

The Second Amendment to the US constitution guarantees the people's right to have and carry arms. Its first version reads: 'A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.' (this is the original version passed by the Congress, which does not make a lot of sense; a revised version, without the first and third commas, was ratified by the States).

Supporters of the unrestricted sale of firearms often argue that the Second Amendment guarantees every citizen's right to have firearms. However, according to supporters of restrictions to the ownership of guns, the original intention of the Second Amendment was to guarantee that the United States would remain an independent country after their uprising against the British Empire, not to guarantee that every citizen had a right to defend themselves against criminals. This amendment made it legal for the rebels to keep weapons which could be used to defend the new country's independence.

In 2008 the Supreme Court ruled that the right to own a weapon for self-defence was not limited to service in a militia.

1.- Fill in the gaps with these figures:

5 11 53 66 223 15,517 60,000,000 200,000,000

<p>In a wikipedia list of serial killers by countries there are 254 names in _____ countries. Countries like Portugal, Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands, Venezuela, Pakistan, New Zealand, Guatemala or Ghana, for example, have one name on that list. Spain has _____ names.</p> <p>Canada, with a similar tradition to that of the USA for owning firearms, has _____ names on that list.</p> <p>The USA has its own wikipedia article for serial killers, with a total of _____ names.</p>	<p>GUNS IN THE USA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2000, the FBI estimated that _____ of the _____ murders that year were committed with firearms. • Fatal shootings in recent years, many involving teenagers, has made the issue of gun control a key debate in US politics. <p>The United States has the largest number of guns in private hands of any country in the world with _____ people owning a combined arsenal of over _____ firearms. Although guns are permitted everywhere, the laws governing gun use vary considerably from state to state.</p>
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The Columbine High School massacre occurred on April 20, 1999 at Columbine High School in the State of Colorado, when two students murdered a total of 12 students and one teacher. They also injured 21 further students, with three other people being injured while attempting to escape the school. Then they committed suicide.

In his documentary "Bowling for Columbine", Michael Moore investigated how the Columbine High School shooting and other violent tragedies have contributed to shape the way of thinking of Americans. According to Moore's thesis, the main reason why Americans seem to be so trigger-happy is that they live in a constant state of fear. In the short film "Ready to talk" fear plays a central part in the plot: the very first sentence we can hear in the film can be found in the list below. All the others are also heard in the film except one.

2.- Match these phrases with their meanings:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Blow one's brains out | Ahuyentar a alguien |
| Blow someone's brains out | Comerse uno el coco |
| Don't worry | Matar a alguien del susto |
| Scare someone away | No te preocupes |
| Scare the shit out of someone | Reventarle a alguien los sesos |

Spoken English is often different from the English we learn in books.

3.- Match these phrases with their meanings:

..., as usual.	como de costumbre
I'll be right back (in two hours)	encantado de conocerte
by the way,...	en seguida vuelvo
I can't run this place by myself	está como un tren
This is a piece of cake	esto está chupado
Just give me a second	lo conseguí
How was it?	¿me estabas espiando?
I nailed it!	me lo prometiste
Nice to meet you.	me rindo
She's hot!	ni siquiera puedes cuidar de ti misma
You promised me!	no puedo llevar el negocio yo solo
Were you spying on me?	por cierto
You can't even take care of yourself.	¿qué tal ha ido?
How about that?	¿qué te parece?
I give up!	un segundo

Knowing how to ask a bartender for something to eat is vital if you are planning to travel to an English-speaking country. These are some of the ways you can order some food and drink at a coffee shop, and some of the things the waiters will say to you or to each other:

4.- Choose the correct way to say these things:

Perdone (para llamar la atención de alguien)	a) I'm sorry.	b) Excuse me.	c) Sorry?
Un momentito.	a) Just a second, please.	b) Wait a moment.	c) Hold on a minute.
¿Qué desea?	a) What do you want?	b) What would you like?	c) What do you wish?
¿Qué le traigo?	a) What can I get you?	b) What do I bring you?	c) What shall I bring?
Un café normal, grande.	a) Normal coffee, big.	b) Regular coffee, large.	c) Average coffee, big.
¿Me puede dar...?	a) I would want...	b) I want...	c) I'd like...
Dos tazas de café	a) two cups of café	b) two glasses of coffee	c) two cups of coffee
¿Me puede dar...?	a) Can you give me...?	b) can you sell me...?	c) can I eat...?
¡Vale, ya va!	a) Right, coming!	b) OK, here it goes!	c) All right, it goes!
Marchando tres cafés con leche	a) Three lattes on their way!	b) Marching three coffees with milk.	c) Coming three coffee lattes.
Aquí tiene el cambio	a) Here you have your change.	b) Here's your change.	c) This is your change.

Sources:

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