

Analysis of Parts-of-Speech Distribution and Omission Patterns in The New York Times and The Guardian

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Abstract

News style is characterised by the use of various techniques and features that deviate from normal speech. Newspaper headlines, in particular, include a number of features in order to fulfil their function, which is to provide a brief and clear summary of the main story that arouses the curiosity of the audience. The current study analyses a corpus of 200 headlines taken from one American and one British online newspaper, namely The New York Times and The Guardian respectively, and focuses on the distribution of parts of speech and on the patterns of omission in each newspaper. The results show that nouns are the most frequently used part of speech, followed by verbs in both samples. In addition, articles and auxiliary verbs were found to be the most frequently omitted items. Finally, the two samples were found to be similar in most respects, with only some differences in their use of parts of speech and omission patterns. As the two newspapers use the same language, the differences found could be the result of cultural differences, or differences in the guidelines and editing processes of each newspaper. Understanding the peculiarities of this register is important in teaching it to foreign language learners, as well as in translating it.

Keywords: Headlines, Parts of speech, Pattern, Omission, Characteristics, Distribution

1. Introduction

In general terms, discourse analysis is the branch of linguistics that investigates the role of language in social life, as the two are believed to be interconnected (Matheson, 2005). “News style”, or media discourse, has emerged as a sub-field of discourse analysis, as a result of the language used in news texts, which deviates from normal speech and follows a set of rules (Cotter, 2010, 2015). The analysis of news style has gained increasing importance in the literature due to its interesting syntactic and stylistic features.

This “special register” as De Lange, Vasic, and Avrutin (2008) refer to it, is constrained by a variety of factors, such as the topic written about and the medium of discourse, and it is usually written in formal style. However, as Bednarek (2006) points out, newspaper language may sometimes include features of spoken language, thereby creating an illusion of spoken conversation using various techniques such as syntax, orthography and modality. Another important constraint in news texts is space, which calls for a compact writing style and fixed patterns of sentences to be used. For this reason, it is important that repetitions are avoided in news texts, while a lot of information has to be packed in a limited number of words. This is achieved through the use of techniques such as relative clauses and nominalisations (Bednarek, 2006).

Khodabandeh (2007, p. 91) argues that “newspapers have more readers than any other kind of written text”. She also argues that headlines are the most widely read part of a newspaper, as they provide a brief and clear summary of the content of the story and arouse the curiosity of the audience. In other words, headlines provide the essence of a news story briefly and clearly, in simple language, and in a manner that tempts the audience to read the full story (Bednarek, 2006; Cotter, 2010; Ungerer, 2000). The role of headlines has gained increasing importance with the emergence of online newspapers, as they are the main component of their homepages. Their main function online is to attract readers and encourage them to enter and read the main story (Tereszkiewicz, 2012). For this reason, it is important to examine the style and structure of online headlines, to identify how their purpose is achieved.

The current study will analyse a total of 200 headlines taken from one American and one British online newspaper, namely The New York Times and The Guardian respectively. It will focus on the distribution of parts of speech and on the patterns of omission in each newspaper, as well as examining the similarities and differences in each sample. The following section offers a review of the literature concerning previous research conducted on headlines in various languages. Section 3 describes the methodology, followed by the analysis of the data and the results in section 4. Section 5 provides a discussion of the findings of the present study in relation to previous research, followed by some concluding remarks. The corpus of headlines analysed may be found in the appendix.

2. Literature Review

News headlines have been extensively studied by linguists due to their unique and interesting style (Khodabandeh, 2007; Schneider, 2000). This section will review some of the related literature on the analysis of headlines.

To begin with, a very comprehensive investigation of headlines in English was carried out by Mårdh (1980), who found that among the most frequent linguistic features in English headlines are the omission of articles, verbs and auxiliary verbs, and the use of nominalisations and complex noun phrases. Omission as one of the most prominent features of headlines is also pointed out by Khodabandeh (2007), as well as Turner (1972, p. 72, quoted in Khodabandeh, 2007), who argues that “determiners and the verb ‘to be’ are almost universally omitted in headlines” in order to maintain brevity. Tereszkievicz (2012) also notes that headlines have a variety of syntactic properties, including the use of the active voice, the omission of grammatical words and of verbs and auxiliaries, and the use of nominalisation.

