

LESSON 1

The Funniest Bank Robbery Ever

LESSON 1 - The Funniest Bank Robbery Ever

STORY TASK 1.

Do you know the words/expressions below? Try to translate them into your native language.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. exactly..... | 23. a criminal..... |
| 2. a robbery | 24. a neighborhood |
| 3. to happen..... | 25. to survive something |
| 4. a bank teller..... | 26. odd |
| 5. a lobby | 27. abroad..... |
| 6. a prison..... | |
| 7. to imagine something..... | Words/phrases with prepositions or |
| 8. ordinary..... | adverbs: |
| 9. a note | |
| 10. elderly | 28. as strange and funny as..... |
| 11. to expect somebody to do something..... | 29. to run away..... |
| 12. to do the exact opposite..... | 30. to walk into a place |
| 13. calmly | 31. to run out of the building |
| 14. a security guard..... | 32. to sit down..... |
| 15. to hold somebody/something..... | 33. to look for something..... |
| 16. to admit something | 34. to wait for somebody |
| 17. actually | 35. a cry for help..... |
| 18. rather than | 36. to argue with somebody..... |
| 19. a judge | 37. to get away from a place..... |
| 20. a verdict | 38. to get a punishment for one's crime |
| 21. house arrest..... | 39. to hope for something |
| 22. atypical | |

STORY TASK 2.

Discussion starter. Answer the questions below. Try to speak for around 3-5 minutes in total.

1. Have you ever heard a really funny story or experienced something very funny? Describe the situation in detail.
2. How can a criminal be punished? Think of three different punishments and describe them.

STORY TASK 3.

Read the text and answer the questions in as much detail as possible. Also, try to use the highlighted vocabulary from the text.

1. How many robberies were there in the United States in 2016?
.....
2. How much money did Lawrence John Ripple steal?
.....
3. What did the note that he gave to the bank teller say?
.....
4. What did the bank teller expect Lawrence to do after the robbery?
.....
5. What did Lawrence actually do after the robbery?
.....

6. Why was the security guard surprised?

.....

7. What did Lawrence admit to the police officers?

.....

8. What did Lawrence do before he left the house on the day of the robbery?

.....

9. What punishment did the judge give Lawrence?

.....

The Funniest Bank Robbery Ever

There were exactly 4,185 bank robberies in the United States in 2016, but probably none of them were as strange and funny as the one that happened in Kansas City on September 2. The robber, 70-year-old Lawrence John Ripple, took almost \$3,000 from a scared bank teller, and... he didn't even try to run away. Instead, he sat in the lobby and waited for the police to arrive. When the police officers came, he told them that he wanted to go to prison. Why? Because he couldn't imagine spending another day at home with his wife.

Mr. Ripple walked into the bank on an ordinary Friday afternoon and gave one of the bank tellers a note that said: "I have a gun. Give me money." The teller did exactly what the elderly man told her to do and expected him to run out of the building, but he didn't. He did the exact opposite – he calmly walked to the lobby, sat down, and waited. He even made a security guard's job easy. He simply told him: "I'm the guy you are looking for", and returned the stolen cash. The guard was probably too surprised to say anything, so he just held Ripple and waited for the police with him.

As soon as the police officers came and started asking questions, Lawrence admitted that he didn't actually have a gun. He said that the robbery was his cry for help. He argued with his wife a lot and felt like going to prison was the only way to get away from her. Interestingly, he didn't hide his plan from Mrs. Ripple. Before he left the house that morning, he showed her the note for the bank teller and told her that he preferred to go to jail rather than live with her.

In June 2017, it was time for Mr. Ripple to hear the judge's verdict and get a punishment for his crime. It was not the punishment he was hoping for. Instead of sending Lawrence to prison, the judge gave him six months of house arrest. That means exactly what it sounds like – the 70-year-old man had to stay in the house with his wife for over 180 days. The atypical criminal also had to work 50 hours for free in his neighborhood and pay \$227.27.

Did Lawrence Ripple's marriage survive the six months of house arrest? We don't know. But we do know that the odd robbery made him famous not only in Kansas City but also around the country and even abroad. In 2020, when a popular social media personality made a video about him, Mr. Ripple's crime became known as "the funniest bank robbery ever."

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STORY TASK 4.

Look through the text again and make some notes. Retell the whole story to your teacher/fellow students. Try to use as much vocabulary from STORY TASK 1 as possible. Your notes cannot contain full sentences.

STORY TASK 5.

Conversation. Answer the questions below. Try to speak for around 3-5 minutes in total.

1. What do you think about the punishment that the judge gave Lawrence? Was it right? Why/why not?
2. Do you think that Mr. Ripple's wife was happy about his punishment? How do you think she reacted to the situation?

STORY TASK 6.

Now, it is your turn to ask questions. Think of 10 more questions about the story and ask them to your teacher/fellow students.

VOCABULARY TASK 1.1

Match each of the following words and phrases (1-32) with the right meaning (A-FF).

