

4 | Writing A narrative

SPEAKING

1 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- It is legal to possess a gun in your country?
- What problems does your country, or other countries you know, have with gun-related crime?

2 Do you agree or disagree with the opinions? Why or why not?

1 **Guns are a deterrent. Burglars have to ask themselves when they approach a house 'Is that family armed or not?'**

2 If homeowners arm themselves, that will simply encourage potential burglars to arm themselves too.

3 **Everyone has the right to self-defence. If my granny were to be mugged I'd rather she had the choice of pulling out her purse, or her .45 Magnum.**

4 Violence breeds violence. A country in which guns are legal is one which condones and encourages violence in other areas of life.

READING

1 Read the short story about two friends from a poor housing estate in New York. What do you think is the meaning of the final sentence in the story? Choose the best meaning: 1,2,3 or 4.

- 1 I'm going to kill you.
- 2 Life is hopeless.
- 3 Violence breeds violence.
- 4 There is no way out from this street.

2 Read the story again. Put these events in the order in which they happened, 1 – 10.

- Joey and Al gatecrashed a party
- Joey pointed his gun at Brad
- Joey and Al set off home
- Brad attacked Al's brother
- Joey and Al missed their last train home
- Al handed his gun over to Joey
- Joey and Al went into a café
- Joey stole Brad's gun
- Joey and Al arrived back at the estate
- Joey and Al broke into a car

What do you think happened next?

It was 5.00 in the morning in the backstreets of New York, and the sun was just beginning to appear over the tenement buildings. Al and Joey, two friends from a poor housing estate on the outskirts of the city, were making their way home after gatecrashing a party in the city centre. Having missed their last train home, they had broken into a car parked in an alleyway, only to find, to their consternation, that neither of them knew how to drive. So they had set off on foot, telling jokes and exchanging stories to keep themselves awake.

They had been walking for over an hour when they found an all-night café, so they went in and ordered a coffee. Al started boasting to Joey about a fight he had had earlier that day with Brad, the leader of a rival gang on the estate. Brad had attacked Al's brother, but Al had managed to grab Brad's gun and run off. Taking the gun out of his pocket, Al stroked it proudly, dreaming of revenge. 'Don't be crazy, man,' said Joey. 'Guns make you feel like a man, but violence is a dead end.'

Two hours later the two friends arrived back at the estate. But no sooner had they turned into the main street than they suddenly found themselves, to their dismay, face to face with Brad, who started running towards them with his gang, revenge written all over his face. Fearing for his life, Al pulled out the gun and pointed it at Brad, while the other members of Brad's gang fled. Joey gazed at the scene in horror, wondering what would happen next. It was at that moment that Al realized he would never be able to pull the trigger. With eyes downcast, he handed his gun over to Joey. 'It's a dead end,' he said to Brad.



LANGUAGE FOCUS

Using narrative tenses

- 1 Look again at the story and find an example of ...
- 1 past continuous. 3 past perfect continuous.
2 past perfect simple. 4 past simple.
- 2 Which tenses are used to do the following? Find examples from the story.
- 1 describe the main events of the story
2 set the scene of the story
3 describe events happening before the main events of the story
4 clarify that one event in the story happened before another
5 describe actions continuing up to a point in the past

Linking events

- 3 How are these events linked in the story?
- 1 They missed their last train home./They broke into a car.
2 They broke into a car./They found that neither of them knew how to drive.
3 They had been walking for over an hour./They found an all-night café.
4 Al took the gun out of his pocket./He stroked it proudly.
5 They turned into the main street./They found themselves face to face with Brad.
6 Al pointed his gun at Brad./The other gang members fled.

Look again at the story and check your answers.

- 4 Complete the sentence beginnings 1–5 with the endings a–e.
- 1 He got out his wallet
2 No sooner had he turned out the light
3 He found himself face to face with a guard dog,
4 He broke into the car
5 They had just got into their car
- a while his friend kept watch for the police.
b who started growling at him.
c when a stranger started tapping on the window.
d only to discover that he had left his credit card at home.
e than there was a knock on the door.

Describing emotion

- 5 Choose the most appropriate word to complete the sentences
- 1 When I turned on the computer, I discovered to my utter *horror* / *amusement* that I had lost the document I had been working on for the last three days.
2 We arrived at the restaurant, only to find to our *disappointment* / *fury* that it was fully booked.
3 Imagine my *relief* / *embarrassment* when I discovered that I had arrived at work wearing my slippers.
4 To my great *annoyance* / *delight*, the children started pouring cola all over my new white sofa.
5 I gazed in complete *embarrassment* / *bemusement* as the burglar shook hands with me and left the house carrying my laptop.
6 I asked my boss for a rise and to my great *astonishment* / *dismay* he agreed.
7 Having arrived home, I realized to my *delight* / *consternation* that I had left my keys inside the house.

WRITING

- 1 You are going to write a story in which someone changes their bad behaviour. Work in pairs. Choose from 1–3 below.
- 1 a thief (eg a burglar, a car thief, or a bank robber)
2 an employer who treats his/her employees badly
3 a person who treats his/her partner badly
- 2 Plan the story as follows:
- a **Setting the scene**
Where and when did the story take place?
What was happening and what was he/she doing?
What had happened before the story started?
- b **Telling the story**
What exactly happened to make the person change his/her behaviour?
How did he/she feel? How did he/she react?
- c **Finishing the story**
What happened at the end?
- 3 Write the story. Follow the advice in the *Remember to ...* box.

Useful language:

Just then, ...
Suddenly, ...
All of a sudden, ...
It was at that moment that ...
Just as he was leaving, ...
Just in the nick of time, ...