As Keeble (1994) points out, previous research has demonstrated that there is also regularity in the structure of headlines across languages. Several studies comparing the structure of headlines in different languages have been carried out, in order to investigate whether the same or similar features can be found in the headlines of newspapers in different cultures and languages (e.g. Kniffka, 1980; Scollon, 2000). More specifically, Kniffka (1980, cited in Khodabandeh, 2007) investigated German and American English news headlines and leads and found that they share an identical structure. Based on his results, Kniffka (1980) argued that there is a shared and very regular structure of headlines across languages. In addition, Scollon (2000) studied the Chinese and English editions of the same newspaper and found that the main difference between the two versions lies in the content of the headlines, as Chinese headlines focus on establishing the setting whereas English headlines state the main point of the story.

Furthermore, Khodabandeh (2007) conducted a very detailed examination of the features of American English and Persian headlines. This study demonstrated an extensive use of nouns compared to other parts of speech in both samples, with verbs being the second most frequently used part of speech in English headlines. The verb “be” in different functions (especially as an auxiliary verb, 82.68% omission) was also largely omitted (86.05% omission) in the English sample. Khodabandeh (2007) also investigated the word “say” and its replacement by a dash or colons, and found that the use of colons instead of the verb was favoured, with a 75.65% of omission. Based on the findings of her study, Khodabandeh (2007) concluded that the structure of the headlines in the two languages share some features, such as the dominant use of nouns and the frequent omission of words among others, while they are different in other features such as the use of acronyms and abbreviations, and the omission of articles which was commonly found in the English sample.

Tereszkiewicz (2012) examined three British and three German newspapers and found differences in the length of headlines in each newspaper. In addition, she found that simple sentences and nominalisation were used more frequently in both languages, and that omissions of grammatical words were frequent in the English headlines. According to Tereszkievicz (2012), using nominalisations is a regular feature of headlines in newspapers from various cultural backgrounds, and this is possibly the case because this form helps present complex issues in a simpler and briefer way.

Finally, De Lange et al. (2008) compared the pattern of article omissions in child speech and in newspaper headlines. Their analysis also includes a comparison between headlines in Dutch and in Italian, two languages that differ in terms of their article systems. They conclude that despite having different article inventories, there are similarities in the omission patterns in the two languages, as well as in the article omissions in child speech. According to the authors, the ultimate purpose of this pattern of omission in the two registers is to optimise the underlying processing mechanisms, namely achieve the maximum processing speed, thereby "[conveying] information in the most efficient way" (De Lange et al., 2008, p. 1539).

The following section will provide a detailed description of the aims of this study as well as the data collection process.

3. Methodology

The present study uses a corpus-linguistic approach (Bednarek, 2006; Cotter, 2015) to compare the headlines in one British and one American online newspaper, in order to provide answers to the following research questions (RQs):

1. What is the distribution of parts of speech in the headlines in each newspaper?
2. What omission patterns are found in the headlines from each newspaper?
3. What are the similarities and differences between the British and American newspapers in relation to their parts-of-speech distribution and omission patterns?

Based on the results of previous research, and as concerns RQ 1, it is expected that nouns will be the most frequently used part of speech, most likely followed by verbs. As regards RQ 2, it is predicted that grammatical words, and more specifically articles and auxiliary verbs will be the most frequently omitted items, following the results of previous research. Finally, based on the argument that a typical structure is followed in the headlines of newspapers across cultures, it is expected that the two samples may have some differences, but they will follow similar patterns in most respects. The importance of this comparison lies on the fact that it is applied on newspapers that are written in the same language, but are part of different cultures.

