



## Pre-Reading Activities

### A: Discussion

In small groups discuss the following questions about retirement.

1. Do you think retirement years are happy or unhappy for most people? Why?
2. What kinds of things do people in your country do when they retire from work?
3. What kinds of things do you think you'll do when you retire?

### B: Find Your Other Half

**Part One:** Your teacher will give you half a sentence (either the beginning or ending of a sentence). Stand up and find the student who has the other half of your sentence. (The sentences are definitions for words in today's article. Those words are in **bold**.) When you have found that student, one of you write the complete sentence on the board.

**Part Two:** Sit down with your partner from **Part One** and write down a sample sentence that you think uses the word in **bold** correctly. When it is your turn, read that sentence to the rest of your classmates.

### C: Predicting

Today's article is about a 92-year-old man who did something you would not expect a 92-year-old man to do. Look at the sentences on the board again and predict what you think he did. Share your answer with the rest of the class.

## Reading Activities

### A: Skimming

Read the article quickly and see if your prediction was correct.

## Oldest U.S. Bank Robber Gets 12 Years in Prison

LUBBOCK, Texas Mon Jan 26 (Reuters) - The oldest bank robber in the United States, 92-year-old J.L. Hunter Rountree, was sentenced to more than 12 years in prison on Friday after he pleaded guilty to robbing \$1,999 from a Texas bank last August.

Rountree, who goes by the nickname "Red," said he robbed his first bank when he was about 80 because he wanted revenge against banks for sending him into a financial crisis.

Rountree was sentenced to 151 months in a federal prison, which he will serve at the Federal Medical Center in Fort Worth, Texas.

He appeared in court in a loose-fitting prison outfit and shackles on his ankles. He had a cane to help him walk. Rountree listened to the proceedings through headphones because he is hard of hearing.

Police said Rountree, who was not armed, handed two envelopes to a teller at a bank in Abilene, Texas. One envelope had the word "robbery" written in red ink. Rountree told the teller to stuff money into the other envelope, or else she would get hurt.

After asking Rountree twice if he was kidding, she put the money into the envelope and Rountree then made off in

a 1996 Buick sedan, police said.

A bank employee noted the license plate of the vehicle and Rountree was pulled over by police on a highway about 20 miles from the crime scene, 30 minutes after the robbery.

Rountree left a prison in Florida, where he was the oldest prisoner in the state, about a year and a half ago after serving a three-year sentence imposed on him for a 1999 bank robbery in Pensacola.

He was caught holding up a bank in Biloxi, Mississippi, in 1998 when he was 87, and given three years' probation.

Federal officials said they had no records to prove it, but they are fairly certain Rountree was the oldest person ever to rob a bank in the United States.

In a prison interview with the Orlando Sentinel in 2001, Rountree said he had been a businessman in Texas but had fallen on hard times. He also told the paper that prison food was better than what was served at some nursing homes.

"A Corpus Christi (Texas) bank that I'd done business with had forced me into bankruptcy. I have never liked banks since," he told the paper. "I decided I would get even. And I have."

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## B: Sequencing

Now read the article more carefully and put the events in the order in which they occurred. Write **1** next to the first event, **2** next to the second event...and **9** next to the last event. (The first one has been done for you as an example.)

- Rountree fled the bank in a car.
- He was sentenced to 12 years in prison, which he will serve at the Federal Medical Center in Fort Worth, Texas.
- 1** Rountree robbed his first bank when he was 80 years old.
- He robbed a bank in Pensacola, Florida in 1999 and served a three-year sentence.
- In August, 2003 Rountree handed a bank teller in Abilene, Texas two envelopes; one of the envelopes had the word 'robbery' written on it.
- The teller put the money into the envelope.
- He held up a bank in Biloxi, Mississippi and was given three years' probation.
- The police pulled Rountree over on the highway about 30 minutes after he robbed the bank.
- He told the teller to put money into the other envelope.

## C: Question Construction

The following questions are about the article. However, the words in each question are in the wrong order. Put the words in the correct order to form questions and then find the answers to the questions in the article. The first one has been done for you as an example.

