White House lets three outlets back in

LEVEL B1


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I. WARM-UP

1. How do you get most of your news? Why?
2. Should leaders answer tough questions from reporters? Why or why not?
3. What rules should a government have for media access?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

ban
An official order that stops someone from doing something

restore
To give back something that was taken away

access
The right or ability to enter a place or use something

judge
A public official who decides cases in a court

unconstitutional
Not allowed by a country's highest law

lawsuit
A case brought to a court to solve a disagreement

solidarity
Support shown by people who act together for a cause

confiscate
To take something away with official power

III. READING

CNN, Politico and MS NOW were let back into the White House after a judge said President Donald Trump's ban was likely unconstitutional and ordered access restored. Judge Timothy Kelly said the ban probably broke due process and told officials to return the outlets' press passes and stop enforcing the ban for 14 days.

The outlets had been seeking an emergency hearing because reporters were turned away and their badges were confiscated. The White House director of press operations said the passes were restored by 09:45. The standoff had limited TV coverage as Trump welcomed China's President Xi Jinping for a state dinner.

The White House first called the reports "fake news", then cited national security, but the judge questioned that claim. Some networks have been showing solidarity by pausing coverage and have not said when they will return. The outlets said their lawsuit will continue.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **BBC News***: "White House restores access to media outlets...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Which three outlets regained access to the White House?

2. Who ordered the access to be restored?

3. How long did the judge halt enforcement of the ban?

4. What time did officials say the passes were restored?

5. Why did some networks pause coverage from the White House?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Is it right to ban media from government events? Why?

2. When can national security limit press access, if ever?

3. How should judges balance press freedom and security?

4. Would media in your country act in solidarity like this?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Present perfect continuous

Use have/has + been + verb-ing to show an action that started in the past and is still continuing now.

"Some networks **have been showing** *solidarity."*
"Journalists **have been gathering** *outside the gates."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete each sentence using the present perfect continuous.

1. Viewers (follow) ___ the story closely all week. _____
2. Reporters (seek) ___ comment from officials all morning. _____
3. My teacher (read) ___ about the case since Monday. _____
4. Many people (talk) ___ about press freedom since the ban. _____
5. Students (debate) ___ the judge's decision for an hour. _____

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.


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I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 10 minutes vocabulary, 12–15 minutes reading and comprehension together, 8–10 minutes grammar, 10–12 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach key terms on the board with quick examples: ban, restore, access, judge, unconstitutional, lawsuit, solidarity, confiscate.
- Run a first read for gist, then a second read to find figures (09:45, 14 days) and names (Timothy Kelly, Xi Jinping). Pair-check answers before open class feedback.
- The story involves politics and press freedom, which can be personal. Start the discussion in pairs and invite students to speak about the news, not their own beliefs, if they prefer.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Ask for one clear reason, then push for an example from a recent event in their country.
2. List possible risks on the board first to give language, then have students decide limits.
3. Have pairs note two factors on paper, then compare with another pair to build a class list.
4. Take a quick poll, then group students with different views to share examples before plenary.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Debate: In two teams, argue for or against temporary media bans at state events; 6 minutes prep, 6 minutes debate.

Writing: Write a 70-word update from one outlet explaining why their lawsuit is continuing and what happens next.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

Grammar exercise: Present perfect continuous

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

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IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Which three outlets regained access to the White House?
   CNN, Politico and MS NOW.
2. Who ordered the access to be restored?
   Judge Timothy Kelly.
3. How long did the judge halt enforcement of the ban?
   For 14 days.
4. What time did officials say the passes were restored?
   By 09:45.
5. Why did some networks pause coverage from the White House?
   To show solidarity with the banned outlets.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete each sentence using the present perfect continuous.

1. Viewers ___ the story closely all week. **have been following**
2. Reporters ___ comment from officials all morning. **have been seeking**
3. My teacher ___ about the case since Monday. **has been reading**
4. Many people ___ about press freedom since the ban. **have been talking**
5. Students ___ the judge's decision for an hour. **have been debating**

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Use have/has + been + verb-ing to show an action that started in the past and is still continuing now. (Example 2 constructed.)

"Some networks **have been showing** *solidarity."*
"Journalists **have been gathering** *outside the gates."*