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. exactly | 17. a judge |
| 2. a robbery | 18. a verdict |
| 3. to happen | 19. house arrest |
| 4. a bank teller | 20. atypical |
| 5. a lobby | 21. a criminal |
| 6. a prison | 22. a neighborhood |
| 7. to imagine something | 23. to survive something |
| 8. ordinary | 24. odd |
| 9. a note | 25. abroad |
| 10. elderly | 26. to run away |
| 11. to expect somebody to do something | 27. to look for something |
| 12. to do the exact opposite | 28. to wait for somebody |
| 13. calmly | 29. a cry for help |
| 14. a security guard | 30. to argue with somebody |
| 15. to hold somebody/something | 31. to get a punishment for one's crime |
| 16. to admit something | 32. to hope for something |

DEFINITIONS:

- A. to make somebody stay in one position; to stop somebody from moving
- B. to try to find something; to search for something
- C. something (e.g. a short message) that you write down on a piece of paper
- D. a situation when you cannot leave your home because you have done something illegal
- E. to want something to happen or be true
- F. a person who does something illegal
- G. a person who works in a bank and whose job is to take people's money or give their money to them
- H. a building where people have to live if they have done something illegal
- I. not more and not less than

- J. to say that something is true
- K. a way of showing somebody that you need help or support
- L. an area that is close to somebody's home
- M. to do something completely different than something that is mentioned earlier
- N. an official decision if someone is guilty or not (if they have done something illegal or not)
- O. (*about a person*) old
- P. without any nerves
- Q. a person whose job is to protect a place or a person
- R. a person who decides if someone is guilty or not (if they have done something illegal or not)
- S. to angrily tell somebody that you disagree with them
- T. to continue to live after being in a dangerous or difficult situation
- U. different from other things of the same type
- V. to think or believe that somebody will do something
- W. the act of stealing something from somewhere
- X. to be forced to suffer somehow because of something illegal that you have done
- Y. strange and surprising
- Z. to think what something could look or be like
- AA. to take place; to occur
- BB. outside the country that you live in
- CC. to stay in one place because you know that someone will come
- DD. not unusual or special in any way
- EE. to suddenly and quickly leave a place
- FF. a big open space close to the main door of a public building

VOCABULARY TASK 1.2

Fill in each gap with the correct word(s) from VOCABULARY TASK 1.1 Remember to use the correct forms of words/expressions.

1. My dog fell into a frozen lake and spent one hour there. He barely _____ it, and it didn't come close to the lake anymore.
2. The time starts now. You have _____ 60 minutes until the end of the exam.
3. Close your eyes and _____ your future. What can you see?
4. Michael is such an _____ person. He laughs when nobody laughs and doesn't laugh when everyone does. He's so atypical.
5. I am going _____ tomorrow. I have got my passport and plane tickets ready.
6. If Greg tells you to do something, I want you _____. You can't trust him.
7. Seven years ago, on January 12th, I met my wife. It was the first great thing that _____ to me that year. On December 21st, our son was born.
8. Carrie's grandmother is a very patient person. Every time Carrie screams at her, she speaks very _____. She never gets angry.

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9. Nick is such a nice guy. Yesterday, he saw that I was carrying some heavy bags, so he _____ the door for me.
10. If you _____ me to do your homework for you, you are so wrong. I will not do it. Never wait for me to do it for you.

VOCABULARY TASK 2.

Use each of the given prompts to tell a story. Each story should be about three minutes long.

1. Think of a situation in which somebody gave you some advice, but you did the exact opposite. Why didn't you listen to the advice?
2. Would you like to work as a security guard? Why/why not?
3. What do you hope for the most in life?
4. What will you do when you are an elderly person? What will your day look like?
5. What are the advantages and disadvantages of house arrest?

VOCABULARY TASK 3.1

Fill in the table with the missing PARTS OF SPEECH WITHIN THE SAME FAMILY OF WORDS. A cross (X) means that a given word doesn't exist. If there are two options, think of two different words within the same family of words. If there are two options with the word 'opposite' in the second line, think of a word and its opposite within the same family of words. Sometimes, there will be a lot of options to choose from, but try to think of the options that would be the most useful for you in everyday life.

To form a **VERB**, choose one of the following **endings (suffixes)**: *-ate, -ize, -en, -ify, -fy*. (Note: only some verbs are created by adding a suffix).

To form a **NOUN**, choose one of the following **endings (suffixes)**: *-ance, -ence, -ment, -ion, -ity, -cy, -ery, -ness, -ing, -ation*.

To form an **ADJECTIVE**, choose one of the following **endings (suffixes)**: *-able, -ive, -al, -ful, -ous, - (e)d, -ing*. To form an **OPPOSITE** meaning, choose one of the following **beginnings (prefixes)**: *-un, -im, -in, -ir, -dis*.

Note: There are some additional suffixes that you **DON'T NEED TO USE**.

Note: Some **VERBS, NOUNS, and ADJECTIVES** do not follow these patterns (they are not created by adding a suffix).

