

Thank you for working with your young person on English. Here are the answers to the reading comprehension questions, plus some useful websites that might help with this task.

1. Organisational features:

Headline – Describes the content of the news article.

Subheading – Gives more information than the headline, summarises the content for the reader.

Byline – Tells the reader who has written the news article.

Date – Tells the reader when the news article was written.

Image/Picture – Illustrates, gives a visual reference for the reader.

Caption – Describes the image/picture.

Paragraphs – Organises the written content into logical 'chunks'.

2. A news article is writing to inform.

Writing to instruct

Writing to persuade, argue.

Writing to entertain

Writing to explain

Writing to describe

3. Significant means large and important.

Alternative words could be: Compelling, powerful serious, convincing, valid, but they might think of other suitable words.

4. Pollution from cars is the main source of the reduction in carbon monoxide.

5. Because there are warning signs that pollution levels could raise rapidly (quickly) after the pandemic, we can say that this isn't necessarily good news.

6. Energy and transport emissions have reduced as global economic activity has decreased.

Facts can be presented as bullet points, therefore the paragraph could read:

Researchers in New York told the BBC their early results show a reduction in pollution includes:

- Cars emitting carbon monoxide reduced by nearly 50% compared with last year
- Emissions of planet-heating gas CO₂ have also fallen sharply

7. 'Scientists' are credited with the claim. We would be more inclined to believe the claim because 'scientists' are known as experts.
8. Traffic levels in New York were 65% higher a year ago, because the news article estimates that they are down 35% now.
9. Carbon monoxide, CO₂ (carbon dioxide) and methane are the gases which have reduced. Nitrogen dioxide emissions have also fallen, but this is not mentioned until later in the article.
10. Exceptionally means uniquely.

Alternative words could be: Abnormally, especially, particularly, but they might think of other suitable words.

11. The two factors are a 25% drop in (1) energy use and (2) emissions.
12. Nitrogen dioxide is important because it is a serious air pollutant which contributes to global warming.

The use of words such as 'suggested', 'likely' and 'believe' show us that this paragraph is opinion, not fact.

13. The red area shows higher levels of nitrogen dioxide.
14. Emissions have come down due to aviation grinding to a halt and millions of people working from home.
15. As commuting stops and economies slow down, emissions will go down, despite the increased use of energy by people working from home.
16. Prof Corinne Le Quéré refers to the global slowdown in the US.

Websites to explore:

A guide to key terms and vocabulary relating to climate change.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-48057733>

A simple guide to climate change.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-24021772>

How to format a letter.

<https://www.ukpostbox.com/blog/how-to-format-formal-letter>