The sample headlines were randomly selected from The New York Times (NYT) for the US sample and from The Guardian (TG) for the UK sample. A corpus of 200 headlines in total was created and can be found in the Appendix section. The sample headlines were taken from three different sections of each website and were written on different dates as follows: 100 headlines from the world (8 December 2017), health (1-8 December 2017) and technology (7-8 December 2017) sections of the NYT, and 100 headlines from the world (14 December 2017), health and fitness (7-14 December 2017) and technology (14 December 2017) sections of TG.

4. Analysis and Results

In order to answer the RQs and test the hypotheses of this study, the headlines were analysed in terms of the parts of speech they contain, and more specifically the number of nouns, verbs, auxiliary or modal verbs, articles, adjectives, adverbs, numerals, conjunctions, pronouns and

prepositions they contain (RQ 1). The sample was also analysed in terms of omissions of the verb “to be” as a linking verb and as an auxiliary verb, of articles, nouns after a numeral, pronouns, conjunctions and the verb “say” or an equivalent verb such as “warn” or “claim” (RQ 2). The total number of instances where these were present in the headlines was also calculated to identify the percentage of omissions in relation to their inclusion in the headlines. A 10% sample of each newspaper (10 headlines from NYT and 10 headlines from TG) were re-analysed by the researcher at a later stage to ensure the reliability of the analysis.

Tables 1 and 2 below show the total number and percentages of each part of speech found in the US and UK sample respectively, in their order of frequency.

Table 1. Distribution of parts of speech in US headlines

Part of Speech	Total	Percentage (%)
Nouns	364	38.36
Verbs	130	13.70
Prepositions	101	10.64
Adjectives	88	9.27
Articles	54	5.70
Pronouns	46	4.85
Auxiliary/Modal verbs	44	4.64
Adverbs	31	3.27
Conjunctions	26	2.74
Numerals	12	1.26

Table 2. Distribution of parts of speech in UK headlines

Part of Speech	Total	Percentage (%)
Nouns	403	36.27
Verbs	161	14.49
Adjectives	121	10.89
Prepositions	118	10.62
Pronouns	84	7.56
Articles	48	4.32
Adverbs	37	3.33
Auxiliary/Modal verbs	36	3.24
Conjunctions	27	2.43
Numerals	22	1.98

As evident from the two tables, the headlines in each sample are quite similar in terms of the parts of speech used. Nouns are by far the most commonly used class of words in both samples, followed by verbs which are far less frequent (almost 3 times less in the US sample and 2.5 times less in the UK sample). The percentage of use of nouns and verbs in the headlines of the two countries is also very similar, with US headlines containing slightly more nouns and fewer verbs than UK headlines. Numerals and conjunctions are on the bottom of the list for both countries, with small differences between them. It is also evident

that prepositions and adverbs are used in almost identical frequency in the two samples, whereas the UK headlines contain more adjectives and much more pronouns than US headlines. Finally, more articles and more auxiliary or modal verbs are found in the US headlines.

It should be noted that 18 headlines were found in the US and 8 in the UK sample that contained no verb at all in any form. Examples of these are given below:

US:

- 75. The Fallout From Trump's Jerusalem Shift
- 76. The First Photos of a Pearl Harbor Warship's Watery Grave

UK:

- 71. Rise of the robots and all the lonely people
- 76. Simon's story and the tragedy of unemployment

Tables 3 and 4 below show the number and percentage of omitted and included words in the US and UK headlines, and the total number of each word that should have been included, as well as the total number of omissions and the average per headline. As evident, the most widely omitted items are articles, which are left out more than half the time in both samples, and much more frequently omitted than any other item investigated. The two samples show very similar patterns in the omission of the verb "to be" as a linking verb, which is included most often than omitted. However, the omission patterns of "be" as an auxiliary verb used to form the passive or the progressive form are different in the two samples. It is more frequently omitted than not in the UK sample, whereas it is more often included than not in the US sample.

