

www.Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html

**Thousands more free lessons
from Sean's other websites**

www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html

U.S. gun association silent on Newtown massacre

17th December, 2012

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1212/121217-national_rifle_association.html

Contents

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	14
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Multiple Choice)	15
Before Reading / Listening	4	Spelling	16
While Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	17
Match The Sentences And Listen	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	18
Listening Gap Fill	7	Circle The Correct Word	19
Comprehension Questions	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	20
Multiple Choice - Quiz	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	21
Role Play	10	Put A Slash (/) Where The Spaces Are	22
After Reading / Listening	11	Free Writing	23
Student Survey	12	Academic Writing	24
Discussion (20 Questions)	13	Homework	25
		Answers	26

Follow Sean Banville on

Twitter



twitter.com/SeanBanville

Facebook



www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176

Google +



plus.google.com/110990608764591804698/posts

THE ARTICLE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121217-national_rifle_association.html

America's National Rifle Association (NRA) is still staying silent on the mass shooting at an elementary school in Connecticut, USA in which 27 people died, including 20 children aged six and seven. Two days after the massacre, the USA's powerful pro-gun organisation has yet to make any kind of statement on the tragedy that has shaken America. The mass murder of 20 innocent children by a gunman seems to have stunned the NRA into silence. The "Huffington Post" writes about the NRA's disappearance from social media sites since the tragedy, saying: "The NRA has disappeared from both Twitter and Facebook since the events that occurred on Friday."

The NRA announced on Facebook the day before the killings that it had accumulated 1.7 million fans. The organization's Facebook page has now completely vanished. Clicking on the link in a Google search sends you to your own timeline. Many Americans are now questioning more than ever whether owning a gun should be a right. Stories of multiple shootings are a regular part of American news, to the extent that many no longer get a headline. In other countries, such tragedies prompt national soul searching. President Obama has promised to take "meaningful action" on gun control, although he has yet to expand on what that means. Americans now expect a battle on the future of gun ownership and the right to bear arms.

Sources: <http://www.businessinsider.com/the-nras-facebook-page-disappeared-right-after-the-newtown-massacre-2012-12#ixzz2FDDFybL1>
<http://edition.cnn.com/2012/12/16/us/connecticut-school-shooting/>
http://usnews.nbcnews.com/_news/2012/12/15/15926718-newtown-gunman-forced-his-way-into-school-police-say?lite

WARM-UPS

1. GUNS: Walk around the class and talk to other students about guns. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

rifles / staying silent / mass shooting / tragedy / innocent children / social media sites / Facebook fans / vanished / the right to own a gun / soul searching / meaningful action

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. GUN OWNERSHIP: Who should be allowed to have a gun? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

Who?	Why (not)?	Safety precautions
Police officers		
Farmers		
Security guards		
Bank staff		
Anyone over 21		
Soldiers		

4. GUN CONTROL: Students A **strongly** believe no one should be allowed to have a gun in their house; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. WEAPONS: Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the worst at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- guns
- the Internet
- knives
- words
- tanks
- tear gas
- biological weapons
- fists

6. SHOOTING: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'shooting'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121217-national_rifle_association.html

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. A powerful gun organization has not commented on the shooting. | T / F |
| b. The NRA has said it will not comment on the tragedy. | T / F |
| c. The "Huffington Post" has been stunned into silence by the incident. | T / F |
| d. The NRA has avoided Twitter and Facebook for two days. | T / F |
| e. The NRA welcomed its 1.7 millionth fan the day before the shootings. | T / F |
| f. Many shootings in the USA are no longer headline news. | T / F |
| g. President Obama has promised strict new gun controls. | T / F |
| h. Most Americans expect the issue of gun control to go away quietly. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. silent | a. trigger |
| 2. massacre | b. shocked |
| 3. shaken | c. vanished |
| 4. stunned | d. slaughter |
| 5. disappeared | e. carry |
| 6. announced | f. rocked |
| 7. accumulated | g. recurrent |
| 8. regular | h. tight-lipped |
| 9. prompt | i. collected |
| 10. bear | j. declared |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. staying silent | a. soul searching |
| 2. has yet to make | b. from social media sites |
| 3. the tragedy that has | c. 1.7 million fans |
| 4. stunned the | d. any kind of statement |
| 5. the NRA's disappearance | e. on what that means |
| 6. it had accumulated | f. completely vanished |
| 7. The organization's Facebook page has now | g. on the mass shooting |
| 8. owning a gun | h. NRA into silence |
| 9. such tragedies prompt national | i. shaken America |
| 10. he has yet to expand | j. should be a right |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121217-national_rifle_association.html

