

# Reading 02

**In this activity,**  
**you need to read the paragraphs one  
by one.**

**While reading, focus your attention on the bolded words and  
try to guess their meanings.**

# Now, let's read the first paragraph



Feeding birds is a common and relaxing pastime for many people, whether they're spending a day at the lake or throwing crumbs to pigeons in a city square. While feeding the birds in Trafalgar Square in London may seem like a fun way to take a break in between museum visits, think again – feeding the birds comes with a **hefty** \$1,000 fine. The fine was **enforced** because pigeons are seen as carriers of **filth** and **disease**, so many people want to **curb** their existence in the square.

*Now, let's try to guess the meanings of the bolded words.*

## 1. hefty

Meaning- large

Example –



She earns a **hefty** salary.

## 2. enforced

### Meaning

- To make sure a rule or law is obeyed.

### Example

- *The role of the police is to **enforce** the law.*



# 3. filth

## Meaning

- Disgusting dirt

## Example

- The drains were blocked with **filth**.



## 4. disease

### Meaning

- illness / sickness

### Example

Dengue is a deadly **disease**.





# Let's read the second paragraph



In Singapore, chewing gum was officially banned in 1992 after **vandals** caused costly problems by sticking gum on the door sensors of Singapore's metro trains. So in Singapore, you'll never find somebody's old and discarded chewing gum stuck on the bottom of your shoe. Although gum may be chewed if it is prescribed by a doctor or dentist, buying or selling chewing gum within Singapore's borders carries a fine of \$1,000 or \$2,000, depending on how many times you've broken the law. Singapore is a country **renowned** for its cleanliness and efficiency, partly maintained by the ban on gum. If you do decide to break this law, just don't spit it out on the streets – you'll face a fine of up to \$500 for **defacing** public property.



# 6. vandals

## Meaning

- People who intentionally damage other's property.

## Example

- The window of the shop was smashed by a **vandal**.



# 7. Renowned

## Meaning

- famous

## Examples

- Sri Lanka is **renowned** for its high quality tea.



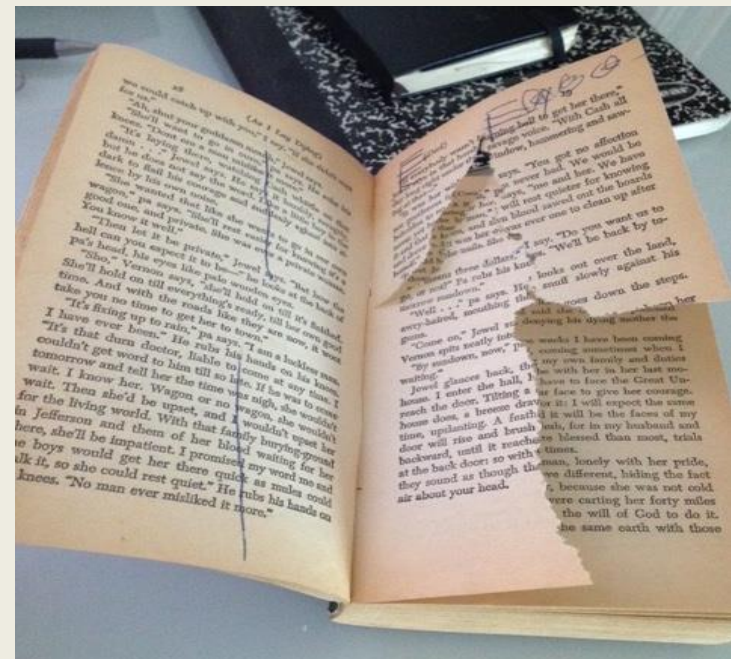
# 8. defacing

## Meaning

- Damage the appearance of something.

## Example

- He **defaced** the library books.



