. The fire has also left dozens of people injured, 5 of whom are in a critical condition. Lisa Mayer, 29, is among the lucky ones who only suffered minor injuries. She recalled, "I was about to have a bath when I heard people screaming and dogs barking. I looked outside and the smoke was choking me. It was like an awful dream."

Mr Peterson, head of the fire service, confirms that a dropped cigarette end on a carpet of the 8th floor started the fire and that the automatic fire alarms did not go off quickly enough to prevent the disaster. A team is currently investigating the accident further.





What are the differences between the two news reports?

10 July

Firefighters put out tower block fire

Firefighters quickly put out the Henderson Tower fire last night. The fire, which is thought to have started from the 8th floor, spread quickly through the tower block on Sunday night, leaving people on the upper floors trapped. Fears grew that the number of deaths could reach 5, according to figures released by emergency services. Fire engines and ambulances, called at 9:30 p.m., reached the scene within 15 minutes. By this time, the fire had extended to the 15th floor. Firefighters got the situation under control around 11 p.m. There is concern that the construction company that built the tower block had not followed fire safety rules.



Different emphases

News 1: rescue efforts of firefighters

News 2: the numbers of deaths and injuries

11 July

Local news

A2

Deadly fire in tower block causes serious damage

A terrible fire broke out on Sunday night, leaving the Henderson Tower seriously damaged. Emergency services estimate that the number of deaths could reach 9. By this morning, 4 people have been confirmed dead. The fire has also left dozens of people injured, 5 of whom are in a critical condition. Lisa Mayer, 29, is among the lucky ones who only suffered minor injuries. She recalled, "I was about to have a bath when I heard people screaming and dogs barking. I looked outside and the smoke was choking me. It was like an awful dream."

Mr Peterson, head of the fire service, confirms that a dropped cigarette end on a carpet of the 8th floor started the fire and that the automatic fire alarms did not go off quickly enough to prevent the disaster. A team is currently investigating the accident further.



Different details

Factual differences. The numbers of deaths differ: 5 in news 1 while 9 in news 2

Different closings

News 1: concern

News 2: further investigation

Can you see why
they contain
different
information?

10 July

Firefighters put out tower block fire

Firefighters quickly put out the Henderson Tower fire last night. The fire, which is thought to have started from the 8th floor, spread quickly through the tower block on Sunday night, leaving people on the upper floors trapped. Fears grew that the number of deaths could reach 5, according to figures released by emergency services. Fire engines and ambulances, called at 9:30 p.m., reached the scene within 15 minutes. By this time, the fire had extended to the 15th floor. Firefighters got the situation under control around 11 p.m. There is concern that the construction company that built the tower block had not followed fire safety rules.



11 July

Local news

A2

Deadly fire in tower block causes serious damage

A terrible fire broke out on Sunday night, leaving the Henderson Tower seriously damaged. Emergency services estimate that the number of deaths could reach 9. By this morning, 4 people have been confirmed dead. The fire has also left dozens of people injured, 5 of whom are in a critical condition. Lisa Mayer, 29, is among the lucky ones who only suffered minor injuries. She recalled, "I was about to have a bath when I heard people screaming and dogs barking. I looked outside and the smoke was choking me. It was like an awful dream."

Mr Peterson, head of the fire department, confirms that a dropped cigarette end on a carpet of the 8th floor started the fire and that the automatic fire alarms did not go off quickly enough to prevent the disaster. A team is currently investigating the accident further.





What else can lead to the differences of news reports?

**A journalist's
cultural background**

**A journalist's
personality**

**A journalist's
professional level**

**Witnesses may view
things differently**

Reading news reports critically

We rely on news to learn about what is happening in the world around us. However, we usually find that reports on the same events contain different or even contradictory information. How do these differences come about?

It is advisable to remember that journalists may have different priorities, which would influence how they report an event. Let's take the two news reports on the Henderson Tower fire as an example. We can see that the first news report pays more attention to the rescue efforts, while the second talks more about deaths and injuries. When we read more than one report, we come to understand an event in a more comprehensive way.

Even if news reports are written from basically the same perspective, they may contradict each other in terms of factual details, as events in the real world are usually complicated and constantly changing. For instance, the numbers of deaths differ in the two news reports on the Henderson Tower fire. When we come across such factual differences, we should not rush to the conclusion that one of the news reports gives false information. Instead, check when the reports were written. News reports written at different stages of an event could contain different information as new facts are brought to light. Another aspect worthy of mention is that journalists may approach information they get from research or interviews differently. Suppose emergency services' estimates of the number of deaths vary between 5 and 9. Journalists may choose to present the minimum, the maximum or something in between in their news reports. Therefore, checking different sources enables us to draw a more informed conclusion.

To sum up, it is wise to read news reports written from various perspectives and at different stages, which brings us a more accurate understanding of a situation. We also need to be critical about the information we receive and remember not to blindly trust what we have read. Though journalists are committed to presenting the truth, it is better to use our own judgement than rely entirely on news reports. With great discrimination, every one of us has the potential to be a critical news reader.

Don't
Believe
Everything
You Read

Reading for structure

Reading
news
reports
critically

Para 1 :

News reports usually come with differences.



Paras 2-3 :

There are three reasons for the differences.



Para 4 :

We can become critical readers in many ways.

Why do news reports differ from or even **contradict** each other?

- (4) Journalists may have different priorities.
- News reports may be written at different stages of an event.
- (5) Journalists may approach information they get from research or interviews differently.

How can we be critical news readers?

- Read different news reports on the same event written from various perspectives and at different stages.
- (6) Be critical about the information we receive and remember not to blindly trust what we have read.

