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## Level 6

### U.S. companies end ties with gun group NRA

27th February, 2018

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180227-gun-violence.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180227-gun-violence.html>

An increasing number of companies are announcing plans to sever ties with the USA's National Rifle Association (NRA) following the latest high-school shooting massacre. The tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in South Florida, in which 17 students and staff lost their lives, could be a watershed for gun control in the USA. Many high profile companies are calling for gun control and are cutting ties with the powerful NRA lobby group. United Airlines, Delta Airlines and Hertz are among many companies to end special discounts and benefits for NRA staff and members. There is also a growing campaign on social media for greater gun control in the USA.

The NRA made a statement attacking the failure of both school and federal systems for the high school tragedy. It said: "The law-abiding members of the NRA had nothing at all to do with the failure of that school's security preparedness, the failure of America's mental health system...or the cruel failures of both federal and local law enforcement." It added that: "Despite that, some corporations have decided to punish NRA membership in a shameful display of political and civic cowardice." An NRA spokesman hit back at the companies, saying: "The loss of a discount will neither scare nor distract one single NRA member from our mission to stand and defend individual freedoms."

Sources: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/companies-cutting-ties-nra-grows-include-hertz-metlife/story?id=53322436>  
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-guns-boycott/delta-united-airlines-become-latest-companies-to-cut-nra-ties-idUSKCN1G80VP?il=0>  
<https://www.commondreams.org/news/2018/02/23/chinese-editorial-denounces-gun-violence-stain-us-human-rights-record>

# WARM-UPS

**1. GUN VIOLENCE:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about gun violence. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

increasing / companies / ties / rifle / students / discounts / benefits / gun control / statement / high school / law abiding / mental health / law enforcement / freedom

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

**3. GUN CONTROL:** Students A **strongly** believe there needs to be tighter gun control; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. SAFETY:** How can we make schools safer? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Good things	Bad things
Arming teachers		
Armed guards		
X-ray machines		
Security cameras		
Safe areas		
Quicker police response		

**5. RIFLE:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "rifle". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. RIGHTS:** Rank these with your partner. Put the most important rights at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- education
- a free Internet
- freedom of movement
- paid overtime
- health care
- freedom of religion
- free speech
- carry a gun

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. sever        | a. An event causing great suffering, destruction, and distress, such as a serious accident, crime, or natural catastrophe. |
| 2. massacre     | b. A collection of people seeking to influence politicians or public officials on a particular issue.                      |
| 3. tragedy      | c. Put an end to a connection or relationship; break off.  |
| 4. watershed    | d. A random and brutal killing of many people.   |
| 5. high profile | e. An event that is a turning point in a course of action or state of affairs.   |
| 6. lobby group  | f. Attracting much attention or publicity.   |
| 7. campaign     | g. An organized course of action to achieve a particular goal.   |

## Paragraph 2

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 8. failure          | h. Willfully causing pain or suffering to others, or feeling no concern about it.           |
| 9. federal          | i. Lack of success.   |
| 10. law-abiding     | j. A state of being ready.  |
| 11. preparedness    | k. A government agency responsible for making people stick to the rules of a country.       |
| 12. cruel           | l. Relating to the central government as separate from the separate states in a federation. |
| 13. law enforcement | m. Lack of bravery.   |
| 14. cowardice       | n. Following all the rules and regulations of society.                                      |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180227-gun-violence.html>

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

- a. A decreasing number of U.S. companies will cut ties with the NRA. **T / F**
- b. The article suggested this latest tragedy could bring changes. **T / F**
- c. United Airlines has said it will continue its partnership with the NRA. **T / F**
- d. NRA members will still get discounts and benefits from Hertz. **T / F**
- e. The NRA blamed the school's security for the tragedy. **T / F**
- f. The NRA blamed the tragedy on America's mental health system. **T / F**
- g. The NRA said companies were acting like cowards. **T / F**
- h. The NRA said its members would be distracted by losing discounts. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>increasing</b>   | a. readiness     |
| 2. <b>sever</b>        | b. turning point |
| 3. <b>massacre</b>     | c. sidetrack     |
| 4. <b>watershed</b>    | d. slaughter     |
| 5. <b>end</b>          | e. penalize      |
| 6. <b>law-abiding</b>  | f. growing       |
| 7. <b>preparedness</b> | g. disgraceful   |
| 8. <b>punish</b>       | h. terminate     |
| 9. <b>shameful</b>     | i. honest        |
| 10. <b>distract</b>    | j. cut           |