# Let's read the third paragraph



III. Theft is taken very seriously in Afghanistan. Offenders don't face simple fines or prison time. The punishment is much worse and lasts a lifetime. Theft became punishable by **amputation** when the Taliban took over in 1996. It is generally carried out by a professional **executioner** with a knife, and not by a doctor, although new finger-chopping machines are being created to speed up the process. Depending on how serious the theft is, the amputated body part can be a single body part like a finger, a toe, a hand, or a leg, or it can be a combination of several body parts. Even if the amputation is only a finger, the punishment is a strong **deterrent**.

# 9. amputation

## Meaning

- **Removal of a part of body , such as arm, leg, toe or finger.**

## Example

- **In some countries, hand or foot **amputations** are the punishments for committing certain crimes.**



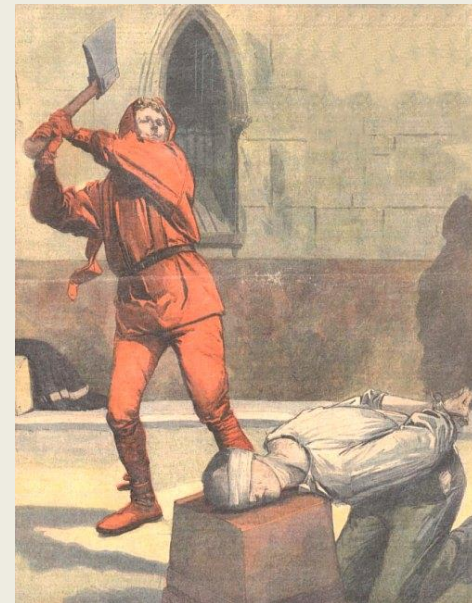
# 10. executioner

## Meaning

- The person whose job is to execute the criminals.
- (hangman)

## Example

- The **executioner** has an axe in his hand.



# 11. deterrent

## Meaning

- A cause of discouragement

## Example

- A guard dog is a good **deterrent** to burglaries.



# Let's read the fifth paragraph



- V. The temptation to cheat at exams can be **irresistible** for everybody, and most people cheat at some point in their lives. Cheating and **plagiarism** are never tolerated at educational institutions; the offence is often punished with a failing grade or expulsion. But just one glance at your classmate's paper or at something scribbled on your arm can have **dire consequences** in Nigeria. Instead of facing traditional disciplinary action, cheating can result in either imprisonment of up to five years, a fine of 200,000 Naira (approximately \$1,200), or both. On the bright side, this extreme punishment gives offenders five years of extra study time.



# 12. Irresistible

## Meaning

- Too strong to avoid.

## Example

- He felt an **irresistible** temptation to eat the cake.



# 13. plagiarism

## Meaning

- Copying someone else's work and passing them off as one's own.

## Example

- Students should try to avoid **plagiarism** in doing assignments.



# 14. Dire consequences

## Meaning

- **Terrible results.**

## Example

- Drinking alcohol may cause **dire consequences** to your body.



# Let's read the sixth paragraph



VI. Laws against drinking and driving are **relatively** new in the world. In the United States, modern day laws with corresponding punishments didn't exist until the 1970s. However, some countries have decided that mere jail time and fines aren't enough for such a dangerous offence. This one is possibly one of the **strangest** punishments for drunk driving in the world: in some small towns in Turkey, police officers take the drunk driver to a point twenty miles away from the police station and force the driver to walk back **accompanied by** a police officer.

# 15. relatively

## Meaning

- In comparison to something else.

## Example

- This wedding cake is **relatively** small.



# 16. **strangest**

## Meaning

- **Unusual / not previously encountered.**

## Example

- She had the **strangest** eyes I had ever seen.



# 17. Accompanied by

## Meaning

- To go with somebody

## Example

- The child was **accompanied by** her mother.



# Let's read the seventh paragraph



VII. Be careful where you enjoy a tasty lunch or a **refreshing** drink in Italy. It's an offence in Florence to eat or drink while sitting on church steps or within a church courtyard. The same law applies to eating near public buildings. Eat elsewhere and avoid the fine.



