

The Features of the News Headlines (Lecture No.8)

2. Word Play (play on words) Pun/Punning: ألتلاعب بالكلام

A substantial part of newspaper language is word play or pun .Words that refer to different meanings in English can be used in a comical and entertaining way.

An example would be:

Police found drunk in street.

This headline plays with the word "drunk".

This headline can hear two different meanings:

One is that

The Police were found drunk in the street.

The other is that

The police found a drunk man in the street.

For example:

Mom watches as cruise sail away with kids on board.

This headline appeared on the BBC 7NY, 28April 2016.

-When reading it, one would have the impression that:

The ship takes the children away on purpose.

-But when the reader reads the rest of the article, he will know that:

It was the mother's fault because she didn't get on board before the deadline the cruise ship has made clear for every passenger on board.

