

Glossary of Newspaper Language

AP: Abbreviation for the Associated Press.

Banner: A headline running across the top of a page.

Beat: The area assigned to a reporter for his/her regular coverage.

Byline: Name of the writer appearing at the head of a news story or under a photo.

Column inch: One inch of type (measured vertically) and one column wide.

Cutline: Explanatory information under a photo or graphic.

Dateline: Words at the beginning of a story that give a story's place of origin.

Deadline: A time at which all copy for an edition must be in.

Dummy: Diagram for a newspaper page used to show printers where stories, photos, and ads are to be placed.

Ear: Either upper corner of the front page (sometimes used for weather news or to call attention to a special feature).

Editorial: An article expressing the opinion of the newspaper regarding a certain subject.

Extra: An edition of the newspaper which is not regularly scheduled.

Feature: An article that may not have news value but is of interest to readers.

Flag: The newspaper's nameplate on the front page.

Headline: The title of a newspaper story.

Jump: To continue a story on another page.

Lead: The first paragraph or two of a news story.

Masthead: The detailed information printed in the newspaper stating the title, ownership, subscription rates and other general information about the newspaper.

Obit: Short for obituary or death notice.

Scoop: A story obtained before other newspapers receive the information.