VERB	NOUN	ADJECTIVE
.....	a robbery	.....
to expect	.....	1. / 2. (opposite)
.....	..... (a person)	judgmental

.....	.....	1. secured 2.
.....	a guard (a person)	.....
to arrest	.....	.....
to cry	.....	.....
.....	.....	arguable
.....	a punishment	.....
.....	.....	1./ 2. (opposite) hopeless

VOCABULARY TASK 3.2

Fill in the gaps with the right words from the table from VOCABULARY TASK 3.1. Use **ONLY ONE** word from **EACH** family of words.

- If you don't calm down, I will call the _____. They will walk you out of the shop.
- The police _____ just _____ Jackie for robbing an elderly woman.
- Tom's visit yesterday was totally _____. We didn't know that he was coming.
- Ben was naughty yesterday, so his mother told him he could not eat sweets for a week. That was his _____.
- The diamond at the exposition is heavily _____. There are 20 men watching it all the time. It is impossible to steal it.
- Some people _____ just _____ a bank and stolen \$1 million.
- _____ he _____ now? I can see tears in his eyes.
- My parents had an _____ a few days ago, and they have not spoken to each other since then.

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9. When Karen was a child, she wanted to be _____. She ran around the house saying who was guilty and who was not guilty.
10. I have a job interview in two days. There are 32 candidates for that position, but I _____ that I will get it.

VOCABULARY TASK 3.3

Answer each question/task with **AT LEAST THREE** examples. Use full sentences each time.

- Who/what can you **rob** to get the most money possible?
.....
- Give examples of some **unexpected** things that could happen right now.
.....
- Who/what can you **judge**?
.....
- Which places are the most **secure** places in the world in your opinion?
.....
- Why could working as a **security guard** be dangerous?
.....
- What could someone be **arrested** for?
.....
- Why do people **cry** the most often?
.....
- What do people usually **argue** about the most often?
.....
- Give examples of the worst **punishments** for children.
.....
- In what situations do people feel **hopeful**?
.....

VOCABULARY TASK 4.

Try to **explain the meaning of the words/expressions given (1-10)** without using the words in brackets. You also can't use any words from the same word family as the word you are trying to explain or any of the parts of the expression you're trying to describe.

Example: if you're trying to describe the word "untouched", don't use the words "touch", "touching", etc.; if you're trying to describe the noun "construction worker", don't use the words "construction" and "worker", "construct", "work", etc.

Let your teacher/fellow student guess which word you are describing.

- a bank teller (DO NOT USE: a person, a bank)
- a lobby (DO NOT USE: a door, a building)
- a prison (DO NOT USE: a building, illegal)

4. a note (DO NOT USE: to write, paper)
5. a security guard (DO NOT USE: a person, a job)
6. a verdict (DO NOT USE: a decision, guilty)
7. a house arrest (DO NOT USE: to leave, home)
8. a criminal (DO NOT USE: a person, illegal)
9. a neighborhood (DO NOT USE: an area, home)
10. abroad (DO NOT USE: outside, a country)

VOCABULARY TASK 5

Choose **10** words from **VOCABULARY TASK 1.1** and use them to create a short story. The more creative the story, the better. Then, share the story with your teacher/fellow student.

VOCABULARY TASK 6.1

Complete the expressions (1-12) with the right prepositions/adverbs (A-H). Some prepositions/adverbs can be used more than once. These **EXPRESSIONS ARE FROM THE TEXT**. Other versions are sometimes possible, but you should focus only on the ones **FROM THE TEXT**.

A) away, B) as, C) for (x5), D) down, E) with, F) out of, G) into, H) from

1. _____ strange and funny _____
2. to run _____
3. to walk _____ a place
4. to run _____ the building
5. to sit _____
6. to look _____ something
7. to wait _____ somebody/something
8. a cry _____ help
9. to argue _____ somebody
10. to get away _____ a place
11. to get a punishment _____ one's crime
12. to hope _____ something

VOCABULARY TASK 6.2

Now, complete each sentence with the right expression from **VOCABULARY TASK 6.1**. Remember to use the correct tenses/forms of the verbs.

1. I don't want _____ you. I don't like fighting. Let's just _____ at the table, drink some tea, and talk. (MATCH 2 EXPRESSIONS)
2. The dog was so happy to go for a walk that it simply _____ and started barking happily.

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3. – What are you doing?
– I _____ Sam. He is late again.
4. Two men _____ just _____ our restaurant and want to order food.
5. I heard _____ at night, so I went out and saw a woman on the ground who couldn't get up.
6. Luke, our dog, _____ a few hours ago. Let's go out and _____ him.
(MATCH 2 EXPRESSIONS)
7. _____ it sounds, Brian likes to teach his students in a lotus position. He sits on the floor with his legs crossed.
8. ' _____ the best, but prepare for the worst.' That's my life's motto.
9. – Are you also tired of all the noise at this bar?
– Yes, I am. Do you want _____ this place? I would love to go somewhere else.
10. We are going to court tomorrow. I hope that Christian _____ his _____.
He stole so much money from us.