Glossary of Television News Terms



Feature	Explanation
Anchor	Studio based person who presents the news and coordinates links with other contributors.
Aston	On screen caption, this usually gives the name of the speaker and the location.
Autocue	A device used by presenters in order to read the news and look directly at the camera.
Archive material	Stored visual materials of past events which are used to provide background information on a story.
BARB	Broadcaster's audience research board that compiles audience viewing figures.
Branding	This makes a programme distinctive and involves colour, font, logo design, graphics and music.
Bias	Presenting a news story from a particular point of view.
Cue	Introduction to a news story that provides a signal to another person e.g. a correspondent to begin their contribution.
Clip	An audio visual segment used to support a story.
Correspondent	A news reporter, usually an expert sometimes based in another country who gives regular reports on a particular news story.
Direct address	When a news presenter speaks directly to the camera/viewer.
Donut	The handover from the studio to an on location report.
Editing	The arrangement of the audio/visual elements of a news report.
Gatekeeping	The process of controlling which stories are considered newsworthy. An editor will select which news stories are broadcast in a news programme.
Hook	A short introduction to a news story used to interest a viewer.
Hard news	Serious news stories usually about politics, economics, war/conflict, and crime.

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Ident	A short visual sequence or frame that identifies a television programme.
Impartiality	An unbiased news report that looks at both sides of a story.
Mode of address	The way in which a presenter speaks to the audience.
News agency	An organisation that gathers and provides news stories for journalists e.g. Reuters
News belt	A round up of short news stories.
News in brief [NIB]	A series of short news stories on a broadcast television programme, radio news programme or news website.
News values	A set of values or criteria that determines whether a story is news and likely to make the news programme [see gatekeeping]
Out of vision [OOV]	A shot where a news presenter is talking and can be heard but not seen.
Regional news	News stories that relate to a particular area in the country.
Rolling news	News reports that are broadcast 24hrs a day.
Running order	The order of news stories on a news programme. [The most important stories are placed first]
Sting	Music and sound sometimes including visuals/ graphics that punctuate a news programme.
Soft news	News stories that are related to entertainment and the arts - considered to be less serious news.
Titles	Titles that mark the beginning and end of a programme.
Trail	A short advert for a story/news item that will be coming up later.
Voice over	When a presenter talks over a news clip. [see out of vision]
Vox pop	A shot interview with members of the public. [voice of the people]