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

- |                                     |                               |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. following the latest high-school | a. on social media            |
| 2. Many high                        | b. abiding members of the NRA |
| 3. the powerful NRA lobby           | c. shooting massacre          |
| 4. end special discounts and        | d. enforcement                |
| 5. There is also a growing campaign | e. group                      |
| 6. The law-                         | f. freedoms                   |
| 7. the failure of America's mental  | g. back at the companies      |
| 8. federal and local law            | h. benefits for NRA staff     |
| 9. An NRA spokesman hit             | i. health system              |
| 10. defend individual               | j. profile companies          |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180227-gun-violence.html>

An increasing number of companies are announcing plans to (1) \_\_\_\_\_ ties with the USA's National Rifle Association (NRA) following the latest high-school shooting (2) \_\_\_\_\_. The tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in South Florida, in which 17 students and staff (3) \_\_\_\_\_ their lives, could be a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ for gun control in the USA. Many high (5) \_\_\_\_\_ companies are calling for gun control and are cutting ties with the powerful NRA (6) \_\_\_\_\_ group. United Airlines, Delta Airlines and Hertz are among many companies to end special (7) \_\_\_\_\_ and benefits for NRA staff and members. There is also a growing (8) \_\_\_\_\_ on social media for greater gun control in the USA.

*discounts*  
*watershed*  
*massacre*  
*lobby*  
*sever*  
*campaign*  
*profile*  
*lost*

The NRA made a statement attacking the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of both school and federal systems for the high school (10) \_\_\_\_\_. It said: "The law-abiding members of the NRA had nothing at all to do with the failure of that school's (11) \_\_\_\_\_ preparedness, the failure of America's mental health system...or the cruel failures of both federal and (12) \_\_\_\_\_ law enforcement." It added that: "Despite that, some corporations have decided to (13) \_\_\_\_\_ NRA membership in a shameful display of (14) \_\_\_\_\_ and civic cowardice." An NRA spokesman hit back at the companies, saying: "The (15) \_\_\_\_\_ of a discount will neither scare nor distract one single NRA member from our mission to stand and defend (16) \_\_\_\_\_ freedoms."

*local*  
*failure*  
*individual*  
*security*  
*loss*  
*punish*  
*tragedy*  
*political*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180227-gun-violence.html>

- 1) An increasing number of companies are announcing plans \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to several ties
  - b. to severe ties
  - c. to seven ties
  - d. to sever ties
- 2) the USA's National Rifle Association (NRA) following the latest high-school \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. shooting mass acre
  - b. shooting massacred
  - c. shooting massacre
  - d. shoot in massacre
- 3) ... in South Florida, in which 17 students and staff lost their lives, could \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. be a watershed
  - b. be a watery shed
  - c. be a water shot
  - d. be a water shield
- 4) companies are calling for gun control and are cutting ties with the powerful \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. NRA hobby group
  - b. NRA lob in group
  - c. NRA lobe by group
  - d. NRA lobby group
- 5) There is also a growing campaign on social media for \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. greater guns control
  - b. greater gunned control
  - c. greater gun control
  - d. greater gunning control
- 6) The NRA made a statement attacking the failure of both school \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. and federally systems
  - b. and federal systems
  - c. and federalize systems
  - d. and feral systems
- 7) the NRA had nothing at all to do with the failure of that school's \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. security preparedness
  - b. securities preparedness
  - c. security pre-pared mess
  - d. securities prepared nest
- 8) punish NRA membership in a shameful display of political \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. and civic cowards is
  - b. and civic coward is
  - c. and civic coward ice
  - d. and civic cowardice
- 9) The loss of a discount will neither scare nor distract one \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. singled NRA member
  - b. single NRA member
  - c. singular NRA member
  - d. singled NRA member
- 10) our mission to stand and defend \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. individualize freedoms
  - b. individually freedoms
  - c. individuality freedoms
  - d. individual freedoms

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180227-gun-violence.html>

An increasing number of companies are announcing (1) \_\_\_\_\_ ties with the USA's National Rifle Association (NRA) following the latest high-school (2) \_\_\_\_\_. The tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in South Florida, in which 17 students and staff (3) \_\_\_\_\_, could be a watershed for gun control in the USA. Many high profile companies are calling for gun control and are (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the powerful NRA lobby group. United Airlines, Delta Airlines and Hertz are (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to end special discounts and benefits for NRA staff and members. There is also a (6) \_\_\_\_\_ social media for greater gun control in the USA.