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

America's National Rifle Association (NRA) is still staying (1) _____ on the (2) _____ shooting at an elementary school in Connecticut, USA in which 27 people died, including 20 children aged six and seven. Two days after the (3) _____, the USA's powerful pro-gun organisation has yet to make (4) _____ kind of statement on the tragedy that has shaken America. The mass murder of 20 (5) _____ children by a gunman seems to have (6) _____ the NRA into silence. The "Huffington Post" writes about the NRA's disappearance from social media sites since the tragedy, saying: "The NRA has (7) _____ from both Twitter and Facebook since the events that (8) _____ on Friday."

any
stunned
mass
occurred
silent
innocent
massacre
disappeared

The NRA (9) _____ on Facebook the day before the killings that it had accumulated 1.7 million fans. The organization's Facebook page has now completely (10) _____. Clicking on the link in a Google search sends you to your own timeline. Many Americans are now (11) _____ more than ever whether owning a gun should be a right. Stories of (12) _____ shootings are a regular part of American news, to the (13) _____ that many no longer get a headline. In other countries, such tragedies (14) _____ national soul searching. President Obama has promised to take "meaningful action" on gun control, although he has yet to (15) _____ on what that means. Americans now expect a battle on the future of gun ownership and the right to (16) _____ arms.

questioning
bear
announced
multiple
prompt
vanished
expand
extent

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121217-national_rifle_association.html

- 1) America's National Rifle Association (NRA) _____ the mass shooting
 - a. is staying on silent still
 - b. is still staying silent on
 - c. is still stay in sigh lent on
 - d. is staying silent still on
- 2) the USA's powerful pro-gun organisation _____ of statement on the tragedy
 - a. has any yet to make kind
 - b. has to yet make any kind
 - c. has yet to make kind any
 - d. has yet to make any kind
- 3) The mass murder of 20 innocent children by a gunman _____ NRA into silence.
 - a. seems stunned to have the
 - b. seems to have stunned the
 - c. seen stew have stunned the
 - d. seems too have stunned a
- 4) the NRA's disappearance from social media _____
 - a. sits sins the tragedy
 - b. sights sins the tragedy
 - c. since sites the tragedy
 - d. sites since the tragedy
- 5) The NRA has disappeared from both Twitter and Facebook _____ Friday.
 - a. since the events that occurred on
 - b. since the events then occurred on
 - c. since the events what occurred on
 - d. since some events that occurred on
- 6) The NRA announced on Facebook the day before the killings _____ 1.7 million fans
 - a. that it had accumulated
 - b. at it had vacuumed late
 - c. that had it accumulated
 - d. that it accumulated had
- 7) Clicking on the link in a Google _____ own timeline.
 - a. search ends you too to your
 - b. search sends yours to you
 - c. search sends you to your
 - d. search sends you two to your
- 8) questioning _____ owning a gun should be a right.
 - a. more than ever whether
 - b. more than never whether
 - c. more now than whether
 - d. more than even weather
- 9) In other countries, _____ soul searching.
 - a. such tragedies promote national
 - b. such tragedy as this prompts national
 - c. such tragedies prompt national
 - d. such tragedy is prompting national
- 10) a battle on the future of gun ownership and _____
 - a. the right to forearm
 - b. the right two bare arms
 - c. the right to bear arms
 - d. the righteous bear arms

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121217-national_rifle_association.html

America's National Rifle Association (NRA) is (1) _____ the mass shooting at an elementary school in Connecticut, USA in which 27 people died, including 20 children aged six and seven. Two days after the massacre, the (2) _____ organisation has yet to make any kind of statement on the (3) _____ America. The mass murder of 20 innocent children by a gunman (4) _____ the NRA into silence. The "Huffington Post" writes about the NRA's (5) _____ media sites since the tragedy, saying: "The NRA has disappeared from both Twitter and Facebook since the events (6) _____."