The two samples are also similar in the use of conjunctions, pronouns and nouns after numerals. More specifically, conjunctions are more usually included than omitted, and only a limited number of pronouns are omitted. Numerals are used slightly more frequently in the UK than the US sample, but there is a tendency to include the noun following the numeral in both samples, with only four omissions. The use of "say" or an equivalent verb is also more frequent in the UK sample; again, there is a tendency to include the verb in both samples. Finally, the total number of omitted items in the two samples is very similar, with only 6 more omitted items in 100 headlines in the UK sample compared to the US sample, which points to an average of 1.13 and 1.07 omitted words per headline respectively.

Table 3. Omission patterns in US headlines

	Omitted (%)	Included	Total
articles	67 (55.37%)	54 (44.63%)	121
to be	9 (36%)	16 (64%)	25
conjunction	9 (25.71%)	26 (74.29%)	35
pronouns	7 (13.21%)	46 (86.79%)	53
nouns after numeral	4 (33.33%)	8 (66.67%)	12
be (auxiliary)	4 (21.05%)	15 (78.95%)	19
"say" or equiv.	3 (30%)	7 (70%)	10

Total	107
Average/headline	1.07

Table 4. Omission patterns in UK headlines

	Omitted (%)	Included	Total
articles	64 (57.14%)	48 (42.86%)	112
be (auxiliary)	11 (64.71%)	6 (35.29%)	17
pronouns	10 (10.64%)	84 (89.36%)	94
to be	9 (37.50%)	15 (62.50%)	24
“say” or equiv.	7 (36.84%)	12 (63.16%)	19
conjunction	4 (12.90%)	27 (87.10%)	31
nouns after numeral	4 (20%)	16 (80%)	20
Total	113		
Average/headline	1.13		

5. Discussion

The two samples were found to share a lot of similarities but also had some differences. As regards the use of different parts of speech, the two samples were similar in their frequent use of nouns, followed by verbs. Prepositions and adverbs were found in almost identical frequency in the two samples, while numerals and conjunctions appeared at the bottom of the table in both samples. The differences in the two samples concerned their use of adjectives and pronouns, which were much more frequent in the UK sample, as well as the use of articles and auxiliary/modal verbs which were slightly more frequent in the US sample. Finally, the US sample contained more headlines without a verb in any form than the UK sample.

Turning to omission patterns, the two samples were found to be very similar. Articles were the most frequently omitted items, while the two samples had similar patterns in the omission of the verb “to be” as a linking verb. In addition, both samples tended to include conjunctions, pronouns, nouns after numerals and the verb “say” or an equivalent, rather than omitting these items. The total number of omitted items was also very similar in both samples. Finally, the only difference between the samples was their omission patterns of the verb “to be” as an auxiliary verb, which was mostly omitted in the UK sample but mostly included in the US sample.

Based on RQ 1 of this study, regarding the distribution of parts of speech in each sample, the hypothesis that nouns will be the most frequently used part of speech, followed by verbs was confirmed. This finding is in accordance with Mårdh (1980), who found that the use of nominalisations and complex noun phrases were among the most frequent linguistic features in English newspapers, and with Khodabandeh (2007), who found that nouns were extensively used in both American English and Persian headlines, with verbs being the second most frequently used part of speech.

The hypothesis regarding RQ 2 that articles and auxiliary verbs will be the most frequently omitted items was partially confirmed. More specifically, articles were the most frequently omitted items in both samples, but auxiliary verbs were frequently omitted in the UK sample only. The frequency of omission of the articles is in accordance with Mårdh's (1980) findings in her analysis of English headlines as well as in Tereszkiwicz (2012) who found that omission of grammatical words was frequent in her English sample. This was also observed in Khodabandeh's (2007) English sample, but not the Persian one. Frequent omission of auxiliary verbs as in the UK sample of this study, and of the verb "to be" was also observed by Khodabandeh (2007), Mårdh (1980) and Turner (1972). Another interesting finding was that, despite the limited number of instances of the verb "say" or an equivalent, the samples show a tendency to include the verb. This finding is in opposition to Khodabandeh's (2007) results, which demonstrated a preference to omit the verb and use colons instead.

