

Front Page Definitions

Byline – The line under the headline that tells who wrote the story.

Column – a block of type in a story.

Cutline or Caption – The type underneath a photo that tells what's in the photo.

Dateline – Tells where the story occurs. Usually the first word of the first paragraph of a story. The term dates from the 1800s, when the date the story was written was also part of the dateline.

Ear – The brief items that appear in the top corners of the paper. One is usually the weather; the other tells the price of the paper.

Flag or Nameplate – The banner atop the paper that provides the name of the paper.

Graphic – Any page element that is not type. Usually a picture, graph or chart.

Headline – The large-type lines above a story that summarize what's in the story and draw readers into the story.

Jump Line – The line at the end of a story that tells where inside the paper the story “jumps” to (continues).

Kicker – A small headline above the main headline of a story. It usually provides more information or labels the story.

Lead – The first or first few paragraphs of a story. The aim is to summarize the story or draw a reader into the story.

Photo Credit Line – The type directly beneath a photo that names the photographer and/or the organization that provided the photo.

Refer – A block of type that tells where inside the paper related items may be found.

Skybox – The colorful boxes at the top of a front page that tease to stories inside the paper.

Wire Service – A company or another newspaper that provides the story that follows.