

READING

1 Read the sentences from the article.

- A In addition to news, the World Service broadcasts drama, sports and educational programmes.
- B In countries around the world where the news is tightly controlled or censored the BBC is known all over the world for its fair and informative reporting.
- D World Service radio programmes are broadcast twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Do you think the article will be about BBC:

- a television programmes
- b radio broadcasts
- c radio and television
- d radio programmes

2 10.1 Read the article quickly and check your idea.

3 Match the sentences in Exercise 1 with the correct paragraphs.

4 Find the verbs (1-4) in the article. Match them with the correct definition (a-e). There is one extra definition.

- 1 fund
- 2 ban
- 3 evacuate
- 4 extend

- a to officially say something can't happen
- b to make longer
- c to give information
- d to give money
- e to move people from danger to safety

5 Read the article again. Tick true and cross false.

- 1 The BBC is famous for its independent news programmes.
- 2 In Britain, BBC radio and TV aren't paid for by advertising.
- 3 The World Service is paid for by the British government.
- 4 You can listen to the World Service at any time.
- 5 You can only hear the World Service in Europe.
- 6 BBC staff stopped working in 1985 because they disagreed with the government.
- 7 Some governments don't allow their citizens to listen to the BBC.
- 8 You can only listen to news on the World Service.
- 9 The World Service has been used to send information to British people away from home.
- 10 After the tsunami, a few people looked for information on the BBC website.

1 In the UK, BBC radio and TV is paid for from the listeners' and viewers' licence fees. However, the World Service, which is broadcast to almost every country in the world, is funded by a government department called the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Despite this, the World Service has editorial independence which means the government can't control what is broadcast.

2 The programmes are in more than forty languages including Arabic, Greek, Mandarin Chinese, Polish, Romanian and Spanish and they are listened to by about 150 million people. The only time that the service has stopped was in 1985 when BBC workers went on strike. The strike was because the British government had wanted to ban a documentary which included an interview with a member of Sinn Fein (the political party which wants to unite Ireland).

3 The BBC is trusted to be honest and truthful. Some governments try to stop their people listening by either blocking the radio signals or the BBC website.

4 It is also used to send emergency messages to British people overseas. For example, in 1970, a message told British listeners in Jordan to evacuate the country immediately. More recently, when the tsunami hit Asia on 26th December 2004, programmes were extended to bring the latest news to the people in the disaster areas. Within hours of the tragedy, online sites were giving information to the victims and their families and the message boards were looked at by more than two million people.