Detailed reading (paras.2-3)

1. How does the writer develop para. 2 and 3?

A. By listing figures  B. By giving examples C. By testing theories

2. How can we be critical readers according to paras. 2-3?

Suggestion 1: Read more than one report and understand an event in a more comprehensive way.

Suggestion 2: Don't rush to the false conclusion and remember to check when the reports are written.

Suggestion 3: Check different sources to draw a more informed conclusion.

What else can we do to be critical news readers?

Do more research on the news source.

Do more research on the journalist's professional level.

Don't read the news with prejudice and preference.

Discrimination

**识别力；辨别力；
鉴赏力**



Language points

which引导的非限制性定语从句，修饰主语
the fire

1. (L2) The fire, which is thought to have started from the 8th floor, spread quickly through the tower block on Sunday night, leaving people on the upper floors trapped.

现在分词短语在句中充当结果状语

该句主语为 the fire，谓语为 spread



be thought to have done... 被认为做了..... (强调事情**已经发生**)
该结构还有:**be thought to do**
or be thought to be doing sth. 被认为正在做..... (强调事情**正在发生**)

1) Robert is said **to have studied** (study) abroad, but I don't know what country he studied in.

2) Classical music **is** often **thought to be** difficult and inaccessible.
古典音乐通常被认为是困难和难以接近的。

3) Fraud **is thought to be costing** software companies millions of dollars a year.

据悉，欺诈行为每年给软件公司造成数百万美元的损失。

同位语从句，补充说明 fears

2.(L5) Fears grew that the number of deaths could reach 5, according to figures released by emergency services.

后置定语，修饰 figures

3.(L7) By this time, the fire had extended to the 15th floor.

同位语从句，补充说明 concern

4.(L9) There is concern that the construction company that built the tower block had not followed fire safety rules.

定语从句，修饰 company

5.(L1) A terrible fire **broke out** on Sunday night, leaving the Henderson Tower seriously damaged.

现在分词短语在句中充当结果状语

6.(L3) The fire has also left dozens of people injured, [5 of whom are in a critical condition.]

非限制性定语从句，修饰 people

7.(L6) I **was about to** have a bath **when** I heard people screaming and dogs barking. 正要做某事，这时突然……

be on the point of doing sth. **when**...

正要做某事，这时突然……

be doing sth. **when**...

正在做某事，这时突然……

had (just) done sth. **when**...

刚做完某事，这时突然……

1) I was driving (drive) down to London when I suddenly found that I was on the wrong road.

2) I was walking by the field in the countryside when memories of my childhood began to flood in.

我走在乡间的田野边上，这时童年的记忆如潮水般涌现。

3) 我正要放弃，这时李老师鼓励我要坚持。

→ I was about to give up/ on the point of giving up when Ms Li encouraged me to keep it up.

8.(L1) We **rely on** news **to** learn about what is happening in the world around us.

rely on sb. to do /rely on sb. for sth.

依靠某人（做）某事

9.(L10) **Even if** news reports are written **from** basically **the same perspective**, they may contradict each other **in terms of** factual details.

even if/even though 即使 from ...perspective 从...角度
in terms of 就...而言；从...方面来讲

10.(L13) When we **come across** such factual differences, we should not **rush to the conclusion** that one of the news reports gives false information.

同位语从句，补充说明 **conclusion**

come across 偶遇 rush to the conclusion 匆忙下结论

11.(L21) Therefore, checking different sources **enables** us **to** draw a more informed conclusion. **动名词作主语**

enable sb. to do 使某人能够做某事 draw a conclusion 得出结论

12.(L25) We also need to **be critical about** the information we receive and remember not to **blindly trust** [what we have read.] **宾语从句**

be critical about/of... 批判性地看待... blindly trust 盲目相信

13.(L28) With great **discrimination**, every one of us **has the potential to** be a critical news reader.

have the potential to do 有潜力做某事

B Building your language

1.priority

2.dozens of

3.accurate

4.minor

5.comes about

6.are committed to


7.investigate

8.sum up

1.Good journalists need to organize all this information clearly to **give an accurate account of** what is happening. **准确描述**

2.Finally, good journalists **are committed to** revealing the truth.

3.**To sum up**, being a good journalist requires writing skills, curiosity and **commitment to** finding the truth.



◆ A lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on his shoes.

Be a critical news reader.
Don't be a keyboard warrior.

- 1.(L1) put out 扑灭；公布，出版
- 3.(L2) be thought to have done 被认为已经做过...
- 2.(L4) leave sb. trapped/injured 使某人被困/受伤
- 4.(L8) get...under control 使...被控制住

- 1.(L1) break out (战争、火灾) 等突然爆发
- 2.(L4) dozens of 许多
- 3.(L5) suffer minor injuries 受了轻伤
- 4.(L6) be about to do sth. when ...正要去某事，突然...
- 5.(L6) have/take a bath 洗澡
- 6.(L9) fire service 消防队/消防部门
- 7.(L10) cigarette end 烟头
- 8.(L11) go off (警报器等) 突然发出巨响；熄灭，断电



THANK
YOU

A scenic view of a mountain valley with a river and clouds, overlaid with the text "Thank you!" in a colorful, outlined font. The background features a wide river flowing through a valley, surrounded by rolling mountains and layers of clouds. The text is centered and rendered in a vibrant, multi-colored font with a white outline.

Thank you!

Be a critical news reader!

**Make full use of your own thinking to perceive
this world, a world of information explosion.**



Be a critical news reader!

- Read more than headlines.
- Cultivate your skepticism.
- Find out who is making the claim.
- Do more research on the news source.
- Read coverage in multiple outlets.
- Watch out for reports that rely on anonymous source.
- Separate fact from opinion.
- ...