The NRA announced on Facebook the day before the killings that it had (7) _____ fans. The organization's Facebook page has (8) _____. Clicking on the link in a Google search sends you to your own timeline. Many Americans are now questioning more than ever (9) _____ should be a right. Stories of multiple shootings are a regular part of American news, (10) _____ no longer get a headline. In other countries, (11) _____ national soul searching. President Obama has promised to take "meaningful action" on gun control, although (12) _____ what that means. Americans now expect a battle on the future of gun ownership and the right to bear arms.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121217-national_rifle_association.html

1. What does the abbreviation NRA stand for?

2. How many people died in the tragedy?

3. What has the NRA not done since the tragedy?

4. What has the shooting stunned the NRA into?

5. What has the NRA disappeared from since the tragedy?

6. How many Facebook fans did the NRA reach on Friday?

7. What happens if you click on a Google search of the NRA's Facebook page?

8. What do gun shootings prompt in other countries?

9. What has President Obama promised?

10. What are Americans expecting a battle on the future of?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121217-national_rifle_association.html

1. What does NRA mean?
 - a) No Rifles Anonymous
 - b) Non-Rifling Action
 - c) National Rifle Association
 - d) New Rifle Act
2. What is the NRA staying silent on?
 - a) the mass shooting
 - b) gun control
 - c) its members
 - d) churches
3. What has the NRA not made on the tragedy?
 - a) a press release
 - b) a statement
 - c) an apology
 - d) a speech
4. What has the tragedy stunned the NRA into?
 - a) action
 - b) discussions on the need for gun control
 - c) talks about disbanding
 - d) silence
5. What news organisation wrote about the NRA disappearing from Facebook?
 - a) CNN
 - b) The Washington Post
 - c) The Huffington Post
 - d) The Connecticut Times
6. How many Facebook fans did the NRA have the day before the shooting?
 - a) less than its target
 - b) 1.7 million
 - c) a record number
 - d) not enough
7. Where does clicking a Google link for the NRA's Facebook page take you?
 - a) to the NRA Facebook page
 - b) back to the Google search page
 - c) to a "page not found" page
 - d) to your own timeline
8. What are multiple shootings a regular part of?
 - a) cartoons
 - b) American news
 - c) life in America's mid-west states
 - d) Barack Obama's speeches
9. What do mass shootings prompt in other countries?
 - a) higher gun ownership
 - b) national soul searching
 - c) tougher gun control laws
 - d) attacks on gun clubs
10. What has President Obama promised to take?
 - a) meaningful action
 - b) guns away from society
 - c) the NRA to court
 - d) time to think

ROLE PLAY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121217-national_rifle_association.html

Role A – Barack Obama

You think the time has come to take guns out of society. Tell the others three reasons why. You will not listen to politicians who say, "people kill people; guns don't kill people". Banning guns is now your biggest aim as President. You think gun crime embarrasses the USA around the world.

Role B – NRA chairman

You are tired of the same arguments every time there's a tragedy. Tell the others three reasons why. The problem is society. More money should be spent on mental health issues to stop people going on mass shootings. People in America need guns to protect themselves.

Role C – Anti-gun Jo Public

You want all guns removed from American society. Tell the others three reasons why. You don't understand why in America gun ownership is a right but free healthcare is not. You think Obama is weak and cannot get anything done on gun control. The NRA chairman is crazy.

Role D – Pro-gun Jo Public

You need your gun. Tell the others three reasons why. Guns are a part of America's tradition. Guns keep society feeling safe. No one will try to burgle your house because people know you have five guns. The police cannot be everywhere to protect you. Guns can.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121217-national_rifle_association.html

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'gun' and 'control'.

gun	control

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• staying• massacre• statement• stunned• social• events	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1.7• link• questioning• stories• soul• bear
--	--

GUN OWNERSHIP SURVEY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121217-national_rifle_association.html

Write five GOOD questions about gun ownership in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

GUN OWNERSHIP DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'gun'?
- c) Why do you think the NRA is staying silent?
- d) What do you think of gun laws in your country?
- e) Should guns laws be made tougher?
- f) What are the arguments put forward by those for owning guns?
- g) Do you think what happened in Newtown will lead to greater gun control in the USA?
- h) Many people in America still believe it is a right to own a gun, even after the Newtown massacre. Why do they believe this?
- i) Would you feel safer if you had a gun?
- j) What do you think of the phrase, "guns don't kill people; people kill people"?