1. is / bank / What / robber's name / the? What is the bank robber's name ?

**Answer:** J.L. Hunter Rountree.

2. his / What / nickname / is ?

**Answer:**

3. Rountree / many banks / has / his / How / 80th birthday / robbed / since ?

**Answer:**

4. How / much / from a Texas bank / money / last August / did he take ?

**Answer:**

5. Did / the Texas bank / use / he / to rob / a weapon ?

**Answer:**

6. believe / Rountree / Do federal officials / is / ever to rob an American bank / the oldest person ?

**Answer:**

7. he / doesn't / banks / like / Why ?

**Answer:**

## D: Language

**Phrasal verbs** are phrases that have a verb and a second word, often a preposition (e.g. *get off*). It is often the second word that gives special meaning to the phrase. The following phrasal verbs are from the article. Read the article again and work out their meanings. Then fill the gaps in the following summary with the appropriate phrasal verb. **Be careful to use the correct form of the phrasal verb.** (One of the verbs is in the passive.)

**fall on, get even, hold up, make off, pull over**

Ninety-two year old J.L. Hunter Rountree is spending 12 years in jail after he 1. \_\_\_\_\_ a bank in Texas last August. Rountree 2. \_\_\_\_\_ with \$1,999 after he handed an envelope to a teller instructing her to stuff money into another envelope or risk getting hurt. A bank worker got the license plate of Rountree's escape car and 30 minutes later he 3. \_\_\_\_\_ by police on the highway. Rountree started robbing banks at the age of 80 when he 4. \_\_\_\_\_ hard times financially and was forced by his bank to file for bankruptcy. He said he decided to rob banks because he wanted to 5. \_\_\_\_\_ with them.

## Post-Reading Activities

You may do one or more of these.

### A: Thinking Carefully

In groups of three look at the following excerpts from today's article and then discuss the questions.

1. After asking Rountree twice if he was **kidding**, she (the bank teller) put the money into the envelope and Rountree then made off in a 1996 Buick sedan, police said.
  - a. When you **kid** somebody, you say something that is not true. Why do you think the bank teller asked Rountree if he was kidding?
  - b. How do you think you would you feel if you were the bank teller in that situation? I would probably...
2. "I decided I would **get even**. And I have," Rountree said.
  - a. To **get even** means to cause somebody the same amount of trouble or harm they have caused you. Do you think there are times when you need to get even with somebody? Or do you think you should never try to get even? Share your ideas with your group.
  - b. Who or what did Rountree want to get even with?
  - c. What do you think of Rountree's reason for robbing banks? Do you feel sorry for him? Why or why not?

### B: Interview

English-To-Go interviewed Gene Adams, a retiree (*i.e. a retired person*) from Walla Walla, Washington, USA. Read the interview which is on the next page and then complete the table below. Some answers have been done for you.

**Year Adams Retired from Work:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Work Adams Did:** *Administrator at a four year university* \_\_\_\_\_

**Places or organizations where Adams works as a volunteer:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. *Friends: provides adult friends for children in poor living conditions.* \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Characteristics of People Who Enjoy Retirement:** *They fill their time with satisfying activities.* \_\_\_\_\_

**Characteristics of People Who Do Not Enjoy Retirement:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Adams' Tip for Enjoying Retirement:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**English-To-Go (ETG):** Thank you for your time, Gene. First of all, could you tell me what year you retired?

**Gene Adams (GA):** 1995.

**ETG:** What kind of work did you do before you retired?

**GA:** I was an administrator at a four year university.

**ETG:** Did you enjoy your work?

**GA:** Yes, I did. We helped students at our university who needed financial assistance to attend the university.

**ETG:** Do you enjoy retirement?

**GA:** Yes, I am enjoying my retirement because I have found good things to do with my time.

**ETG:** What kinds of things are you doing?

**GA:** I devote about 54 hours a month to four organizations through which I can help other people, mostly children. One of the organizations, called Friends, provides adult friends for children in poor living conditions. I have an 11-year-old friend. Another organization is a service club I belong to that raises money to give to other organizations that help children. I also volunteer three days a week at an elementary school. I help with a first-grade reading program. And finally, I am an usher team captain at my church.