# 18. refreshing

## Meaning

- Pleasantly new/  
making one feel  
stronger

## Example

- He gave me a  
**refreshing** glass of fruit  
juice.



# Let's read the eighth paragraph



VIII. It's illegal to feed pigeons on the streets of San Francisco. The city famous for the Golden Gate Bridge blames the **ubiquitous** birds for spreading disease and damaging property. If you're caught giving food to San Francisco's pigeons, you could face a hefty fine. People are even encouraged to report pigeon feeders to the city's police.

# 19. ubiquitous

## Meaning

- Seeming to be everywhere

## Example

- Mobile phones have become **ubiquitous**.



# Let's read the ninth paragraph



IX. Want to get one last snap of your family in the airport before you board the plane? In Kazakhstan, it's against the law. Photography in and around airports is illegal, and taking pictures of military and official buildings is **frowned upon** as well.

## 20. Frowned upon

### Meaning

- To disapprove of somebody or something.

### Example

- Smoking in public places is **frowned upon** in Sri Lanka.



# Let's read the tenth paragraph



- X. If you're shopping in Canada, don't expect cashiers to accept coins as your sole method of payment. According to Canada's Currency Act, stores can legally refuse to take **excessive** amounts of coins. With pennies, for example, customers' payments may be rejected if they try to use more than 25 one-cent coins at one time.

# 21. excessive

## Meaning

- More than necessary / too much

## Example

- Her face was painted with excessive make-up.



## *Next...*

- Read the first question and try to write the **relevant paragraph number in front of the country.**

- 1) Match each paragraph with the country it refers to by writing the correct number next to the country.
- |                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| (i) Canada          | ( ) |
| (ii) United Kingdom | ( ) |
| (iii) United States | ( ) |
| (iv) Singapore      | ( ) |
| (v) Italy           | ( ) |
| (vi) France         | ( ) |
| (vii) Turkey        | ( ) |
| (viii) Kazakhstan   | ( ) |
| (ix) Afghanistan    | ( ) |
| (x) Nigeria         | ( ) |



***Now, check your answers of question number 01.***

**01)**

**(i) Canada (10)**

**(ii) United Kingdom (1 )**

**(iii) Turkey ( 6)**

**(iv) Singapore (2 )**

**(v) Italy (7 )**

**(vi) France ( 4)**

**(vii) United States (8 )**

**(viii) Kazakhstan ( 9)**

**(ix) Afghanistan (3 )**

**(x) Nigeria ( 5)**

***Now, read the questions from 2 to 9 and try to write answers for them.***

- 2) What country and region has prohibited dying? Why?
- 3) How many cities prohibit feeding the birds? Can you name the reasons given in each city?
- 4) Which country has banned taking photographs in the airport?
- 5) Can you pay your total shopping bill of 25 Canadian dollars in coins, in Canada?
- 6) Get together with your friend and summarise each law or practise in two sentences.
- 7) Which of the laws described above should be enforced in our country, in your opinion? First think of this on your own. Next, get into groups of four or five and discuss your views. Present to the class your final decisions based on everyone's opinions.
- 8) Which of these laws seems the most absurd, or meaningless, to you? Why?
- 9) Can you think of a law (or laws) in Sri Lanka that does not exist in other countries, which prohibits something that is not considered a crime in other countries? Describe this law in a short paragraph.

