

B Opinions about the press

'Newspapers print all sorts of allegations, many of them untrue, but **mud sticks**, and the unfortunate victims **bear the brunt of it**.'

'Some newspaper stories may **not ring true**, but generally journalists **go to great lengths to** check their facts and ensure their stories are accurate.'

'**If it weren't for** the press, a lot of things would **be swept under the carpet** and might never **come out into the open**.'

'Newspapers sometimes **overstep the mark**, but they also **speak out against** social injustice, so I tend to **have mixed feelings** about them.'

Glossary

bear the brunt of sth	suffer the worst part of sth unpleasant.
not ring true	If sth doesn't ring true , you don't believe it, even though you cannot explain why.
go to great lengths (to do sth)	try in a determined way to achieve sth. (If you will go to any lengths (to do sth) , you are so determined to achieve sth that you would act in an extreme way if necessary.)
if it weren't/wasn't for sb/sth	used to say who or what is preventing sth from happening (<i>If it weren't for the press, ... = Without the press, ...</i>).
sweep sth under the carpet	try to keep sth a secret, especially sth you have done wrong.
come out in/into the open	(of sth that was previously secret) become known. SYN come to light .
overstep the mark	upset sb by doing or saying more than you should. SYN go too far .
speak out (against sth)	state your opinions in public, especially in order to protest against or defend sth.
have mixed feelings about sth/sb	feel both positive and negative about sth/sb.

spotlight Sayings about truth

Two contradictory sayings are often used when discussing the press:

Mud sticks. = People remember the bad things they hear about someone, even if they are later shown to be false.

There's no smoke without fire. = If something bad is said about something, it usually has some truth in it.

3 Same or different? Write S or D.

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| 1 They'll go to great lengths to find out. | They'll go to any lengths to find out. |
| 2 They've gone too far. | They've overstepped the mark. |
| 3 I have mixed feelings about it. | I have bad feelings about it. |
| 4 There's no smoke without fire. | Mud sticks. |
| 5 The facts will come out in the open. | The facts will come to light. |
| 6 We know it because of John. | If it weren't for John, we wouldn't know it. |

4 Complete the dialogues.

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| 1 Is the information still secret? ~ No, it's all out in the | now. |
| 2 Are you sure it's the right thing to do? ~ No, I've got | feelings, actually. |
| 3 Will you support the protest? ~ Yes, we have to | out against the government. |
| 4 Do you believe the story? ~ You know what they say: there's no smoke | . |
| 5 Will the government tell us? ~ No, they'll sweep it | . |
| 6 Do you believe what they're saying? ~ No, it doesn't ring | . |
| 7 Who has suffered the most criticism? ~ Well, Amelia's borne the | of it. |
| 8 Did he try to find out? ~ Yes, he went to great | to discover the truth. |