The NRA made a statement (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of both school and federal systems for the high school tragedy. It said: "The (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of the NRA had nothing at all to do with the failure of that school's security preparedness, the failure of America's (9) \_\_\_\_\_...or the cruel failures of both federal and local law enforcement." It added that: "(10) \_\_\_\_\_ corporations have decided to punish NRA membership in a (11) \_\_\_\_\_ political and civic cowardice." An NRA spokesman hit back at the companies, saying: "The loss of a discount will neither scare nor distract one single NRA member from our (12) \_\_\_\_\_ and defend individual freedoms."



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180227-gun-violence.html>

1. What do companies want to sever with the NRA?
2. What did the article say the tragedy could be for gun control in the USA?
3. What kind of group did the article say the NRA was?
4. What company was mentioned that isn't an airline?
5. Where is there a campaign for greater gun control?
6. What systems did the NRA attack, besides the school's systems?
7. What members of the NRA did it say had nothing to do with failures?
8. What kind of health system did the NRA say had failed?
9. What noun did a spokesman use to describe corporate leaders?
10. What did the NRA say would not scare nor distract its members?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180227-gun-violence.html>

- 1) What do companies want to sever with the NRA?
  - a) numbers
  - b) ties
  - c) guns
  - d) plans
- 2) What did the article say the tragedy could be for gun control in the USA?
  - a) a minefield
  - b) a target
  - c) a firing line
  - d) a watershed
- 3) What kind of group did the article say the NRA was?
  - a) a lobby group
  - b) a locker group
  - c) a loopy group
  - d) a lobbying group
- 4) What company was mentioned that isn't an airline?
  - a) Apple
  - b) McDonald's
  - c) Hertz
  - d) BMW
- 5) Where is there a campaign for greater gun control?
  - a) in boardrooms
  - b) on social media
  - c) at gun clubs
  - d) worldwide
- 6) What systems did the NRA attack, besides the school's systems?
  - a) federal systems
  - b) gun systems
  - c) sales systems
  - d) bullets systems
- 7) What members of the NRA did it say had nothing to do with failures?
  - a) gun-carrying members
  - b) the top members
  - c) law-abiding members
  - d) new members
- 8) What kind of health system did the NRA say had failed?
  - a) the mental health system
  - b) the national health system
  - c) the primary health care system
  - d) the global health care system
- 9) What noun did a spokesman use to describe corporate leaders?
  - a) cowardice
  - b) bravery
  - c) avarice
  - d) mastery
- 10) What did the NRA say would not scare nor distract its members?
  - a) companies
  - b) guns
  - c) lobby groups
  - d) loss of discounts

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180227-gun-violence.html>

## **Role A – Education**

You think education is our most important right. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their rights aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): health care, free speech or gun ownership.

## **Role B – Health Care**

You think health care is our most important right. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their rights aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): education, free speech or gun ownership.

## **Role C – Free Speech**

You think free speech is our most important right. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their rights aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): health care, education or gun ownership.

## **Role D – Gun Ownership**

You think gun ownership is our most important right. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their rights aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): health care, free speech or education.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180227-gun-violence.html>

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

<b>gun</b>	<b>violence</b>
------------	-----------------

- 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"><li>• sever</li><li>• latest</li><li>• watershed</li><li>• powerful</li><li>• special</li><li>• social</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• attacking</li><li>• nothing</li><li>• local</li><li>• punish</li><li>• back</li><li>• stand</li></ul>
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# GUN VIOLENCE SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180227-gun-violence.html>

Write five GOOD questions about gun violence 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 VIOLENCE DISCUSSION**

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'gun'?
3. What do you think of guns?
4. What are gun laws like in your country?
5. What do you know about the NRA in the USA?
6. Will the latest tragedy be a watershed for gun control?
7. Why are there so many shootings in the USA?
8. Are companies right to cut ties with the NRA?
9. Will the gun situation get better or worse?
10. Should people have a right to keep and bear guns?

