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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 30/12/12

Gun controls needed in America

Recently the world watched CNN and the BBC show yet another crazy American gunman going around killing American kids in school. Why? Because he had access to a gun.

Why doesn't America face up to the simple fact that it needs gun controls? American politicians need to stop pussyfooting around and supporting the gun enthusiasts that pay large amounts of money to political parties to keep their guns and actually do something about it. Perhaps it's more about them keeping their jobs?

I hear Americans say it's their right to own a gun as it's in the American Constitution. Perhaps it's time to change the Constitution?

In today's world there are far too many 'trigger happy' men going round killing people, especially in America. It's an absolute joke when you hear Americans say, "How can this happen in our country?" When you hear CNN anchors asking this question it is even more of a joke!

Any American parent who has lost a child because of a gun killing in a school will tell you something needs to be done. It is absolutely horrendous for anyone to lose someone in this situation.

If Americans continue to allow their people to own a gun then it is only a matter of time before the next newsworthy disaster unfolds on live TV. Take the guns away and the killings will reduce.

American *attitudes* need to dramatically change. With gun controls the USA might just be a safer place to live. Unfortunately nothing is likely to change on this issue. American politicians are too frightened to tackle this subject. How many more American people will be killed before something is actually done? The world is watching...

SPEAKING

Think of three things you know about the recent Connecticut shootings at a primary school. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting lesson?
- 5) Discuss the article

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) Name the constitution.
- 2) Name the TV and radio stations.
- 3) What needs to dramatically change?
- 4) Americans say it is their right... to what?
- 5) Explain what 'pussyfooting around' means.

Student B questions

- 1) What does 'trigger happy' mean?
- 2) Who are frightened to tackle the subject?
- 3) Explain why the joke is not funny.
- 4) Who are afraid of losing their jobs?
- 5) Who had access to a gun?

Category: USA / Guns / Gun Control
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

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WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Guns**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

Gun controls needed in America - *In pairs* choose three things from the article about it.

Write them below.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Add three similar ideas of your own about the subject. Discuss together.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

WRITING / SPEAKING

Think of three reasons for owning a gun in America. Then add three reasons why they should be banned or severely restricted. Write down your thoughts.

The teacher will choose some students to read out their work to the class.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Do you own a gun?
- 3) Should all guns be licensed?
- 4) Should Americans change their attitudes on gun control? Explain.
- 5) Why do American politicians pussyfoot around when dealing with gun control?
- 6) Are all Americans "trigger happy"?
- 7) Why do Americans need to own guns?
- 8) How many more people will be killed before something is actually done in America?
- 9) How many guns do your parents own? Why?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *BBC America* TV studio. Today's interview is about: *Gun controls in America.*

- 1) A parent whose kid was shot dead.
- 2) The American President.
- 3) A 'trigger happy' American gun enthusiast who loves guns!
- 4) Someone who is totally against gun ownership.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. You are in a coffee shop in your town/city. Start a conversation about: '*American gun controls*'. *5 mins.*

SPEAKING

In pairs tell the class about a gun shooting in your country. *5 mins prep.* *The teacher* will choose some pairs to hear their details in front of the class.

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...

Gun controls needed in America?

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Why doesn't America face up to the simple fact that it needs gun controls?
- 3) If you were an American parent what would you say to the US President about the gun control laws?
- 4) How can this killing happen in America today?
- 5) What should American parents do?
- 6) Are guns easy to buy in your country?
- 7) In your country are gun laws like in America? Explain.
- 8) Are American politicians frightened of the strong gun federation?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson in English for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Gun controls needed in America

Recently the world watched CNN and the BBC show yet another (1)___ American gunman going around killing American kids in school. Why? Because he had access to a (2)___.

Why doesn't America face up to the simple fact that it needs gun controls? American (3)___ need to stop (4)___ and supporting the gun enthusiasts that pay large amounts of money to political parties to keep their guns and actually do something about it. Perhaps it's more about them keeping their jobs?

I hear Americans say it's their right to own a gun as it's in the American Constitution. Perhaps it's time to change the (5)___?

In today's world there are far too many 'trigger happy' men going round killing people, especially in America. It's an (6)___ joke when you hear Americans say, "How can this happen in our country?" When you *hear CNN* (7)___ *asking this question it is even more of a* (8)___!

politicians / gun / constitution / pussyfooting around / crazy / absolute / anchors / joke

Any American (1)___ who has lost a child because of a gun killing in a school will tell you something needs to be done. It is absolutely (2)___ for anyone to lose someone in this (3)___.