## ***Now check your answers***

**2) Sarpourenx in France. Because the space in graveyard began to run short.**

**3) 2.**

**The two cities are London and San Francisco.**

**London: Because pigeons carry filth and disease.**

**San Francisco : Because they carry disease and damage property.**

**4) Kazakhstan .**

**5) No.**

**6) (sample answers)**

**Paragraph 1**

**Feeding pigeons in Trafalgar Square is a punishable offence. The fine for this is 1000 dollars.**

- **Paragraph 2**

**Purchasing or selling chewing gum in Singapore can cause a fine of 1000 to 2000 dollars. If you throw away chewed gum on streets, you would be fined 500 dollars.**

- **Paragraph 3**

**In Afghanistan, theft can be punished by cutting off your body parts. The amputation is decided by nature of the theft.**

- **Paragraph 4**

**The mayor of Sarpourenx in France banned dying because the graveyards were full. Those who broke the law had to be punished severely.**

- **Paragraph 5**

**Cheating and copying is punishable in Nigeria. If found guilty, one has to pay 200,000 Naira, stay in prison for five years, or both.**

- **Paragraph 6**

**Drunk drivers in Turkey, are taken twenty miles away from the police station, by the police. They are ordered to return to the police station on foot , with a police officer.**

- **Paragraph 7**

**Dining within the church premises and near public buildings is prohibited in Florence, Italy. Offenders are fined.**

- **Paragraph 8**

**In San Francisco city, feeding pigeons on streets is prohibited. The punishment would be a large fine.**



- **Paragraph 9**

**In Kazakhstan, taking photographs in and around airports is prohibited. Photography around military buildings, is not a good practice either.**

- **Paragraph 10**

**Payment only via coins is not accepted in Canada. The maximum amount of one cent coins to be taken by a cashier at a time, is 25.**

**7) Law number 2, Law number 5, Law number 6**

**8) Law number 6, because dying is not something that people can control.**

**9) (Sample answer)**

**Attempting to suicide is considered as a crime in Sri Lanka. The one who tries to suicide can be bound over by law. But, in other countries like Switzerland, it is not considered a crime. One can end his life with his own consent, through a lethal drug, with the assistance of certain non-profit organizations. These assisted suicides are considered as legal as long as those who assist the suicide, have non-selfish motives.**

# *Next, read the paragraph in 'Speaking 2'*

## Speaking 2

Read the following passage and complete the activities below.

Joshua urged his friends to keep quiet since they were inside a monastery. Amali who has the loudest voice declared that she is not scared of ghosts, so she is not going to be quiet. Shehan who was the best behaved among all of them reminded her that it is not because of fear that they need to be quiet, but because they need to respect others, especially those who come in to pray and to spend some quiet time. This made everyone think about their responsibilities. When they came out to the lawn the group decided to sit around in the grass and enjoy the beautiful sunset. It was at that point that they started talking about their responsibilities to their community and society...

## ***Now let's check the answers.***

- 1) Respecting others , especially those who come in to pray and spend some quiet time.**
- 2) Responsibility , being considerate of others ,being well-behaved.**

### **3) Example dialogue**

**Amali** : Come on guys! Let's go!

**Joshua** :Shhhh! Lower your voice . We are inside a monastery.

**Amali** :So what? I'm not scared of ghosts!

**Shehan : You are a bit thickheaded. We are not keeping quiet out of fear. Look at that man. He is here to pray.**

**Amali :Oh! I guess I was disturbing his prayer.**

**Joshua :And do you see all those people who are sitting under the trees and walking around? They all come here to take a break from their busy lifestyle, and to have some “quiet time”**

**Amali :So it is our responsibility not to disturb others in places like this.**

**Shehan: Not only in a place like this, but also in all occasions, it's a good thing to be considerate of others.**

## 5) Example article

### With Due Respect...

We all know that there are certain rites that we must follow , before entering religious places . When entering a Buddhist temple, we must wear a decent dress which is either white or light in colour . We must take off our shoes/slippers and take off our caps or hats before entering . And inside the temple , we must keep quiet, and speak mild words in a low volume when necessary. Moreover , we must not run in the temple premises. All these rites help us to calm down our minds and to consequently calm down our minds . They prevent us from disturbing others' peaceful mentality too. Whether you are a prince or a pauper , you have to enter the temple barefoot , and without covering the head . This makes us feel the social equity inside Buddhism , and helps us feel at ease inside the temple, no matter who we are.

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