The hypothesis based on RQ 3 was also confirmed, as the two samples were similar in most respects but also had some differences in their use of parts of speech and their omission patterns. This observation is in line with Keeble (1994) and Kniffka's (1980) argument that there is a shared structure of headlines across cultures. It is important to note, however that despite using the same language, the two samples did differ in some respects. This observation may be explained as the result of cultural differences in the way headlines are formed in the two countries. These differences, however, could also be explained as the result of differences in the guidelines and constraints the journalists of each newspaper have, and in the editing process of the respective newspaper.

6. Summary

This study compared two samples of headlines, one taken from an American and one from a British newspaper. Conducting such analyses is important in two main respects: firstly, news headlines are usually challenging for foreign learners of English to comprehend, due to their deviant style of writing and lexical and syntactic characteristics (Khodabandeh, 2007); secondly, this so called "special register" also leads to difficulties in translation and translation teaching. However, as Khodabandeh (2007) argues, news style follows a clear pattern that when understood, can be a lot more comprehensible. The present and similar studies can help researchers understand media discourse better, thereby providing insights into how to teach this style to foreign language learners, as well as how to translate it or teach translation techniques.

Finally, it should be noted that this study was constrained by space and time limitations, which did not allow for a larger sample of headlines to be analysed. The number of headlines included in the analysis sometimes meant that no conclusive results could be established in the omission patterns of items that did not occur frequently. Future research could include larger samples and headlines in different languages to obtain more robust evidence. Such research could also help explain whether the differences among samples are due to cultural differences, the editing processes of each newspaper, or both.

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Appendix

The New York Times:

World (8 Dec 17), Health (1-8 Dec 17), Technology (7-8 Dec 17)

1. 'Opiophobia' Has Left Africa in Agony
2. 'Taxi Therapy' for Young Cancer Patients in Italy
3. 'The New Washington': Sean Hannity
4. A Comeback for the Gateway Drug Theory?
5. A Reporter Returns to Southern Illinois to Talk About Life, Immigration, Coal
6. A Rite of Passage for a Los Angeles Mayor: A Natural Disaster
7. Air Pollution May Harm Babies Even Before They Are Born
8. Al Franken's Improbable Political Rise and Sudden Fall
9. Along Mulholland Drive in Los Angeles, Unsettling Feelings to Go With the Scenery
10. Apple said to be acquiring Shazam, the Song Identifying App
11. At Least 12 U.N. Peacekeepers Are Killed in Congo
12. Being a Doctor Is Hard. It's Harder for Women.
13. Birth Control Pills Still Linked to Breast Cancer, Study Finds
14. Bitcoin's Price Has Soared, but What Comes Next?
15. Blinded by Her Husband, She Fights for Justice (and Aces Law School)
16. Britain and E.U. Clear Way for Brexit Talks to Proceed
17. Bryan Singer, 'X-Men' Director, Is Accused of Sexual Assault in New Lawsuit
18. California Today: Guiding L.A. Through a Crisis
19. California's Fires, by the Numbers
20. Can This Water Park Make Fun More Inclusive?
21. Cataract Surgery May Prolong Your Life
22. Congressional Democrats Left Out of White House Hanukkah Party
23. CVS and Aetna Say Merger Will Improve Your Health Care. Can They Deliver?
24. CVS to Buy Aetna for \$69 Billion in a Deal That May Reshape the Health Industry
25. Devin Nunes Cleared of Misconduct Over Disclosing Monitoring of Trump Aides
26. Did Trump Kill Off a Two-State Solution? He Says No, Palestinians Say Yes
27. Dina Powell, Influential Foreign Policy Adviser, Is Set to Leave White House
28. Does an A.D.H.D. Link Mean Tylenol Is Unsafe in Pregnancy?
29. Dylan Farrow, Woody Allen's Accuser, Says #MeToo Movement Is 'Selective'
30. E.U. and Japan Reach Deal to Keep 'Flag of Free Trade Waving High'
31. Environmentalists Ask: Is India's Government Making Bad Air Worse?
32. Ex-Governor's Run Gives Democrats a Bit More Hope of Retaking the Senate
33. Farhad and Mike's Week in Tech: The Big Bitcoin Boom
34. Fewer Pain Pills May Be Best Bet After Surgery
35. Five Alabama Voters on Why They Support Roy Moore
36. Five Days of Smoke and Fire in Southern California
37. France Investigates Lafarge Executives for Terrorist Financing

