



Pre-Reading Activities

A: Vocabulary

Match these words with the correct meanings:

pistol; would-be; harmless; arrest; fake; rocket launcher; prison; staff.



2. People who work for a company or shop.

3. Won't hurt or upset anyone.

4. When police take a person to the police station because they believe that person has broken the law.

5. Not real.

6. Hoping to become something; e.g. would-be robber (a person who is hoping to be a robber).



8. A place where people go in order to punish them for a crime they have done.

B: Pictures

Look at the pictures below, and answer the questions in pairs. Use some of the words from **Pre-Reading Activity A** in your answers.



1. What do you think the man is doing?
2. What sort of gun do you think he is holding?
3. What kind of shop is it?



4. What are the police doing to the man?
5. Why do you think they are doing this?



6. Who are the men?
7. What are they doing?
8. What is one of the men carrying?



Reading Activities

A: Matching Pictures And Words

Look at some sentence extracts from today's article. Match them with the pictures from **Pre-Reading Activity B** on the previous page.

- Staff at the gun shop in central Paris immediately saw that the gun was harmless. Police then arrested the 26-year-old.
- ...earlier this year a fake rocket launcher was successfully used in an escape from a prison on the Mediterranean island of Corfu.
- Holding a toy pistol, a would-be robber chose a strange place to try and rob – a gun shop.

B: Comprehension

Answer these questions as you read the whole article.

- What did the man try to rob?
- Was he successful?
- Who saw that the gun was harmless?
- What happened to the man?
- What happened on Corfu earlier this year?
- What did the prisoners use to help them escape?

Man Tries to Rob Gun Shop with Toy Pistol

PARIS Mon July 7 (Reuters) - Holding a toy pistol, a would-be robber chose a strange place to try and rob -- a gun shop.

Staff at the gun shop in central Paris immediately saw that the gun was harmless. Police then arrested the 26-year-old.

The man was unlucky -- earlier this year a fake rocket launcher was successfully used in an escape from a prison on the Mediterranean island of Corfu.

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C: Sequencing

Look at the first sentence from today's article and put the lines into the correct order. (The first line is done for you.) Then do the same for the other sentences. Do not look at the article until you have finished!

First Sentence

___ to try and rob
___ a would-be robber
___ chose a strange place
___ - a gun shop.
1 Holding a toy pistol,

Second Sentence

___ immediately saw that
___ the gun shop
___ in central Paris
___ the gun was harmless.
___ Staff at
___ on the Mediterranean island
___ a fake rocket

Third Sentence

___ then arrested
___ the 26-year-old.
___ Police

Fourth Sentence

___ a prison
___ The man
___ was unlucky -
___ earlier this year
___ launcher was
___ successfully used in
___ an escape from
___ of Corfu.
9 on the
Mediterranean island
4 a fake rocket

D: Thinking Carefully

Use your own ideas and your understanding of the article to answer these questions.

- Holding a toy pistol, a would-be robber chose a strange place to try and rob – a gun shop.
Why is a gun shop a strange place to rob?
- 'Staff at the gun shop in central Paris immediately saw that the gun was harmless.'
Why would staff know that the gun was harmless?
- 'The man was unlucky – earlier this year a fake rocket launcher was successfully used in an escape from a prison...'
Why does the article say the man was unlucky?

E: What Do You Think?

In groups answer the questions below.

- In today's article the robber used a toy gun to try and rob a shop. What do you think of the would-be robber? Do you think he was stupid or unlucky?
- Have you heard of any similar stories to this?

Post-Reading Activities

You may do one or more of these.

A: Running Dictation

Your teacher is going to divide the class into two groups, A and B, and give you a worksheet.

You will work in pairs with someone from the other group. **Group A** students read the information on their worksheet text and run and dictate it to their partners. **Group B** students listen and write the information down. Then swap roles. When you have finished, work together and compare your work with the article in **Reading Activity B** and correct any mistakes.

B: Word Find

In the Word Find puzzle below there are some hidden words from today's article. They are all crime words.

A	G	O	O	Y	Q	B	P
P	R	U	P	O	O	L	I
R	U	R	N	R	E	E	S
I	U	X	E	P	T	K	T
S	S	P	A	S	O	A	O
O	E	C	O	O	T	F	L
N	S	B	S	C	O	E	V
E	P	O	L	I	C	E	D

C: Dialogue

Work in pairs. Think about what the staff of the gun shop said to the would-be robber. Also think about what the robber said in reply.

Write a conversation (of no more than six to eight lines) showing what happened in the gun shop. When your teacher has checked your writing, practice the conversation with your partner. When you are ready, perform your conversation in front of the class.

D: Language

Staff at the gun shop in central Paris **immediately** saw that the gun was harmless.

'Immediately' means **now** or **at once**. (The staff knew the gun was a toy because they worked in a gun shop and knew a lot about guns. There was no delay.)