U.S. gun association silent on Newtown massacre – 17th December, 2012
More free lessons at www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com

GUN OWNERSHIP DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) Why do Americans have such a strong liking for guns?
- c) What are the arguments put forward by those against gun ownership?
- d) Does gun ownership help keep a society safer?
- e) What do you think of the regularity of mass shootings in the USA?
- f) What "meaningful action" can President Obama take?
- g) Do you think the issue of gun control will now dominate U.S. politics?
- h) What do you think the NRA will eventually say about Newtown?
- i) Where do you think gun laws will be in the USA 50 years from now?
- j) What questions would you like to ask the head of the NRA?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Copyright © www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com 2012

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

MULTIPLE CHOICE - LANGUAGE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121217-national_rifle_association.html

America's National Rifle Association (NRA) is still (1) ____ silent on the mass shooting at an elementary school in Connecticut, USA in which 27 people died, including 20 children aged six and seven. Two days after the (2) ____, the USA's powerful pro-gun organisation has yet to make any kind of statement on the tragedy that has (3) ____ America. The mass murder of 20 innocent children by a gunman seems to have stunned the NRA (4) ____ silence. The "Huffington Post" writes about the NRA's disappearance from social (5) ____ sites since the tragedy, saying: "The NRA has disappeared from both Twitter and Facebook since the events that (6) ____ on Friday."

The NRA announced on Facebook the day before the killings that it had (7) ____ 1.7 million fans. The organization's Facebook page has now completely (8) _____. Clicking on the link in a Google search sends you to your own timeline. Many Americans are now questioning more than ever (9) ____ owning a gun should be a right. Stories of multiple shootings are a regular part of American news, to the (10) ____ that many no longer get a headline. In other countries, such tragedies prompt national (11) ____ searching. President Obama has promised to take "meaningful action" on gun control, although he has yet to expand on what that means. Americans now expect a battle on the future of gun ownership and the right to (12) ____ arms.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. | (a) stays | (b) staid | (c) staying | (d) stayed |
| 2. | (a) massacre | (b) massacred | (c) genocide | (d) bloodletting |
| 3. | (a) shaken | (b) trodden | (c) rotten | (d) embolden |
| 4. | (a) into | (b) from | (c) via | (d) entered |
| 5. | (a) medium | (b) media | (c) median | (d) mediate |
| 6. | (a) eventuate | (b) dawned | (c) befell | (d) occurred |
| 7. | (a) heaped up | (b) stashed | (c) accumulated | (d) assembled |
| 8. | (a) varnished | (b) vanquished | (c) vandalised | (d) vanished |
| 9. | (a) whether | (b) when | (c) whence | (d) whenever |
| 10. | (a) extent | (b) extend | (c) extensive | (d) extenuate |
| 11. | (a) seal | (b) soul | (c) sell | (d) sole |
| 12. | (a) dog | (b) wild | (c) bear | (d) tame |

SPELLING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121217-national_rifle_association.html

Paragraph 1

1. ryetamelen school
2. days after the mrssaasec
3. the tedygra that has shaken America
4. 20 ionetcnn children
5. the NRA's iansapedacpre
6. the events that ruercdco on Friday

Paragraph 2

7. it had alctdeumcau 1.7 million fans
8. oyelmleptc vanished
9. reehthw owning a gun should be a right
10. national soul aesghricn
11. nuamilefgn action
12. the right to brea arms

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121217-national_rifle_association.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () make any kind of statement on the tragedy that has shaken America. The mass murder of 20 innocent
- () sends you to your own timeline. Many Americans are now questioning more than ever whether owning
- () longer get a headline. In other countries, such tragedies prompt national soul searching. President Obama has
- () aged six and seven. Two days after the massacre, the USA's powerful pro-gun organisation has yet to
- () children by a gunman seems to have stunned the NRA into silence. The "Huffington Post" writes
- () promised to take "meaningful action" on gun control, although he has yet to expand
- () on what that means. Americans now expect a battle on the future of gun ownership and the right to bear arms.
- () fans. The organization's Facebook page has now completely vanished. Clicking on the link in a Google search
- () The NRA announced on Facebook the day before the killings that it had accumulated 1.7 million
- (**1**) America's National Rifle Association (NRA) is still staying silent on the mass shooting at
- () an elementary school in Connecticut, USA in which 27 people died, including 20 children
- () a gun should be a right. Stories of multiple shootings are a regular part of American news, to the extent that many no
- () about the NRA's disappearance from social media sites since the tragedy, saying: "The NRA has disappeared
- () from both Twitter and Facebook since the events that occurred on Friday."