**ETG:** Why do you think some people enjoy retirement while other people do not?

**GA:** Retirees who enjoy their retirement usually have more realistic expectations when they retire. They know they will have lots of time, so they gradually fill that time with satisfying activities. Retirees who don't enjoy retirement go into retirement thinking that sleeping in and golf will make them happy. They become bored. Others are very protective of their free time, and they fear doing volunteer work. They are unhappy, and they don't know why. I have a friend who was "taught" in the Navy not to volunteer for anything (a common word of wisdom in the military services), so in retirement he boasts about never volunteering. He plays golf, but he's bored and unhappy.

**ETG:** What piece of advice would you give to someone who is planning to retire in the near future?

**GA:** My advice to retirees is to do what makes you happy, but don't stop there. Find activities that help others. It will be satisfying, and it will give you self-respect. Then, your retirement will become golden.

**ETG:** Thank you very much, Gene.

**GA:** My pleasure.

## C: Read and Draw

What did Rountree look like when he was sentenced to 151 months of prison? Find a description of him in today's article. Then draw Rountree (as described in today's article) in the picture below, standing next to the young lawyer.



# TEACHERS' NOTES AND ANSWER KEY

## Pre-Reading Activities

### B: Find Your Other Half - Notes

**Part One:** You will need to make copies of the sentence beginnings and endings and then cut them into strips so that every beginning and ending has been separated. (It would be a good idea to copy the texts onto colored cards for ease of sorting.) Give each student a sentence half and ask them not to let anyone see it. Insist that they do not read each other's sentence halves; they can only listen to other people.

Tell students to mingle, find their partner, and then write their complete sentence on the board or on an OHT (Overhead Projector Transparency) which you then display. Ask students to copy the sentences from the board onto a piece of paper so that they can refer to them during the lesson or into their vocabulary notebooks.

**Part Two:** The students should then sit down and work together to make a sentence that uses the word in bold correctly. Tell them they will share the sentence they wrote themselves with the rest of the class.

*Alternatively, you could read the sample sentences below or put them on an Overhead Projector Transparency with a gap (remove the word in bold text from each sentence), and ask the pairs to decide which of the words the class has studied goes in the gap.*

### B: Find Your Other Half - Sentence Halves to be Cut Up and Given To Students

These are on the next page.

### B: Find Your Other Half - Sample Answers

When someone is sentenced for a crime, they...are told by a judge what their punishment will be for that crime.

If someone is guilty of a crime, they...have done that crime.

When a person seeks revenge, they...want to hurt or punish someone because that person hurt or punished them.

Shackles are two metal rings joined by a chain...which go around a person's wrists or ankles so they cannot escape.

A crime scene is the place...where a crime occurred.

When someone commits a robbery, they...steal money or other things from a bank, store or shop, usually by force.

Probation is a period of time when a criminal is supervised...to make sure they do not break the law again, rather than being kept in prison.

If someone has a crisis, they...are having a time of great difficulty because of a very serious problem.

When someone files for bankruptcy, they...do not have enough money to pay their debts.

### B: Find Your Other Half - Sample Sentences

The man was sentenced to ten years in prison for burning down the factory.

The woman was found guilty of taking money from her company.

The man is seeking revenge for the murder of his wife.

The criminal was brought into the courtroom with shackles around his wrists and ankles.

The police went to the crime scene to investigate the murder.

The robbery was done very quickly and nobody got hurt.

Because it was the first time the woman had committed a crime, she was sentenced to three years probation rather than having to go to prison.

The man's financial crisis was so large, he thought he'd never be able to get out of debt.

The couple filed for bankruptcy when their small business was not making enough money to pay the bills.

### C: Predicting - Notes

Elicit ideas from students but do not give them the answers at this point of the lesson. They will find out soon enough what the 92-year-old man did.