*U.S. companies end ties with gun group NRA – 27th February, 2018*  
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# **GUN VIOLENCE DISCUSSION**

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'violence'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Why is the NRA so powerful in the USA?
15. What do you think about gun control?
16. Is the NRA right to say the school was at fault?
17. Where does mental health fit into gun control laws?
18. How can schools better protect students?
19. What advice do you have for the NRA?
20. What questions would you like to ask the company bosses?

## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180227-gun-violence.html>

An increasing number of companies are announcing plans to (1) \_\_\_\_\_ ties with the USA's National Rifle Association (NRA) following the latest high-school shooting massacre. The tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in South Florida, in (2) \_\_\_\_\_ 17 students and staff lost their lives, could be a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ for gun control in the USA. Many high (4) \_\_\_\_\_ companies are calling for gun control and are cutting ties with the powerful NRA (5) \_\_\_\_\_ group. United Airlines, Delta Airlines and Hertz are among many companies to end special discounts and benefits for NRA staff and members. There is also a (6) \_\_\_\_\_ campaign on social media for greater gun control in the USA.

The NRA made a statement attacking the failure of both school and (7) \_\_\_\_\_ systems for the high school tragedy. It said: "The law-abiding members of the NRA had nothing at (8) \_\_\_\_\_ to do with the failure of that school's security preparedness, the failure of America's mental health system...or the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ failures of both federal and local law enforcement." It added that: "Despite (10) \_\_\_\_\_, some corporations have decided to punish NRA membership in a shameful display of political and civic cowardice." An NRA spokesman hit (11) \_\_\_\_\_ at the companies, saying: "The loss of a discount will neither scare nor distract one (12) \_\_\_\_\_ NRA member from our mission to stand and defend individual freedoms."

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

- |     |                |               |              |               |
|-----|----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) severe     | (b) saver     | (c) several  | (d) sever     |
| 2.  | (a) that       | (b) where     | (c) what     | (d) which     |
| 3.  | (a) watertight | (b) watershed | (c) watery   | (d) watered   |
| 4.  | (a) prolific   | (b) profiles  | (c) profile  | (d) profiling |
| 5.  | (a) hobby      | (b) levy      | (c) lobby    | (d) heavy     |
| 6.  | (a) growing    | (b) growers   | (c) grown    | (d) growth    |
| 7.  | (a) feudal     | (b) federal   | (c) freedom  | (d) feral     |
| 8.  | (a) all        | (b) every     | (c) whole    | (d) entire    |
| 9.  | (a) gruel      | (b) cruel     | (c) cruet    | (d) cruise    |
| 10. | (a) they       | (b) them      | (c) that     | (d) then      |
| 11. | (a) behind     | (b) up        | (c) back     | (d) frontally |
| 12. | (a) singles    | (b) singled   | (c) singular | (d) single    |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180227-gun-violence.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. companies are anoinncung plans
2. high-school shooting aesmarsc
3. a wadeserth for gun control
4. Many high eiolfrp companies
5. end special sntcdsuoi and benefits
6. a growing gcpiamn

## Paragraph 2

7. made a statement attacking the aiferul
8. faedrle systems
9. The wal-bgandii members of the NRA
10. local law feemtnrneoc
11. political and civic acrwiodce
12. neither scare nor caitsdtr

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180227-gun-violence.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) their lives, could be a watershed for gun control in the USA. Many high profile companies are
- ( ) National Rifle Association (NRA) following the latest high-school shooting massacre. The tragedy
- ( ) all to do with the failure of that school's security preparedness, the failure of America's mental health
- ( ) group. United Airlines, Delta Airlines and Hertz are among many companies to end special discounts and benefits
- ( ) The NRA made a statement attacking the failure of both school and federal systems
- ( ) distract one single NRA member from our mission to stand and defend individual freedoms."
- ( ) calling for gun control and are cutting ties with the powerful NRA lobby
- ( **1** ) An increasing number of companies are announcing plans to sever ties with the USA's
- ( ) for NRA staff and members. There is also a growing campaign on social media for greater gun control in the USA.
- ( ) civic cowardice." An NRA spokesman hit back at the companies, saying: "The loss of a discount will neither scare nor
- ( ) system...or the cruel failures of both federal and local law enforcement." It added that: "Despite that, some
- ( ) at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in South Florida, in which 17 students and staff lost
- ( ) corporations have decided to punish NRA membership in a shameful display of political and
- ( ) for the high school tragedy. It said: "The law-abiding members of the NRA had nothing at

