

GUN CONTROL

Watch the [video](#) "Canada Vs. USA: Who Does Gun Control Better?" by AJ+.

1 FACT OR FICTION?

Task 1: Decide if the following statements are true or false.

1. More than 36,000 Americans were victims of firearm-related deaths in 2015. **T**
2. Norway has the highest rate of gun ownership in the world. **F. US is higher**
3. Approximately 2% **(20%)** of gun owners own 65% of the guns. **F.**
4. The Second Amendment to the US Constitution protects the right to bear arms. **T**
5. In the US, there are more guns than people. **T**
6. The majority of gun deaths in the US are due to suicide. **T**
7. Globally, there are approximately 850 million small arms in circulation. **T**
8. Switzerland has high gun ownership rates but relatively low crime rates. **T**

Task 2: Discuss the following questions as a class.

1. Do you own a gun? Would you like to?
2. Have you ever shot a gun? Did you like it?
3. What are the gun control laws like in your country?
4. How would your country be different if everyone owned a gun?
5. Do you agree with the gun control laws in the United States of America?
6. What are some positives of owning a gun?



2 SHOWING CONTRAST

Task 1: Study the table which contains words that indicate contrast.

Conjunction	Examples
whereas / while	I really don't like guns, whereas my brother loves them. He often goes hunting. While I am not scared of guns, my mother is absolutely terrified of them.
In spite of / despite	Despite the fact that guns are dangerous, most people in my country own one. In spite of all the strict security at the airport, he managed to get a gun onto the aeroplane.
although / even though	Even though you need to go through a long licensing process to obtain a gun, a lot of people in the US own one. Although strict gun control laws are in place, guns still end up in the wrong hands.
nevertheless	I am terrified of guns. Nevertheless, I bought one to protect myself.

Task 2: Join the sentences below using a conjunction, ensuring you use the correct tense.

- People buy guns for protection. Accidents happen and people get hurt.
Even though people buy guns for protection, accidents happen and people get hurt.
- The gun was locked in the safe. The criminal managed to steal it.
The criminal managed to steal the gun, despite the fact that it was locked in a safe.
- Gun owners in America are above 30 years old. Gun owners in South Africa are usually teenagers.
Gun owners in America are above 30 years old, while gun owners in South Africa are usually teenagers.
- She had a terrible hunting accident. She is hunting again.
She had a terrible hunting accident, nevertheless she is hunting again.

Task 3: Use this grammar point throughout the lesson while discussing gun control.



3 VIDEO ANALYSIS

Task 1: Decide if the statements based on the [video](#) are true or false.

1. In 2013, guns killed more people in Canada than in the US. **F**
2. Canada has a higher rate of gun ownership than the US. **F**
3. The NRA is a powerful gun lobby in Canada. **F**
4. You don't need a permit to carry a concealed gun in every state in the US. **F**
5. Background checks in Canada are done through a centralised database. **T**
6. The FBI database always has complete criminal and mental health information. **F**
7. Canadians can carry a gun in public for any reason. **F**

Task 2: Discuss the following questions, based on the [video](#) and topic, as a class.

- a. What factors contribute to the significant difference in gun homicides between the US and Canada?
- b. How does the powerful gun lobby in the US influence gun laws?
- c. Discuss the impact of varying gun ownership rates between Canada and the US.
- d. Compare the effectiveness of gun laws in Canada and the US in reducing gun violence.
- e. Should the US consider adopting a federal licence for gun owners similar to Canada's approach?
- f. How do the background check systems differ in accuracy and efficiency between Canada and the US?
- g. What cultural or societal factors might explain differing attitudes towards guns in Canada and the US?
- h. Explore the role of law enforcement in stopping gun-related issues in the countries.
- i. Discuss the potential trade-offs between individual freedoms and public safety in gun control policies.
- j. What lessons can policymakers in both countries learn from each other's experiences with gun control?

4 ARGUMENTS AGAINST GUN CONTROL

Task 1: Read the article, and give each paragraph an appropriate heading.

Students own ideas.

1. _____. If someone wants to own a gun, they're going to own one. That is a pretty basic principle that applies to legal and illegal gun owners. Gun control legislation attempts to create more safety by creating more loops for legal owners to jump through to own a firearm. There will always be people who steal firearms or alter information on background checks to circumvent laws. Gun control legislation would likely create a separate black market for ownership for those who simply want a self-defence option.