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121217-national_rifle_association.html

1. an elementary school Staying silent on the mass shooting at.

2. 20 including , died people 27 seven and six aged children.

3. A the has on that America statement tragedy shaken.

4. 20 innocent children by a gunman The mass murder of.

5. NRA's The sites media social from disappearance.

6. vanished completely has page Facebook organization's The.

7. The own you Google link timeline to search in your sends a.

8. regular American Multiple a of are part news shootings.

9. tragedies national searching Such prompt soul.

10. the gun Expect on of battle future ownership a.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121217-national_rifle_association.html

America's National Rifle Association (NRA) is still *staying* / *stayed* silent on the mass shooting at an elementary school in Connecticut, USA in which 27 people died, including 20 children aged six and seven. Two days after the *massacre* / *massacred*, the USA's powerful *pre-gun* / *pro-gun* organisation has *yet* / *so far* to make any kind of statement on the tragedy that has *shaken* / *rotten* America. The mass murder of 20 *innocent* / *innocence* children by a gunman seems to have *stamped* / *stunned* the NRA into silence. The "Huffington Post" writes about the NRA's disappearance from social *medium* / *media* sites since the *tragedy* / *tragic*, saying: "The NRA has disappeared from both Twitter and Facebook since the events that *occurred* / *occurrence* on Friday."

The NRA announced on Facebook the day before the killings that it had *accumulated* / *accumulates* 1.7 million fans. The organization's Facebook page has now *completely* / *completion* vanished. Clicking on the link in a Google search *sends* / *invites* you to your own timeline. Many Americans are now questioning more than *never* / *ever* whether owning a gun should be a *right* / *wrong*. Stories of multiple shootings are a *regular* / *regularly* part of American news, to the *extent* / *extend* that many no longer get a headline. In other countries, such tragedies *prompt* / *promotion* national soul searching. President Obama has promised to take "meaningful action" on gun control, although he has yet to *expand* / *expend* on what that means. Americans now expect a battle on the future of gun ownership and the right to *bear* / *bare* arms.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121217-national_rifle_association.html

_m_r_c_'s N_t__n_l R_fl_ _ss_c__t__n (NR_) _s st_ll
st_y_ng s_l_nt _n th_ m_ss sh__t_ng _t_n _l_m_nt_ry
sch__l _n C_nn_ct_c_t, _S_ _n wh_ch 27 p__pl_ d__d,
_ncl_d_ng 20 ch_ldr_n _g_d s_x _nd s_v_n. Tw_ d_ys
_ft_r th_ m_ss_cr_, th_ _S_'s p_w_rf_l pr_-g_n
_rg_n_s_t__n h_s y_t t_ m_k_ _ny k_nd _f st_t_m_nt
n th tr_g_dy th_t h_s sh_k_n _m_r_c_. Th_ m_ss
m_rd_r _f 20 _nn_c_nt ch_ldr_n by _g_nm_n s__ms t_
h_v_ st_nn_d th_ NR_ _nt_ s_l_nc_. Th_ "H_ff_ngt_n
P_st" wr_t_s _b__t th_ NR_'s d_s_pp__r_nc_ fr_m
s_c__l m_d__ s_t_s s_nc_ th_ tr_g_dy, s_y_ng: "Th_
NR_ h_s d_s_pp__r_d fr_m b_th Tw_tt_r _nd F_c_b__k
s_nc_ th_ _v_nts th_t _cc_rr_d _n Fr_d_y."

