Behind the Headlines

Types of Stories

News report
Article with the key facts of a story, including quotes from people involved, written in the third person without giving the writer's opinion.

Feature
A story that is less time-sensitive and may go more in-depth to build up a picture or analyse a situation and talk about the writer's opinions or experiences. Sometimes these are written by experts or feature an interview.

Review
Story giving a summary and opinions about a play, film, concert, TV programme or cultural event that has recently opened or occurred.

Leader
Main editorial column where the anonymous opinion of the newspaper is expressed on leading/main news stories.

Opinion
The section of the paper or website where there are articles expressing opinions, the leader column, letters and corrections and clarifications.

Obituary
Article highlighting the major events in the life of a noteworthy person who has recently died.

Print specific

Front page lead/splash
The most important news story of the day. It is supported by the main headline and sometimes the main photograph.

Hamper
A story – usually the most important on the page – that runs across the whole top of a page and leaves space beneath for an unrelated main picture.

Basement
Story at the bottom of the page, which can often be quirky or amusing.

Page lead
Main story on a newspaper page. Usually the longest story on that page with the biggest headline.

NIB/modules
Stands for news in brief. At the Guardian these are called modules. These are one or two paragraph stories, which only give basic facts. Modules are usually 100 words long and always 15 lines.

Web specific

Blog/blogpost
Blogs are web pages where posts are added regularly, eg the Guardian Books blog or Sportblog.

Liveblog
A blog about a news event that is updated as the event is taking place.