38. Germany Inches Closer to a New, Old Government
39. Gymnastics Doctor Who Abused Patients Gets 60 Years for Child Pornography
40. He's 22. She's 81. Their Friendship Is Melting Hearts.
41. His Defense of Hindus Was to Kill a Muslim and Post the Video
42. His Tattoo Said 'Do Not Resuscitate.' Doctors Wanted Another Opinion.
43. House vs. Senate: The Tax Changes Up for Debate and How Different Taxpayers Would Fare
44. How Exercise Can Make for Healthier Fat
45. How to Avoid a White-Knuckle Drive on Black Ice
46. Inside the Opposition to a Net Neutrality Repeal
47. James O'Keefe, Practitioner of the Sting, Has an Ally in Trump
48. Jerusalem Largely Calm as Region Protests Trump Move
49. Judge Seeks Arrest of Ex-President of Argentina on Treason Charges
50. Justice Dept. Investigating Fetal Tissue Transfers by Planned Parenthood and Others
51. Kim Davis Denied Him a Marriage License. He's Running to Replace Her.
52. Lost in Translation? Pope Ponders an Update to Lord's Prayer
53. Love the Club, Hate the Cocaine (and the Lies)
54. Moore Accuser Admits She Wrote Part of Yearbook Inscription
55. Nearly Every Former U.S. Ambassador to Israel Disagrees With Trump's Jerusalem Decision
56. No Turkish President Had Gone to Greece in 65 Years. So Why Now?
57. North Carolina County Refuses to Pay \$23,000 Ransom to Hackers
58. Official Toll in Puerto Rico: 62. Actual Deaths May Be 1,052.
59. Olympic Athletes From Russia, and the Politics of What They'll Wear
60. Philippines Suspends Dengue Shots After Drug Firm's Warning
61. Poland Gets a New Prime Minister in Cabinet Reshuffle
62. Right and Left React to Al Franken's Decision to Resign
63. Saudi Crown Prince Was Behind Record Bid for a Leonardo
64. Senegal Opens Airport in Bid to Jump-Start Economy
65. Should You Be Worried About the Arsenic in Your Baby Food?
66. Sifting Through a Life After Suicide
67. Sleep vs. Exercise?
68. Some Older Smokers Turn to Vaping. That May Not Be a Bad Idea.
69. Southeast Asia's Ride-Hailing War Is Being Waged on Motorbikes
70. Southern California Fires Live Updates: New Blaze Breaks Out in San Diego County
71. Sugary Diet During Pregnancy May Increase Asthma Risk in Children
72. Tensions Build in Jerusalem and Beyond Over Trump Declaration
73. The Adopted Black Baby, and the White One Who Replaced Her

