

RUNAWAY CHILDREN

Sept 26th, 2023

WARM-UP QUESTIONS: *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s).*

1. When are children old enough to look after themselves?
2. Read the headline above. Have you heard this news story? If so, say what you know. If not, can you guess what it is about?

VOCABULARY: *Match the following vocabulary words with a description. Use a dictionary if you need to.*

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|------------------------|--|
| 1. Sheriff's deputy | a) a brother or sister |
| 2. In the line of duty | b) when a gun is drawn, it is out of its holster and ready to be used |
| 3. Pull over | c) to take something away from somebody, usually as a punishment |
| 4. Drawn | d) the last bad event in a series, one that makes you take action to change a situation |
| 5. Warranted | e) a police officer who works in an area called a county, which is often distinct from a particular city |
| 6. Sibling | f) justified or necessary |
| 7. Runaway | g) while doing a job such as those done by police officers or members of the military |
| 8. Confiscate | h) a child who has left home without permission |
| 9. The final straw | i) if someone has criminally wronged you, in some cases you can decide whether they should be punished by the legal system by pressing charges |
| 10. Press charges | j) to make the driver of another vehicle drive to the side of the road and stop |

LISTEN: *Listen to the audio track on eslnewsstories.com or to a reader of the text. Try to fill in the missing words. Then check your answers with the full text (below).*

Sheriff's deputies in the American state of Florida recently had an unexpected encounter in the line of duty. The two police officers _____ over a car that had been reported stolen and were approaching it slowly. Their guns were drawn because such situations often turn deadly, and caution

is warranted. _____, two children, a 10-year-old boy and an 11-year-old girl, stepped out of the car.

The two children, who are siblings, turned out to be runaways. For the girl, her mother confiscating her devices was the _____ straw. With her brother, she was trying to escape to California. Many children decide to run away from home at some _____ in their childhood, but most do not get far. In this case, the pair had traveled 320 kilometers from their home.

The mother of the _____ had reported her car stolen and her children missing four hours earlier, but she had not guessed that the children had actually taken the car. Police detectives interviewed the children and concluded they were _____ being mistreated at home. Additionally, the mother chose not to press charges against her children.

WORD FORMS: *Fill in different forms for the vocabulary from the article. Use a dictionary if you need to. Where there is an x, the word is unimportant for ESL students, has a different meaning, or does not exist. Sometimes there are multiple possible answers, and sometimes the adjective form is a past or present participle.*

VERB	ADJECTIVE	ADVERB	NOUN
	x	x	deputy
	drawn	x	
	warranted	x	
confiscate			

FULL STORY:

Sheriff's deputies in the American state of Florida recently had an unexpected encounter in the line of duty. The two police officers pulled over a car that had been reported stolen and were approaching it slowly. Their guns were drawn because such situations often turn deadly, and caution is warranted. Unexpectedly, two children, a 10-year-old boy and an 11-year-old girl, stepped out of the car.

The two children, who are siblings, turned out to be runaways. For the girl, her mother confiscating her devices was the final straw. With her brother, she was trying to escape to California. Many children decide to run away from home at some point in their childhood, but most do not get far. In this case, the pair had traveled 320 kilometers from their home.

The mother of the children had reported her car stolen and her children missing four hours earlier, but she had not guessed that the children had actually taken the car. Police detectives interviewed

the children and concluded they were not being mistreated at home. Additionally, the mother chose not to press charges against her children.

Sources: apnews.com

For source links, see the article on ESLNewsStories.com

COMPREHENSION: *Decide if the following are true (T) or false (F), and then discuss your answers with your partner(s).*

1. The deputies took out their guns to be ready. (T / F)
2. The kids probably had guns too. (T / F)
3. The girl's mother had stolen her electronic devices. (T / F)
4. The children were returned to California. (T / F)

COMPLETE: *Re-order the following sentences. Capitalize certain words and add punctuation.*

1. children / from / many / home / run / away
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2. expecting / thieves / car / the / were / deputies
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DISCUSSION: *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s). Try to speak in sentences and ask follow-up questions.*

1. What did you think about this story? Was there any surprising information?
2. How are the driving conditions where you live? Are the roads safe or dangerous?
3. At what age do people usually start driving in your country? Did you start driving at that age?
4. What is the longest drive you have done as a driver or passenger? How did you avoid feeling bored?
5. Do you have brothers or sisters? If so, what kinds of things did you do together as children?
6. Did your parents make rules for you that you thought were unfair? Was there anything you could do about it?
7. Did you want to run away from home when you were a child? Did you try? How far did you get?
8. If you ran away from home, where would you go?
9. Have you ever seen or used a gun?

10. How is the job of a police officer in your country? Difficult? Dangerous?

WRITING: Write a paragraph that clearly states your opinion on the above news article. Give reasons for your opinion.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY: 1-e, 2-g, 3-j, 4-b, 5-f, 6-a, 7-h, 8-c, 9-d, 10-i

WORD FORMS: deputize, draw, drawing, warrant, warrant, confiscatable, confiscation

COMPREHENSION: 1-T, 2-F, 3-F, 4-F

COMPLETE: 1. Many children want to run away from home. 2. The deputies were expecting car thieves.