

NEWS ENGLISH LESSONS.com

Oldest death row prisoner dies

MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:

http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1002/100215-death_row.html

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15th February, 2010

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1002/100215-death_row.html

The oldest person on death row in the USA has passed away, aged 94. Viva Leroy Nash died of natural causes in his prison cell. Mr Nash was sentenced to death in 1983 for killing a salesman. He was on the run after escaping from jail. Nash first went to prison in 1930 for armed robbery. He was just 15 years old. He spent 25 years in jail after shooting a police officer in 1947. He then received two life sentences in 1977 for robbery and murder. At the time of his death, Mr Nash was deaf, blind and mentally ill. It's amazing Mr Nash spent so long on death row. He was so old he probably could not remember committing his crimes. He spent most of his life as a criminal in jail. I wonder if it's fair to keep such an old man on death row. In fact, should anyone be there? What good does it do to kill murderers? Many people think it is better to keep killers in prison for life. It's strange that criminals can get a life sentence but then walk free after 20 years. I think life should mean staying in prison forever. It's crazy to let a killer walk the streets.

PHRASE MATCH

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1002/100215-death_row.html

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. The oldest person | a. causes |
| 2. died of natural | b. of his death |
| 3. sentenced to | c. robbery |
| 4. armed | d. on death row |
| 5. He then received two life | e. death |
| 6. At the time | f. sentences |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Mr Nash spent so | a. to kill murderers? |
| 2. committing | b. the streets |
| 3. What good does it do | c. in prison forever |
| 4. keep killers in prison | d. long on death row |
| 5. life should mean staying | e. for life |
| 6. let a killer walk | f. his crimes |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1002/100215-death_row.html

The oldest person _____ the USA has passed away, aged 94. Viva Leroy Nash died _____ his prison cell. Mr Nash was _____ in 1983 for killing a salesman. He was on the run after escaping from jail. Nash first went to prison in 1930 _____. He was just 15 years old. He spent 25 years in jail after shooting a police officer in 1947. He then received _____ in 1977 for robbery and murder. At the time of his death, Mr Nash was deaf, _____.

It's amazing Mr Nash _____ death row. He was so old he probably could not remember committing his crimes. He spent _____ a criminal in jail. I wonder if it's fair to keep such an old man on death row. In fact, should anyone be there? What _____ to kill murderers? Many people think it is better to keep killers _____. It's strange that criminals can get a life sentence _____ after 20 years. I think life should mean staying in prison forever. It's crazy to let a _____.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1002/100215-death_row.html

The oldest person on death row in the USA has (1) _____ away, aged 94. Viva Leroy Nash died of natural (2) _____ in his prison cell. Mr Nash was sentenced to death in 1983 for killing a salesman. He was on the (3) _____ after escaping from jail. Nash first went to prison in 1930 (4) _____ armed robbery. He was just 15 years old. He spent 25 years in jail after shooting a police officer in 1947. He then received two (5) _____ sentences in 1977 for robbery and murder. At the time of his death, Mr Nash was deaf, blind and mentally ill.

It's amazing Mr Nash spent (6) _____ long on death row. He was so old he probably could not remember committing his crimes. He spent most of his life (7) _____ a criminal in jail. I wonder if it's fair to keep such an old man on death row. In (8) _____, should anyone be there? What good does it do to kill murderers? Many people think it is better to keep killers in prison for life. It's strange that criminals can get a life sentence but then walk (9) _____ after 20 years. I think life should mean staying in prison forever. It's crazy to let a killer (10) _____ the streets.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) past | (b) passing | (c) passed |
| 2. | (a) causes | (b) caused | (c) cases |
| 3. | (a) run | (b) walk | (c) jog |
| 4. | (a) by | (b) at | (c) for |
| 5. | (a) lively | (b) life | (c) living |
| 6. | (a) such | (b) so | (c) as |
| 7. | (a) as | (b) has | (c) was |
| 8. | (a) facts | (b) factual | (c) fact |
| 9. | (a) free | (b) freely | (c) freedom |
| 10. | (a) sweep | (b) walk | (c) sleep on |

SPELLING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1002/100215-death_row.html

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. esspad away
2. died of natural sucsae
3. pcgnasei from jail
4. merad robbery
5. sinhtogo a police officer
6. robbery and rredmu

Paragraph 2

7. committing his irmsmec
8. life as a amiricln
9. I wonerd if it's fair
10. a life etnneces
11. staying in prison rfoever
12. walk the rssteet

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1002/100215-death_row.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () man on death row. In fact, should anyone be there? What good does it do to kill murderers? Many people think it
- () causes in his prison cell. Mr Nash was sentenced to death in 1983 for killing a salesman. He was on the run
- () It's amazing Mr Nash spent so long on death row. He was so old he probably could not remember
- (**1**) The oldest person on death row in the USA has passed away, aged 94. Viva Leroy Nash died of natural
- () years in jail after shooting a police officer in 1947. He then received two life sentences in 1977 for
- () robbery and murder. At the time of his death, Mr Nash was deaf, blind and mentally ill.
- () committing his crimes. He spent most of his life as a criminal in jail. I wonder if it's fair to keep such an old
- () free after 20 years. I think life should mean staying in prison forever. It's crazy to let a killer walk the streets.
- () after escaping from jail. Nash first went to prison in 1930 for armed robbery. He was just 15 years old. He spent 25
- () is better to keep killers in prison for life. It's strange that criminals can get a life sentence but then walk

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. The person death oldest on row.

2. prison Nash natural his of in cell died causes.

3. from He the escaping on after jail was run.

4. in spent years jail He 25.

5. and was mentally deaf ill , blind Nash.

6. row death on long so spent Nash.

7. criminal spent his a He of as most life.

8. to good kill does murderers it do What?

9. but Get then a walk life free sentence.

10. to killer streets crazy a the It's let walk.

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. DEATH ROW: Search the Internet and find more information about death row. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about death row. Include an imaginary interview with a prisoner. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to a prisoner on death row. Ask him/her three questions about death row. Give him/her three of your opinions on death row. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.