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180227-gun-violence.html>

1. increasing announcing companies of number An plans . are
2. high-school the massacre . Following shooting latest
3. a watershed could for It gun be control .
4. discounts . many end to Among companies special
5. is There growing campaign social media . a on
6. statement of systems . attacking federal failure the A
7. NRA . of members the The law-abiding
8. The mental system . America's health failure of
9. punish NRA Corporations have to decided membership .
10. and defend mission Our individual stand to freedoms .

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180227-gun-violence.html>

An increasing number of companies are *announced* / *announcing* plans to *sever* / *severe* ties with the USA's National Rifle Association (NRA) *followed* / *following* the latest high-school shooting massacre. The *tragic* / *tragedy* at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in South Florida, in which 17 students and staff *lose* / *lost* their lives, could be a watershed for gun control in the USA. Many high *prolific* / *profile* companies are calling for gun control and are cutting ties with the *powerful* / *powerless* NRA lobby group. United Airlines, Delta Airlines and Hertz are *among* / *between* many companies to end special discounts and *beneficial* / *benefits* for NRA staff and members. There is also a growing campaign *in* / *on* social media for greater gun control in the USA.

The NRA made a statement attacking the *fail* / *failure* of both school and federal systems for the high school tragedy. It said: "The law-abiding members of the NRA had nothing at *whole* / *all* to do with the failure of that school's security *prepares* / *preparedness*, the failure of America's mental *health* / *healthy* system...or the cruel failures of both federal and *locally* / *local* law enforcement." It added that: "*Despite* / *Spite* that, some corporations have decided to punish NRA membership *on* / *in* a shameful display of political and civic *cowardice* / *cowards*." An NRA spokesman hit back at the companies, saying: "The *lost* / *loss* of a discount will neither scare nor distract one single NRA member from our mission to stand and *defend* / *defense* individual freedoms."

**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 <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180227-gun-violence.html>

A n \_ n c r \_ \_ s \_ n g \_ n \_ m b \_ r \_ \_ f \_ c \_ m p \_ n \_ \_ s \_ r \_ \_ n n \_ \_  
n c \_ n g \_ p l \_ n s \_ t \_ s \_ v \_ r \_ t \_ \_ s \_ w \_ t h \_ t h \_ U S A ' s  
N \_ t \_ \_ n \_ l \_ R \_ f l \_ A s s \_ c \_ \_ t \_ \_ n \_ ( N R A ) \_ f \_ l l \_ w \_ n g  
t h \_ l \_ t \_ s \_ t \_ h \_ g \_ h - s c h \_ \_ l \_ s h \_ \_ t \_ n g \_ m \_ s \_ s \_ c \_ r \_ .  
T h \_ t r \_ g \_ d \_ y \_ t \_ M \_ r \_ j \_ r \_ y \_ S t \_ n \_ m \_ n \_ D \_ \_ g \_ l \_ s \_ H \_ g  
h \_ S c h \_ \_ l \_ \_ n \_ S \_ \_ t h \_ F l \_ r \_ d \_ , \_ n \_ w h \_ c h \_ 1 7 \_ s  
t \_ d \_ n \_ t \_ s \_ \_ n d \_ s \_ t \_ f \_ f \_ l \_ s \_ t \_ t h \_ \_ r \_ l \_ v \_ s \_ , \_ c \_ \_ l d  
b \_ \_ w \_ t \_ r \_ s h \_ d \_ f \_ r \_ g \_ n \_ c \_ n \_ t \_ r \_ l \_ \_ n \_ t h \_ U S A .  
M \_ n \_ y \_ h \_ g \_ h \_ p \_ r \_ f \_ l \_ c \_ m p \_ n \_ \_ s \_ r \_ c \_ l l \_ n g \_ f \_ r  
g \_ n \_ c \_ n \_ t \_ r \_ l \_ \_ n d \_ r \_ c \_ t \_ t \_ n g \_ t \_ \_ s \_ w \_ t h \_ t h \_  
p \_ w \_ r \_ f \_ l \_ N R A \_ l \_ b \_ b \_ y \_ g \_ r \_ \_ p \_ . \_ U \_ n \_ t \_ d \_ A \_ r \_ l \_ n \_ s \_ ,  
D \_ l \_ t \_ A \_ r \_ l \_ n \_ s \_ \_ n d \_ H \_ r \_ t \_ z \_ r \_ \_ m \_ n g \_ m \_ n \_ y \_ c \_ m  
p \_ n \_ \_ s \_ t \_ \_ n d \_ s \_ p \_ c \_ \_ l \_ d \_ s \_ c \_ \_ n \_ t \_ s \_ \_ n d \_ b \_ n \_ f \_ t \_ s  
f \_ r \_ N R A \_ s \_ t \_ f \_ f \_ \_ n d \_ m \_ m \_ b \_ r \_ s \_ . \_ T h \_ r \_ \_ s \_ \_ l \_ s \_ \_  
g \_ r \_ w \_ n g \_ c \_ m p \_ \_ g \_ n \_ \_ n \_ s \_ c \_ \_ l \_ m \_ d \_ \_ f \_ r \_ g \_ r \_ \_  
t \_ r \_ g \_ n \_ c \_ n \_ t \_ r \_ l \_ \_ n \_ t h \_ U S A .