If Americans continue to (4)___ their people to own a gun then it is only a matter of time before the next newsworthy (5)___ unfolds on live TV. Take the guns away and the killings will reduce.

American (6)___ need to dramatically change. With gun controls the USA might just be a safer place to live. (7)___ nothing is likely to change on this issue. American politicians are too frightened to (8)___ this subject. How many more American people will be killed before something is actually done? The world is watching...

situation / horrendous / attitudes / tackle / allow / unfortunately / parent / disaster

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Gun controls needed in America

Recently the world watched CNN and the BBC show yet another crazy American gunman going around killing American kids in school. Why? Because he had access to a gun.

Why doesn't America face up to the simple fact that it needs gun controls? American politicians need to stop pussyfooting around and supporting the gun enthusiasts (1)___ pay large amounts of money to political parties to keep their guns and actually do something about it. Perhaps it's (2)___ about (3)___ keeping their jobs?

I hear Americans say it's (4)___ right to own a gun as it's in the American Constitution. Perhaps it's time to change the Constitution?

In today's world (5)___ are far too (6)___ 'trigger happy' men going round killing people, especially in America. It's an absolute joke when you hear Americans say, "How can this happen in our country?" (7)___ you hear CNN anchors asking (8)___ question it is even more of a joke!

that / this / many / their / them / there / when / more

Any American parent (1)___ has lost a child because of a gun killing in a school will tell (2)___ something needs to be done. It is absolutely horrendous (3)___ anyone to lose someone in this situation.

(4)___ Americans continue to allow their people to own a gun then (5)___ is only a matter of time before (6)___ next newsworthy disaster unfolds on live TV. Take the guns away and the killings will reduce.

American *attitudes* need to dramatically change. With gun controls the USA might just be a safer place to live. Unfortunately nothing is likely to change (7)___ this issue. American politicians are too frightened to tackle this subject. (8)___ many more American people will be killed before something is actually done? The world is watching...

for / who / the / how / if / on / it / you

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Gun controls needed in America

Recently the world watched _____ show yet another crazy American gunman going around killing American kids in school. Why? Because he had access to a gun.

Why doesn't America face up to the simple fact that _____? American politicians need to stop _____ and supporting the gun enthusiasts that pay large amounts of money to political parties to keep their guns and actually do something about it. Perhaps it's more about them keeping their jobs?

I hear Americans say it's their right to own a gun as it's in the _____. Perhaps it's time to change the Constitution?

In today's world there are far too many 'trigger happy' men going round killing people, especially in America. It's an absolute joke when you hear Americans say, " _____ in our

country?" When you hear CNN anchors asking this question it is _____.! Any American parent who has lost a child because of a gun killing in a school will tell you something needs to be done. It is _____ for anyone to lose someone in this situation.

If Americans continue to allow their people to own a gun then it is only a matter of time before the next newsworthy disaster unfolds on live TV. Take the guns away and the killings will reduce.

_____ need to dramatically change. With gun controls the USA might just be a safer place to live. Unfortunately nothing is likely to change on this issue. American politicians are too frightened to _____. How many more American people will be killed before something is actually done? _____...

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs*, name as many *American movies* (you know) *with guns in them. One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) The American Constitution _____
- 2) Guns _____
- 3) The killing _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Gun controls needed in America**. Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) crazy
- 2) gun
- 3) politicians
- 4) pussyfooting around
- 5) constitution
- 6) absolute
- 7) anchors
- 8) joke

ANSWERS

- 1) parent
- 2) horrendous
- 3) situation
- 4) allow
- 5) disaster
- 6) attitudes
- 7) unfortunately
- 8) tackle

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) horrendous
- 2) absolutely
- 3) situation
- 4) matter
- 5) disaster
- 6) dramatically
- 7) attitudes
- 8) unfortunately
- 9) politicians
- 10) tackle

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12
Good = 15
Very good = 18
Excellent = 20

- 11) actually
- 12) crazy
- 13) yet
- 14) pussyfooting
- 15) enthusiasts
- 16) constitution
- 17) anchors
- 18) especially
- 19) joke
- 20) reduce

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