## Reading Activities

### A: Skimming - Answer

A 92-year-old man robbed a bank and was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

### B: Sequencing - Answers

- \_1\_ Rountree robbed his first bank when he was 80 years old.
- \_2\_ He held up a bank in Biloxi, Mississippi and was given three years' probation.
- \_3\_ He robbed a bank in Pensacola, Florida and served a three-year sentence.
- \_4\_ In August, 2003 Rountree handed a bank teller in Abilene, Texas two envelopes; one of the envelopes had the word 'robbery' written on it.
- \_5\_ He told the teller to put money into the other envelope.
- \_6\_ The teller put the money into the envelope.
- \_7\_ Rountree fled the bank in a car.
- \_8\_ The police pulled Rountree over on the highway about 30 minutes after he robbed the bank.
- \_9\_ He was sentenced to 12 years in prison, which he will serve at the Federal Medical Center in Fort Worth, Texas.

## C: Question Construction - Answers

1. What is the bank robber's name? Answer: J.L. Hunter Rountree.
2. What is his nickname? Answer: "Red".
3. How many banks has Rountree robbed since his 80th birthday? Answer: 4.
4. How much money did he take from a Texas bank last August? Answer: \$1,999.
5. Did he use a weapon to rob the Texas bank? Answer: No.
6. Do federal officials believe Rountree is the oldest person ever to rob an American bank? Answer: Yes.
7. Why doesn't he like banks? Answer: A Corpus Christi bank forced him into bankruptcy.

## D: Language - Answers

1. held up, 2. made off, 3. was pulled over, 4. fell on, 5. get even.

## Post-Reading Activities

### A: Thinking Carefully - Suggested Answers

1. a. The bank teller probably couldn't believe this very old man was serious about robbing the bank.
- b. Answers will vary.
2. a. He wanted to take revenge against banks. He blamed them for causing his financial crisis.
- b. Answers will vary.
- c. Answers will vary.

### B: Interview - Notes

Students could finish by reading the interview in pairs.

### B: Interview - Answers

Year Adams Retired from Work: 1995

Type of Work Adams Did: *Administrative work at a four year university* Places or organizations where Adams works as a volunteer:

1. Friends: Provides adult friends for children in poor living conditions.
2. A service club: raises money to give to other organizations that help children.
3. An elementary school: helps with first grade reading program.
4. His church: is usher team captain.

Characteristics of People Who Enjoy Retirement: *They fill their time with satisfying activities.*

Characteristics of People Who Do Not Enjoy Retirement: *Do not do many activities; are protective of their free time; fear doing volunteer work; and are often bored and unhappy.*

Adams' Tip for Enjoying Retirement: *Do what makes you happy, but also find activities that will help others. It will be satisfying and make you feel good about yourself.*

### C: Read and Draw - Notes

It is likely that some students will say that they are not good drawers and do not want to participate. Tell them that you are not concerned about the quality of their drawing, but the content of the drawing. Remind students to read the paragraph carefully and include everything written about Rountree's appearance in their drawing.

When they are all finished, have them compare drawings with each other and then show them the artist's drawing below.

### C: Read and Draw - Drawing To Be Photocopied And Given To Students



**Sentence Beginnings**

**Sentence Endings**

When someone is **sentenced** for a crime, they...

...want to hurt or punish someone because that person hurt or punished them.

If someone is **guilty** of a crime, they...

...to make sure they do not break the law again, rather than being kept in prison.

When a person seeks **revenge**, they...

...do not have enough money to pay their debts.

**Shackles** are two metal rings joined by a chain...

...are having a time of great difficulty because of a very serious problem.

A **crime scene** is the place...

...steal money or other things from a bank, store or shop, usually by force.

When someone commits a **robbery**, they...

...are told by a judge what their punishment will be for that crime.

**Probation** is a period of time when a criminal is supervised...

...which go around a person's wrists or ankles so they cannot escape.

If someone has a **crisis**, they...

...where a crime occurred.

When someone files for **bankruptcy**, they...

...have done that crime.

**Please Note:** This lesson also has further exercises for your students to do online at [www.instantworkbook.com](http://www.instantworkbook.com). To get a username and password for your students, click on the blue icon next to this lesson description in the teachers' room at [www.english-to-go.com](http://www.english-to-go.com).