

Hostages

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Activity 1

Read the following questions and discuss them with your partner.

1. What do you understand by the terms 'to take someone hostage', to kidnap someone, to hold someone to ransom, to abduct someone?
2. Can you remember any famous cases of any of the above in your country? What happened?
3. Can you think of any cases of any of the above in other countries around the world? What was the outcome of those situations?
4. What do you think motivates people to carry out such acts? What do you think they hope to achieve?
5. Do you think such acts are useful in helping those responsible for them to achieve their goals? Why/not?
6. What other ways can you suggest for hostage-takers, kidnappers etc. to achieve their aims?
7. In which cases, if any, do you think acts such as kidnapping, abduction or hostage-taking might be justified?
8. Can you imagine any extreme situation in which you might be driven to take another person hostage?
9. How should people who unlawfully deprive others of their freedom be treated when captured?
10. What difficulties do you think those held captive might face when they are released?

Activity 2

*Go to **EnglishClub.com** and click on the 'TP Homework' icon. Use the information you find there to answer the questions below.*

1. Which famous American heiress was kidnapped in February 1974?
2. Who was Donald DeFreeze?
3. Which Swedish city lent its name to a traumatic stress syndrome?
4. What is the answer to the Quick Quiz?

Activity 3

Can hostage-taking ever be considered justifiable?

If you would like to express your opinion on this subject why not go to **EnglishClub.com** and click on the 'TP Discussion' icon to take part in the forum discussion there?

N.B. Netiquette! PLEASE CHANGE THE DEFAULT SUBJECT LINE TO INDICATE THE OPINION/S IN YOUR POST BECAUSE IN A BUSY THREAD IT HELPS PEOPLE TO DECIDE WHICH POSTS TO READ!

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