2. _____. Gun control laws have arguably caused gun violence incidents to reduce around the world, but alternative weapons are still used to commit crime. Knife attacks, vehicle attacks, and homemade explosives can do just as much damage as a gun can, and in some instances more damage, when put into the wrong hands.

3. _____. Out of the 10,000+ firearm-related deaths that occur every year in the United States, more than 7,000 of them are suicides. That data point shows a need to improve access to mental health services, community support, and other resources that can help people in crisis.

4. _____. Guns are often feared not because of what they can do, but because of what they represent to an individual. Most people own a firearm because they use it as a tool or for a sport. By getting to know a firearm and learning how to use it responsibly, being around a gun doesn't need to be a fearful experience.

5. _____. Gun violence occurs because there is a lack of respect for the value of human life. Arguments devolve into violence because of an emotional reaction. Gangs use gun violence as a way to establish territorial control because they feel like their lives aren't being valued. Some might say gun violence is a heart problem, but it is a value problem. The US Constitution speaks of equality for all. That should be what is addressed instead of a person's access to firearms.

The advantages and disadvantages of gun control are divisive. Some see them as controversial. Others see it as a pointless conversation. The bottom line is this: every person offers an important perspective that deserves to be shared

Adapted from: [Article](#)



Task 2: Research and discuss the meanings of the following words and phrases.

1. a basic principle.
2. jump through loops.
3. black market.
4. to devolve
5. divisive
6. the bottom line.



Task 3: Discuss the information in the article using the following questions.

- a. How does the article differentiate between legal and illegal gun ownership and its impact on gun control legislation?
- b. What measures can be taken to improve access to mental health services and reduce firearm-related suicides?
- c. How can society change the perception of guns as fearful objects by promoting responsible use?
- d. Do you agree that gun violence is primarily a value problem and not just a result of gun access?
- e. What strategies can be employed to address gang-related gun violence and its root causes?
- f. How can policymakers minimise the potential for a black market to thrive while implementing gun control laws?
- g. Why do some people view discussions about gun control as controversial or pointless, and how can we encourage constructive dialogue?
- h. How can policymakers balance the right to bear arms with the pursuit of equality in society?
- i. How can we encourage respectful and inclusive conversations about gun control that consider diverse viewpoints?



5 THE ARGUMENT FOR GUN CONTROL

Task 1: Study some of the arguments for gun control below.

1. Gun control saves lives by reducing access to firearms for individuals at risk of committing acts of violence against one another.
2. Gun control helps prevent suicides, as studies have shown a strong relationship between firearm availability and suicide rates.
3. Gun control fosters a safer environment for schools, workplaces, and public spaces, reducing the risk of shootings.
4. Implementing universal background checks helps keep guns out of the hands of criminals and those with dangerous mental health issues.
5. Strict gun control measures decrease the likelihood of accidental shootings, especially involving children.

Task 2: As a class, debate each point from task 1 and use the language below.

Express an opinion It seems to me that... I feel that... I'm absolutely convinced that... In my opinion,... I believe / suppose / feel (that)...	Express disagreement I don't agree with you about... I can't accept your view that... I have a different opinion... I'm not sure if... I'm not convinced that...
Express pro's and con's There are two sides to this point... On the one hand...,on the other hand... An argument for / against is... Some people think that...,others say that... The advantages / disadvantages are...	Summarise So, in conclusion... To summarise.. Overall, it is clear that... As a result.. The bottom line is...

6 GUN IDIOMS

Task 1: Read the example sentences below that use the idioms in the box.

to stick to one's gun

silver bullet

to gun for (smth, smb)

to be gun-shy

jump the gun

1. Despite the criticism, he stuck to his gun and refused to compromise his principles.
2. There's no silver bullet to this complex problem; we'll need a solid strategy.
3. Ever since she didn't get the promotion, she's been gunning for a higher position in the company.
4. After the accident, he became gun-shy about driving. Now, he prefers to take public transportation to work.
5. The team shouldn't jump the gun and make a decision before considering all the available options.

Task 2: Use the info in the examples to match the idioms to the correct definitions.