Here are some sentences with the word **'immediately'**. Use the verbs from the list below to fill the gaps in the sentences. Put each verb into the **simple past** tense.

tell; phone; take; come; decide; see

1. The staff of the gun shop immediately _____ that the gun was a toy.
2. One of the staff immediately _____ the police.
3. The police immediately _____ to the shop and arrested the man.
4. When he was arrested, the man immediately _____ that he would never try to be a robber again.
5. The police immediately _____ the robber to the police station.
6. The police chief _____ the police to put the robber in a cell immediately.

Pre-Reading Activities

A: Vocabulary - Answers

1. pistol, 2. staff, 3. harmless, 4. arrest, 5. fake, 6. would-be, 7. rocket launcher, 8. prison.

B: Pictures - Notes

This activity helps students prepare to read the article. The questions are designed to help them try to predict what they will be reading. The questions encourage students to use the vocabulary of Pre-Reading Activity A. Go over the answers as a class once the students have had a chance to talk about the pictures in pairs. Don't indicate whether the students' answers are right or wrong.

B: Pictures - Answers

(These answers are for your reference. Do not give them to students at this stage.)

1. He is trying to rob the shop.
2. A pistol.
3. A gun shop.
4. They are arresting him.
5. Because he tried to rob the shop and the staff then called the police.
6. Prisoners.
7. Escaping.
8. A rocket launcher.

Reading Activities

A: Matching Pictures And Words - Answers

Picture 1 - c, Picture 2 - a, Picture 3 - b.

B: Comprehension - Answers

1. A gun shop.
2. No.
3. Gun shop staff.
4. He was arrested.
5. Prisoners escaped from a prison.
6. They used a fake rocket launcher.

C: Sequencing - Notes

Make sure students cover the article as they do this activity.

C: Sequencing - Answers

First Sentence

4. to try and rob
2. a would-be robber
3. chose a strange place
5. - a gun shop.
1. Holding a toy pistol,

Second Sentence

4. immediately saw that
2. the gun shop
3. in central Paris
5. the gun was harmless.
1. Staff at

Third Sentence

2. then arrested
3. the 26-year-old.
1. Police

Fourth Sentence

8. a prison
1. The man
2. was unlucky -
3. earlier this year
5. launcher was
6. successfully used in
7. an escape from
10. of Corfu.
9. on the Mediterranean island
4. a fake rocket

D: Thinking Carefully - Suggested Answers

1. Because it is full of guns, so staff would be able to defend themselves easily.
2. Because they would know a lot about guns and be able to tell a toy pistol from a real one.
3. Because a fake weapon was used successfully in a prison escape, so sometimes it is possible to commit a crime with a fake. The robber here also used a fake but chose the wrong kind of shop to rob.

E: What Do You Think?- Notes

This is a chance for students to reflect on today's article and respond to its content.

Post-Reading Activities

A: Running Dictation - Notes

This activity requires students to move around, so desks will have to be moved in order to create a clear space. Divide the class into two groups, A and B. Arrange the desks so that they form two lines with a space between them. (The further apart the desks, the harder the activity is.) Ask Group B students to get a piece of paper and pen and sit behind the desks on one side. Ask Group A students to stand in front of the second row of desks.

Put Group A's worksheets on the desks in front of them. Tell the Group A students they are allowed to look at the worksheet text but not touch it. They must read part of their worksheet text, remember it and run to their partner and dictate it to them. They can run back and forth as many times as they like. Group A students dictate the first part of today's article to their partners. Group B students listen and write what they hear. Then they swap roles.

You may need to remind students that they will need to say 'capital letter', 'hyphen', etc. to their partners. The student who is listening and writing can ask for clarification or for something to be repeated.

Once they have finished, ask the students to sit with their partners and compare their dictation with the article, correcting any mistakes.

Boisterous classes enjoy this activity as they have a chance to physically move their bodies while at the same time developing accurate listening. The activity also encourages clear communication and helps with spelling and error correction skills.

A: Running Dictation - Worksheets To Be Copied And Given To Students And Answers

Group A

Holding a toy pistol, a would-be robber chose a strange place to try and rob - a gun shop. Staff at the gun shop in central Paris immediately saw that the gun was harmless.

Group B

Police then arrested the 26-year-old. The man was unlucky - earlier this year a fake rocket launcher was successfully used in an escape from a prison on the Mediterranean island of Corfu.

B: Word Find - Notes

Here are the words from the Word Find puzzle. You may like to give them to students if you want to make the activity easier.

pistol, arrested, gun, escape, prison, police, rob, fake

B: Word Find - Answers



C: Dialogue - Notes

Allow a lot of time for the students to prepare this. Check their conversations for accuracy, and give assistance with pronunciation.

D: Language - Answers

1. saw, 2. phoned, 3. came, 4. decided, 5. took, 6. told.