T h \_ N R A \_ m \_ d \_ \_ s \_ t \_ t \_ m \_ n \_ t \_ \_ t \_ t \_ c \_ k \_ n g \_ t h \_ f \_ \_  
l \_ r \_ \_ f \_ b \_ t h \_ s c h \_ \_ l \_ \_ n d \_ f \_ d \_ r \_ l \_ s \_ y \_ s \_ t \_ m \_ s \_ f \_ r  
t h \_ h \_ g \_ h \_ s c h \_ \_ l \_ t r \_ g \_ d \_ y \_ . \_ I \_ t \_ s \_ \_ d \_ : \_ " \_ T \_ h \_  
l \_ w \_ - \_ b \_ d \_ n g \_ m \_ m \_ b \_ r \_ s \_ \_ f \_ t h \_ N R A \_ h \_ d \_ n \_ t \_ h \_ n g  
\_ t \_ \_ l \_ l \_ t \_ d \_ w \_ t h \_ t h \_ f \_ \_ l \_ r \_ \_ f \_ t h \_ t \_ s c h \_ \_ l \_ '  
s \_ s \_ c \_ r \_ t \_ y \_ p \_ r \_ p \_ r \_ d \_ n \_ s \_ s \_ , \_ t h \_ f \_ \_ l \_ r \_ \_ f \_ A  
m \_ r \_ c \_ ' s \_ m \_ n \_ t \_ l \_ h \_ \_ l \_ t \_ h \_ s \_ y \_ s \_ t \_ m \_ . . . \_ r \_ t h \_ c r \_ \_  
l \_ f \_ \_ l \_ r \_ s \_ \_ f \_ b \_ t h \_ f \_ d \_ r \_ l \_ \_ n d \_ l \_ c \_ l \_ l \_ w \_ \_ n \_ f \_ r  
c \_ m \_ n \_ t \_ . " \_ I \_ t \_ \_ d \_ d \_ d \_ t h \_ t \_ : \_ " \_ D \_ s \_ p \_ t \_ t h \_ t \_ , \_ s \_ m \_  
c \_ r \_ p \_ r \_ t \_ \_ n \_ s \_ h \_ v \_ d \_ c \_ d \_ d \_ t \_ p \_ n \_ s \_ h \_ N R A \_ m \_ m  
b \_ r \_ s \_ h \_ p \_ \_ n \_ \_ s \_ h \_ m \_ f \_ l \_ d \_ s \_ p \_ l \_ y \_ \_ f \_ p \_ l \_ t \_ c \_ l \_ \_ n d  
c \_ v \_ c \_ c \_ w \_ r \_ d \_ c \_ . " \_ A \_ n \_ N R A \_ s \_ p \_ k \_ s \_ m \_ n \_ h \_ t \_ b \_ c  
k \_ \_ t \_ t h \_ c \_ m \_ p \_ n \_ \_ s \_ , \_ s \_ y \_ n g \_ : \_ " \_ T \_ h \_ l \_ s \_ s \_ \_ f \_ \_  
d \_ s \_ c \_ \_ n \_ t \_ w \_ l \_ l \_ n \_ \_ t \_ h \_ r \_ s \_ c \_ r \_ \_ n \_ r \_ d \_ s \_ t \_ r \_ c \_ t \_ \_ n \_  
s \_ n g \_ l \_ N R A \_ m \_ m \_ b \_ r \_ f \_ r \_ m \_ \_ r \_ m \_ s \_ s \_ \_ n \_ t \_ s  
t \_ n \_ d \_ \_ n d \_ d \_ f \_ n \_ d \_ \_ n d \_ v \_ d \_ \_ l \_ f \_ r \_ \_ d \_ m \_ s \_ . "