Th_ NR_ _nn__nc_d _n F_c_b__k th_ d_y b_f_r_ th_
k_ll_ngs th_t _t h_d _cc_m_l_t_d 1.7 m_ll__n f_ns. Th_
_rg_n_z_t__n's F_c_b__k p_g_ h_s n_w c_mpl_t_ly
v_n_sh_d. Cl_ck_ng _n th_ l_nk _n _G__gl_ s__rch
s_nds y__t_ y__r _wn t_m_l_n_. M_ny _m_r_c_ns _r_
n_w q__st__n_ng m_r_ th_n _v_r wh_th_r _wn_ng _
g_n sh__ld b_ _r_ght. St_r__s _f m_lt_pl_ sh__t_ngs
r _r_g_l_r p_r_t _f _m_r_c_n n_ws, t_ th_ _xt_nt
th_t m_ny n_ l_ng_r g_t _ h__dl_n_. _n _th_r
c__ntr__s, s_ch tr_g_d__s pr_mpt n_t__n_l s__l
s__rch_ng. Pr_s_d_nt _b_m_ h_s pr_m_s_d t_ t_k_
"m__n_ngf_l _ct__n" _n g_n c_ntr_l, _lth__gh h_ h_s
y_t t_ _xp_nd _n wh_t th_t m__ns. _m_r_c_ns n_w
_xp_ct _b_ttl_ _n th_ f_t_r _f g_n _wn_rsh_p _nd th_
r_ght t_ b__r _rms.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121217-national_rifle_association.html

america's national rifle association (nra) is still staying silent on the mass shooting at an elementary school in connecticut usa in which 27 people died including 20 children aged six and seven two days after the massacre the usa's powerful pro-gun organisation has yet to make any kind of statement on the tragedy that has shaken america the mass murder of 20 innocent children by a gunman seems to have stunned the nra into silence the "huffington post" writes about the nra's disappearance from social media sites since the tragedy saying "the nra has disappeared from both twitter and facebook since the events that occurred on friday"

the nra announced on facebook the day before the killings that it had accumulated 17 million fans the organization's facebook page has now completely vanished clicking on the link in a google search sends you to your own timeline many americans are now questioning more than ever whether owning a gun should be a right stories of multiple shootings are a regular part of american news to the extent that many no longer get a headline in other countries such tragedies prompt national soul searching president obama has promised to take "meaningful action" on gun control although he has yet to expand on what that means americans now expect a battle on the future of gun ownership and the right to bear arms

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121217-national_rifle_association.html

America's National Rifle Association (NRA) is still staying silent on the mass shooting at an elementary school in Connecticut, USA in which 27 people died, including 20 children aged six and seven. Two days after the massacre, the USA's powerful pro-gun organisation has yet to make any kind of statement on the tragedy that has shaken America. The mass murder of 20 innocent children by a gunman seems to have stunned the NRA into silence. The "Huffington Post" writes about the NRA's disappearance from social media sites since the tragedy, saying: "The NRA has disappeared from both Twitter and Facebook since the events that occurred on Friday." The NRA announced on Facebook the day before the killing that it had accumulated 1.7 million fans. The organization's Facebook page has now completely vanished. Clicking on the link in a Google search sends you to your own timeline. Many Americans are now questioning more than ever whether owning a gun should be a right. Stories of multiple shootings are a regular part of American news, to the extent that many no longer get a headline. In other countries, such tragedies prompt national soul searching. President Obama has promised to take "meaningful action" on gun control, although he has yet to expand on what that means. Americans now expect a battle on the future of gun ownership and the right to bear arms.

FREE WRITING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121217-national_rifle_association.html

Write about **gun ownership** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

[illegible]

ACADEMIC WRITING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121217-national_rifle_association.html

Guns are responsible for hundreds of murders. Gun ownership should be a criminal offence. Discuss.

[illegible]

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about gun ownership around the world. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. GUN CRIME: Make a poster about gun crime. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. NRA: Write a magazine article about the NRA's silence over the Newtown massacre. Include imaginary interviews with an NRA leader and someone opposed to gun ownership.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to the head of the NRA. Ask him three questions about gun ownership. Give him three of your opinions on it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a T b F c F d T e T f T g F h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. silent | a. tight-lipped |
| 2. massacre | b. slaughter |
| 3. shaken | c. rocked |
| 4. stunned | d. shocked |
| 5. disappeared | e. vanished |
| 6. announced | f. declared |
| 7. accumulated | g. collected |
| 8. regular | h. recurrent |
| 9. prompt | i. trigger |
| 10. bear | j. carry |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. National Rifle Association
2. 27
3. Made any kind of statement on it
4. Silence
5. Social Media sites
6. 1.7 million
7. You get to your own timeline
8. National soul searching
9. Meaningful action
10. Gun ownership and the right to bear arms

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. c 2. a 3. b 4. d 5. c 6. b 7. d 8. b 9. b 10. a

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)