



## The Media

### Task: The Media in Today's World

#### Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 11.

You are going to hear a talk about **the media in today's world**. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

#### Audio Script

Today's world is one that is well informed since there are so many outlets for the media to reach us. Not only that, but it has gone through changes throughout the years. Thirty years ago, newspapers were one of the main sources of getting information, whereas today that has been overtaken by social media, blogs, and websites. Computers, mobile phones and televisions are some of the devices that allow us to receive this information. Many of us find it hard to think about a world without information. Often if the news is important enough, no matter where you are in the world, you can find out almost instantly. Some days it only seems we hear news from the media when something is so important. It seems to be in everybody's mouth, and even if you feel tired of hearing it, you also find yourself talking about it. Is this too much information?

So, on a positive side, the media helps spread news rapidly in an emergency, as we have seen during COVID-19. Just imagine how many people would have died if the news didn't spread as quickly as it did. So, essentially, having a media source that is relatively quickly, has saved lives. For businesses, this is also a great advantage, since market shares are able to be gained through the platform that is provided by the media. Therefore this keeps the economy going and what seems never-ending. We also get to learn about culture and art through the media, since nowadays we get global news more easily than in the past. Furthermore, we are able to explore and learn about other ways of life we would otherwise never have the opportunity to know about. What's more, the media is a great platform for being able to call out injustices, corruptions and abuse of power in the world with hope that it will make it better

On another angle, there are certainly disadvantages that are worth mentioning. For example, in the past trained and taught journalists and reporters were the ones that told the news. However, surprisingly enough these days, anybody that has the internet and a keyboard can get published and spread news. The problem is that a lot of misinformation can happen this way, and it could have caused unnecessary hatred that is incredibly hard to stop. Also, from what can be seen there are many media users who have an unethical way of acting. Many of these people will even put themselves and others at risk in order to get a good headline and photographs. This can also cause a lot of fake news. On top of that, the media can be biased and sway a confused audience's opinions to what they consider the best possible option. For example, we see this often when it comes to politics. If the audience had realized this, they would be more cautious when believing the media



All in all, the media is a powerful element that can be used for both good and bad. How do you feel about the media?

Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

Now listen to the talk again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me about the point of view of the speaker, advantages and disadvantages of the media.

Now tell me about the point of view of the speaker, advantages and disadvantages of the media. You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

**Answers:**

Point of View	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● hard to think about a world without information</li></ul>
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● media helps spread news rapidly</li><li>● for businesses great, market shares, keeps the economy going</li><li>● learn about culture and art</li><li>● explore and learn other ways of life</li><li>● call out injustices, corruptions and abuse of power in the world</li></ul>
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● anybody can get published and spread news; a lot of misinformation, hatred</li><li>● media users, unethical way of acting</li><li>● at risk for good headlines and photographs, fake news</li><li>● media can be biased and sway people's opinions</li></ul>

Marks: +\_ / +10