- a. to remain determined in beliefs or decisions. **Stick to one's gun.**
- b. a simple and effective solution to a problem. **Silver bullet**
- c. to pursue a goal or target. **To gun for something.**
- d. to be nervous or cautious due to past experiences. **To be gun-shy**
- e. to act prematurely or hastily. **To jump the gun**



Task 3: Use the idioms to complete the sentences, ensuring you use the correct tense.

to stick to one's gun

silver bullet

to gun for (smth, smb)

to be gun-shy

jump the gun

1. After the unexpected defeat in the last competition, the normally confident athlete became **gun-shy** and struggled to perform at their best again.
2. Despite the criticism, she **stuck to her gun** and refused to back down from her stance on the controversial issue.
3. We've been searching for a **silver bullet** to boost sales, but it seems that improving customer service is the key.
4. Jack is really **gunning for** the promotion, and he's been working hard to showcase his skills and dedication.
5. The team **jumped the gun** by announcing the product launch before all the necessary testing was completed, leading to some serious issues.

Task 4: Practice using the idioms by answering the following questions.

- a. Can you share a time when you had to stick to your guns on a decision despite pressure from other people?
- b. Do you think there's a silver bullet solution to solve climate change?
- c. Have you ever been in a situation where you were gunning for a particular goal but you didn't achieve it? How did you feel and what did you learn?
- d. Due to a past bad experience, are you gun-shy with anything? Explain.
- e. Can you describe a situation at work where you jumped the gun and started a project too early without the necessary planning? What were the consequences?



HOMework

1 GUN CONTROL

Read the article below, then complete the exercises on the next page.

Gun violence remains a divisive issue in the United States, affecting countless lives and communities across the nation. With tragic incidents of mass shootings and daily acts of gun-related violence, the need for strict gun control measures has become more apparent than ever before. A comprehensive approach to gun control is essential to protect the safety and well-being of American citizens.

One of the primary reasons for advocating stricter gun control is the alarming frequency of mass shootings. The devastating impacts of these events on families, schools, workplaces, and public spaces cannot be understated. Enforcing strict background checks and waiting periods for gun purchases can help prevent individuals with violent histories or mental health issues from obtaining firearms, reducing the potential for these horrific acts.

Another crucial aspect of gun control is addressing the issue of illegal gun trafficking. A significant number of firearms used in crimes are acquired through illegal channels, bypassing any existing regulations. Stricter enforcement and penalties for those involved in illegal gun trade can disrupt these networks, making it more difficult for criminals to access firearms.

The presence of guns in homes can also lead to unintentional tragedies, particularly involving children. Proper storage and safety measures are essential, but mandatory safety courses and regulations can further minimise accidental shootings, protecting both children and adults from preventable incidents.

Moreover, the link between domestic violence and gun-related fatalities demands immediate attention. Research consistently shows that the presence of firearms in homes experiencing domestic violence increases the likelihood of homicide. Stricter gun control measures can protect vulnerable individuals and provide an additional layer of safety for victims seeking to escape abusive situations.

Critics argue that restricting gun access infringes on Second Amendment rights, but implementing stringent gun control does not necessarily mean stripping Americans of their right to bear arms. Instead, it seeks to strike a balance between individual rights and public safety. Responsible gun ownership can coexist with stricter regulations aimed at minimising the risks associated with firearm possession.

Task 2: Research different synonyms for the following words.

1. divisive
2. to advocate.
3. to bypass.
4. to infringe.
5. stringent
6. to bear arms.



Task 3: Write a series of sentences or a short story using each word listed above.

Task 4: Write detailed answers to the following questions.

- a. How do mass shootings impact families, schools, workplaces, and public spaces, and what measures can be taken to prevent them?
- b. What are the potential benefits of enforcing strict background checks and waiting periods for gun purchases?
- c. What safety measures and regulations can be implemented to minimise accidental shootings involving children and firearms in homes?
- d. How does the presence of firearms in homes experiencing domestic violence increase the risk of homicide?
- e. What can be taken to protect vulnerable individuals?
- f. In what ways can gun control strike a balance between Second Amendment rights and public safety?
- g. What are the possible consequences of not implementing comprehensive gun control measures in the United States?
- h. How does mental health play a role in gun-related violence, and how can it be addressed through gun control policies?
- i. What lessons can be learned from countries with successful gun control policies, and how can those lessons be applied in the United States?
- j. How can responsible gun ownership be promoted and encouraged within the context of stricter gun control regulations?