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180227-gun-violence.html>

an increasing number of companies are announcing plans to sever ties with the usas national rifle association nra following the latest highschool shooting massacre the tragedy at marjory stoneman douglas high school in south florida in which 17 students and staff lost their lives could be a watershed for gun control in the usa many high profile companies are calling for gun control and are cutting ties with the powerful nra lobby group united airlines delta airlines and hertz are among many companies to end special discounts and benefits for nra staff and members there is also a growing campaign on social media for greater gun control in the usa

the nra made a statement attacking the failure of both school and federal systems for the high school tragedy it said the lawabiding members of the nra had nothing at all to do with the failure of that schools security preparedness the failure of americas mental health systemor the cruel failures of both federal and local law enforcement it added that despite that some corporations have decided to punish nra membership in a shameful display of political and civic cowardice an nra spokesman hit back at the companies saying the loss of a discount will neither scare nor distract one single nra member from our mission to stand and defend individual freedoms"

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180227-gun-violence.html>

An increasing number of companies are announcing plans to sever ties with the USA's National Rifle Association (NRA) following the latest high-school shooting massacre. The tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in South Florida, in which 17 students and staff lost their lives, could be a watershed for gun control in the USA. Many high-profile companies are calling for gun control and are cutting ties with the powerful NRA lobby group. United Airlines, Delta Airlines and Hertz are among many companies to end special discounts and benefits for NRA staff and members. There is also a growing campaign on social media for greater gun control in the USA. The NRA made a statement attacking the failure of both school and federal systems for the high school tragedy. It said: "The law-abiding members of the NRA had nothing at all to do with the failure of that school's security preparedness, the failure of America's mental health system... or the cruel failures of both federal and local law enforcement." It added that: "Despite that, some corporations have decided to punish NRA members in a shameful display of political and civic cowardice." An NRA spokesman hit back at the companies, saying: "The loss of a discount will neither scare nor distract one single NRA member from our mission to stand and defend individual freedoms."

# FREE WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180227-gun-violence.html>

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

Horizontal lines for writing.



# ACADEMIC WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180227-gun-violence.html>

The world would be a better place without guns. Discuss.

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# HOMWORK

**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 this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

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

**4. GUNS:** Write a magazine article about guns being unnecessary and should be banned. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

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 an expert on gun violence. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how we can end gun violence. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. c    2. d    3. a    4. e    5. f    6. b    7. g  
8. i    9. l    10. n    11. j    12. h    13. k    14. m

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. increasing   | a. growing       |
| 2. sever        | b. cut           |
| 3. massacre     | c. slaughter     |
| 4. watershed    | d. turning point |
| 5. end          | e. terminate     |
| 6. law-abiding  | f. honest        |
| 7. preparedness | g. readiness     |
| 8. punish       | h. penalize      |
| 9. shameful     | i. disgraceful   |
| 10. distract    | j. sidetrack     |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Ties
2. A watershed
3. A powerful lobby group
4. Hertz
5. On social media
6. Federal systems
7. Law-abiding members
8. America's mental health system
9. Cowardice
10. The loss of a discount

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. An increasing number of companies are announcing plans.
2. Following the latest high-school shooting massacre.
3. It could be a watershed for gun control.
4. Among many companies to end special discounts.
5. There is a growing campaign on social media.
6. A statement attacking the failure of federal systems.
7. The law-abiding members of the NRA.
8. The failure of America's mental health system.
9. Corporations have decided to punish NRA membership.
10. Our mission to stand and defend individual freedoms.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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