

Gun lobby fires shot for 'free speech'.

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Key words

Fill the gaps using these key words from the text:

own	election	broadcast	support
amendment	individual	balanced	get around

1. An _____ is one person.
2. If you _____ something, it is legally yours. You can _____ a house or a car, for example.
3. An _____ is a time when people choose their prime minister or president.
4. If a news report is _____, it gives the opinions of both sides.
5. An _____ is a change made to a law or an agreement.
6. If you _____ a law or a rule, you find a way of not following it.
7. If you _____ someone, you offer them help.
8. Radio and TV stations _____ programmes.

2 Find the information

Look in the text and find this information as quickly as possible:

1. How many people have a gun in the USA?
2. How many people can receive NRA News?
3. Who is Wayne LaPierre?
4. What does the first amendment do?
5. How many hours a day will NRA News broadcast?
6. Who is the Democratic presidential candidate?

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People in the USA can own and carry a gun. There are 80 million people in the USA who have a gun. The National Rifle Association is a group that supports the gun-owners of America. The NRA says it is the right of every individual to buy and keep a gun. Last week the NRA started its own radio station, called NRA News. The station broadcasts programmes about guns and the right of Americans to own a gun.

It is election year in the USA and the government has just introduced some new laws to control political advertising. These laws stop special interest groups like the NRA from buying radio and TV advertising to support a candidate in the election. So the NRA started its radio station. It says that the radio station is a media organisation, so the programmes are journalism not advertising.

NRA News broadcasts via a satellite network and around 400,000 people can receive the broadcasts. According

to Wayne LaPierre, the vice-president of the NRA, politicians in Washington want to control who can broadcast and who cannot broadcast. Mr LaPierre says this is against freedom of speech. The first amendment of the US constitution protects the freedom of speech. The second amendment gives US citizens the right to own and carry guns.

The NRA says the second amendment is an individual right. People who believe it is wrong for people to carry guns say that the second amendment is not an individual right. They say it gives the US army the right to carry guns. They say it does not give individuals the right to carry guns.

NRA News will only broadcast for three hours a day. Mr LaPierre said that the US media's reporting of the firearms industry was incorrect. He said that his radio station would tell the truth about guns and would be "balanced". Soon after this, NRA News broadcast a programme about John Kerry, the Democratic presidential candidate. The programme strongly criticised Mr Kerry. It also

broadcast an interview with a college student who received a C grade for writing a pro-gun essay.

Robert Ricker, used to work for the firearms industry but he now works for an anti-gun group. He said the NRA just wanted to get publicity. "Do you think John Kerry could suddenly say he was a journalist, start his own newspaper and then say he was a news organisation and not a presidential candidate?" he said. Mr Ricker thinks the NRA is using NRA News to get around the new law.

The NRA says that big business owns a lot of news organisations. Time Warner owns CNN, Disney owns ABC and General Electric owns NBC. The NRA says that these companies give money to political parties but they can also own news organisations.

The Guardian Weekly
20-06-04, page 6

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3 Comprehension check

Choose the best answer to each question:

1. What does NRA News mainly broadcast?
 - a. programmes about the first amendment
 - b. programmes about politics
 - c. programmes about guns
2. What do the new laws control?
 - a. guns
 - b. political advertising
 - c. radio stations
3. What does the second amendment do?
 - a.. It protects freedom of speech.
 - b. It gives people the right to own and carry guns.
 - c. It gives radio stations the right to broadcast news.
4. According to Robert Ricker, what does the NRA want to do?
 - a. start a newspaper
 - b. give money to political parties
 - c. get publicity
5. Who owns ABC news?
 - a. Disney
 - b. General Electric
 - c. Time Warner



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4 Vocabulary - find the word

1. Find a word that means 'someone who writes for a newspaper or a radio or television station'.
2. Find a phrase that means 'someone who wants to be US president'.
3. Find a word that means 'against guns'.
4. Find a word that means 'in favour of guns'.
5. Find a word that means 'someone who owns something'.
6. Find a word that means 'a short piece of writing by a student on a particular subject'.

5 Vocabulary - verbs and nouns

Fill the gaps using a verb from the text:

1. to _____ the truth
2. to _____ a radio programme
3. to _____ a gun
4. to _____ freedom of speech
5. to _____ publicity
6. to _____ a law

6 Grammar focus - 'there is' and 'there are'

Look at this example from the text

'There are 80 million people in the USA who have a gun'.

Fill the gaps using 'there is' or 'there are'

1. _____ 400,000 people who can receive NRA News.
2. _____ some new laws in the USA to control political advertising.
3. _____ many people in the USA who think it is wrong to carry guns.
4. _____ a new radio station in the USA called NRA News.
5. _____ a presidential election in the USA this year.
6. _____ several big companies that own news organisations.

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Key

1 Key Words

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. individual | 2. own | 3. election | 4. balanced |
| 5. amendment | 6. get around | 7. support | 8. broadcast |

2 Find the Information

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. 80 million | 2. 400,000 |
| 3. The vice-president of the NRA | 4. It protects the freedom of speech. |
| 5. Three | 6. John Kerry |

3 Comprehension Check

1. c; 2. b; 3. b; 4. c; 5. a

4 Vocabulary Find the word

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| 1. journalist | 2. presidential candidate | 3. anti-gun |
| 4. pro-gun | 5. owner | 6. essay |

5 Vocabulary Verbs and Nouns

- | | | |
|------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| 1. tell | 2. broadcast | 3. own |
| 4. protect | 5. get | 6. introduce/get around |

6 Grammar Focus 'there is' and 'there are'

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. there are | 2. there are | 3. there are |
| 4. there is | 5. there is | 6. there are |