74. The CHIP Program Is Beloved. Why Is Its Funding in Danger?
75. The Fallout From Trump's Jerusalem Shift
76. The First Photos of a Pearl Harbor Warship's Watery Grave
77. The Friend Who Diagnoses Too Much
78. The Next Flu Pandemic Will Appear When You Least Expect It
79. The Polish Parliament Reshapes Courts, Drawing Criticism
80. The Power of Touch, Especially for Men
81. They Fled Boko Haram, Only to Be Raped by Nigeria's Security Forces
82. Things I'll Do Differently When I'm Old
83. Tracking Dolphins With Algorithms You Might Find on Facebook
84. Trent Franks, Brexit, 'The Crown': Your Friday Briefing
85. Trump Pick to Head Consumer Safety Board Is Seen as Too Close to Industries
86. Trump Says Wells Fargo Fines Will Not Be Reduced
87. Trump Speaks Tonight in Florida, but Alabama Voters Will be Listening
88. Turning Off Programs That Start Up When You Do
89. Two Hidden Cancer Causes: Diabetes and Obesity
90. U.S. Faces Withering Criticism at U.N. Over Jerusalem Decree
91. Under New Tax Plan, the Cost of Aging Could Rise
92. UnitedHealth Buys Large Doctors Group as Lines Blur in Health Care
93. UnitedHealth's Deal May Point to Health Care's Future
94. Weinstein's Complicity Machine
95. What Causes Bell's Palsy?
96. What We Learned in 2017
97. Where There's Smoke, There Are the Traffic Reporters of Los Angeles
98. Why a Lot of Important Research Is Not Being Done
99. Why the CVS-Aetna Merger Could Benefit Consumers
100. Woman With Transplanted Uterus Gives Birth, the First in the U.S.

The Guardian:

World (14 Dec 17), Health and fitness (7-14 Dec 17), Technology (14 Dec 17)

1. 'I never knew whether I'd take my two premature babies home'
2. 'We believe you harmed your child': the war over shaken baby convictions
3. 6,700 Rohingya Muslims killed in one month in Myanmar, MSF says
4. Adoption and fostering are not the only options. It's time to invest in kinship care
5. After years of toxic oil spills, indigenous Peruvians use tech to fight back
6. Alexander Armstrong: 'At home, I'm just the bumbling old fool in the corner'
7. Amazon Fire TV 4K HDR review: compact upgrade to make your TV smarter

8. Australia must try to engage Trump with world, Joe Hockey says
9. Austrian leader hopes Brexit can be reversed after Commons setback
10. Baby girl survives with heart outside her body at birth, in UK first
11. Bennelong poll: John Alexander holds clear lead over Keneally
12. Bennelong's heart: the diverse district that's key to winning byelection
13. Bitter divisions over migration threaten show of unity at EU summit
14. Breast cancer screening – is it worth it?
15. Bribes for TV soccer rights allegedly paid with 'agreement and support' of Murdoch's Fox executives
16. Bring back conversation... by shutting up and listening
17. British troops breached Geneva conventions in Iraq, high court rules
18. Charles Jenkins, US soldier who defected to North Korea, dies aged 77
19. Children killed as train and school bus collide in southern France
20. China building network of refugee camps along border with North Korea
21. China summons Australia's ambassador in growing political meddling row
22. Chinese authorities collecting DNA from all residents of Xinjiang
23. Chinese gang accused of selling poisoned darts to kill dogs for meat
24. Collusion, Kremlin control ... and cows: Putin glides through annual Q&A
25. Còsagach: is the Scottish hygge more about wet moss than warm blankets?
26. David Davis's ignorance: now that's what I call health and safety madness
27. El Salvador court upholds 30-year jail sentence in stillbirth case
28. Family carers must get the financial support they deserve
29. Family life: My grandparents' wedding in a cafe toilet; Roxanne by the Police; crab sandwiches
30. Film depicts reality for young parents at risk of having a child taken into care
31. First hygge, now còsagach – but has our obsession with cosiness gone too far?
32. 'First' same-sex marriage: Melbourne couple to tie knot before Christmas
33. Fit in my 40s: what my gut bacteria says about me
34. Fourth lawmaker forced from Congress amid sexual misconduct allegations
35. Hiss, boo and no celebrity wannabes: Scotland's panto is the real thing
36. Ho ho hold back ... why you should go easy on the festive booze this year
37. Home Office policy to deport EU rough sleepers ruled unlawful
38. How the Tory rebellion could push May towards a softer Brexit
39. How we all become museums of our parents' lives
40. Humans 2.0: meet the entrepreneur who wants to put a chip in your brain
41. iMac Pro: Apple releases its most expensive computer – starting at £4,899
42. India bans condom adverts during primetime TV
43. Indian 'happiness minister' wanted over alleged murder

44. International artists join protests against NGV use of Wilson Security
45. Iran may have passed ballistic missiles to Yemen Houthi rebels, UN says
46. Is there an easy way to delete masses of emails in Gmail?
47. Japanese kanji of the year is 'north' – thanks to Kim Jong-un
48. John Alexander on back foot in Bennelong over rental income declaration
49. Just what men need – a sex survey that kicks sand in our faces
50. Kim Jong-un should be prosecuted for crimes against humanity, say jurists
51. Lady Bird, my mum, my daughter and me
52. Laws for safe use of driverless cars to be ready by 2021
53. Leap forward towards gene therapy cure for haemophilia A
54. Life on the California border: the spectre of deportation never goes away
55. Lung experts 'deeply concerned' by low flu jab uptake in England
56. Magic touch: when museums get family exhibitions right
57. Mexico: murders of women rise sharply as drug war intensifies
58. My brother was held as a slave for 26 years
59. My daughter is hurt at being rejected by the girl she called her best friend
60. My younger son is doing his own washing! It's a revolution
61. Nasa find first alien solar system with as many worlds as our own
62. Nelson Mandela's family voices dismay at funeral corruption claims
63. Offer cash incentives to mothers to promote breastfeeding – study
64. Omarosa Manigault-Newman on the White House: 'I've seen things that made me uncomfortable'
65. Pacific pop-up: island that rose from the ashes might last 30 years
66. Palaszczuk to flex new parliamentary muscle with tougher land-clearing laws
67. Poetry Pharmacy webchat: Feeling blue? Could a poem be the answer? Ask William Sieghart
68. Potty training gets messy. But I wouldn't pay anyone else to do it
69. Religious freedom review appointee has argued for limited sharia law in Australia
70. Remembering the 26: how families honor Sandy Hook victims five years later
71. Rise of the robots and all the lonely people
72. Roy Moore issues fiery video refusing to concede: 'Immorality sweeps over our land'
73. Roy Moore still refuses to concede defeat in fiery statement – video
74. Russia could cut off internet to Nato countries, British military chief warns
75. Should I tell my parents that we are expecting our first child?
76. Simon's story and the tragedy of unemployment
77. Stop accusing men of overreacting – 'man flu' really does exist, doctor claims
78. Struggling to express your feelings? Get an imaginary friend
79. Survivors' stories from the child abuse royal commission – interactive

80. Tax churches' commercial enterprises, says Victorian MP
81. The FCC must not give internet providers the keys to your online freedom
82. The joys of bringing a child into the world
83. The new cold war: how our focus on Russia obscures social media's real threat
84. The Republican tax bill will weaken the United States
85. This will be my third Christmas without Dad. I miss him and his food
86. Three reasons Republicans should support the Dream Act
87. Tim Dowling: in my shed, I can hear myself think. I'm not sure I like it
88. Troubled Papua New Guinea deep-sea mine faces environmental challenge
89. Turnbull declares 'jobs and growth' a reality as employment surges
90. Twitter's response to Brexit interference inquiry inadequate, MP says
91. UN warns tough North Korea sanctions risk hurting millions in need of aid
92. US regulator scraps net neutrality rules that protect open internet
93. Western Australian treasurer blames \$64m education cuts on opposition
94. White House contradicts Tillerson and says not right time for North Korea talks
95. Why do I push people away? You asked Google – here's the answer
96. Why do we hold on to first impressions in a relationship?
97. Why extend the church's 'freedom' when it's abused what it already has?
98. Why I became a mother of dragons (well, chickens)
99. Will you be able to afford a flat if you stop buying avocado toast?
100. Your stories about motherhood in America: 'There are no social safety nets'

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