

Norway Tragedy

Norway this weekend was recovering from what has been described as its greatest tragedy since World War II. The tragedy started on Friday 22 July when a massive bomb detonated in the centre of the capital Oslo shattering buildings all around. Then about two hours later a lone gunman went on the rampage on an island about 60km from the capital killing 85 students who were attending a youth summer camp, for youths aged 14-21, run by the ruling Labour party. So far 93 people have been killed in the attacks. Another 96 have been injured and some are still missing. The tragedy has rocked the nation and the world. A lone Norwegian gunman has admitted he did it. The question is why? On Sunday Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg told mourners at a memorial service at the city's Lutheran cathedral in Oslo that since the attacks the last two days felt like an eternity. Norway's King Harald V and his wife were also there laying single white flowers as they entered the cathedral.

On Friday afternoon seven people were killed in the government sector of the city. Soon after 85 people were shot dead by the gunman who was dressed as a policeman on Utoeya Island. Police today were using underwater mini submarines to look for dead bodies of those still missing. Some people may have drowned while trying to escape the terror of the gunman coming after them shooting everyone in sight. There have been many courageous tales from students who managed to survive the terrible ordeal. Boat rescuers were lucky the gunman didn't shoot them dead. Some students hid in a log cabin, acting dead for several hours until police broke in to discover them hiding there. Many students on the island saw friends shot dead. They ran for their lives, sometimes with nowhere to go. The gunmen shot many who tried to escape into the sea. After an hour they swam back to rest on the rocks. The gunmen then returned and shot them all dead at point blank range. One girl survived by acting dead. Another student said, "It was like hell."

The 32 year old gunman, Anders Behring Breivik, has admitted it took years of planning to prepare him for the day. He may have used agricultural fertilizer to create his bomb, bought from a supplier near his farm. He has since been charged. Norway is the last place one would expect any terror. The whole world is thinking of Norway.

Category: Norway / Oslo / Youth camp
Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

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EXERCISES

1. Norway Tragedy: Briefly, what three things do you know about the recent Norwegian tragedy? Go round the room swapping details.

2. Geography: Norway: Where is Norway? What is its capital? What countries surround it? What seas lie off its coast? Draw a map on the board then **look on Google maps** to help you.

3. Dictation: The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

4. Reading: The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

5. Vocabulary: Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

6. The article: Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?

7. Norway Tragedy: Think of five things you might have seen immediately after the bomb went off in Oslo. Then add five things you might have seen on Utoeya Island as the crazy gunmen went on the rampage. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these.

Oslo bomb	Utoeya Island
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

8. Let's think! In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with **Norwegian Tragedy**. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

9. Let's roleplay 1: Radio Norway International: *In pairs*. You are in the *Radio Norway International* studio. One of you is the presenter; the other student is the guest (*Yourself*). Today's interview is: *Norwegian Tragedy*. *5 minutes*.

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10. Let's chat! *In pairs.* You are in a pub in Norway. One of you is on holiday in Norway. One of you is a local. Get talking about what to see in Norway.

11. Let's roleplay 2: CNN Radio: In pairs/groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *CNN Radio* studio in Oslo. Today's interview is about: *Norwegian Tragedy*.

1	A student who was on the island	3	A rescuer in Oslo
2	A rescuer going to the island	4	Norwegian King

The teacher will choose some pairs to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

12. Let's do 'The Article Quiz': Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A

- 1) Name the Norwegian Prime Minister
- 2) Name the Norwegian King.
- 3) Name the gunman.
- 4) Name the Norwegian capital.
- 5) Name the island.

Student B

- 1) How many people were killed on the island?
- 2) What happened in Oslo?
- 3) Describe what one witness said.
- 4) What was the gunman dressed as?
- 5) What did some students do?

13. Let's think! Think of five things you know about the gunman. Then add five other things you know about the tragedy. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these.

Five things about the gunman	Five other things about the tragedy
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

14. Let's write an e-mail: Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **Norway Tragedy**. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

15. Sentence starters: Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) The gunman _____
- b) Norway _____
- c) The tragedy _____

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What made this crazy gunman do what he did?
- 3) How would you have reacted if you were on the island?
- 4) How did rescuers react?
- 5) How has the world press reacted?
- 6) Will you consider taking a holiday to Norway now?
- 7) Has Norway now changed from what it was? How?
- 8) Has Norway been too open?
- 9) What is your opinion on all this?
- 10) How did an island paradise turn into hell?

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you read?
- 2) Should the gunmen be shot dead in revenge? Why? Why not? Explain.
- 3) What would you say to the people of Norway?
- 4) How has the world reacted?
- 5) When did you first hear about the tragedy?
- 6) What were you doing at the time you first heard about the tragedy?
- 7) What will Norway do next?
- 8) What advice would you offer any of the students who were on the island when the shooting took place?
- 9) Why did this happen? Explain.
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING

Let's discuss! The Norwegian tragedy

Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1

Consider the following points to discuss:

20 things about the Norwegian tragedy.

The teacher can moderate the session.

GAP FILL: READING:

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Norway Tragedy

Norway this weekend was recovering from what has been described as its greatest tragedy since World War II. The (1)_____ started on Friday 22 July when a massive bomb (2)_____ in the centre of the capital Oslo shattering buildings all around. Then about two hours later a (3)_____ gunman went on the (4)_____ on an island about 60km from the capital killing 85 students who were attending a youth summer camp, for youths aged 14-21, run by the ruling Labour party. So far 93 people have been killed in the attacks. Another 96 have been injured and some are still missing. The tragedy has rocked the nation and the world. A lone Norwegian (5)_____ has admitted he did it. The question is why? On Sunday Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg told (6)_____ at a memorial service at the city's Lutheran cathedral in Oslo that since the (7)_____ the last two days felt like an (8)_____. Norway's King Harald V and his wife were also there laying single white flowers as they entered the cathedral.

On Friday afternoon seven people were killed in the government (1)_____ of the city. Soon after 85 people were shot dead by the gunman who was dressed as a (2)_____ on Utoeya Island. Police today were using underwater mini submarines to look for dead bodies of those still missing. Some people may have drowned while trying to escape the (3)_____ of the gunman coming after them shooting everyone in sight. There have been many courageous tales from students who managed to survive the terrible ordeal. Boat (4)_____ were lucky the gunman didn't shoot them dead. Some (5)_____ hid in a log cabin, acting dead for several hours until police broke in to discover them hiding there. Many students on the island saw friends (6)_____ dead. They ran for their lives, sometimes with nowhere to go. The gunmen shot many who tried to (7)_____ into the sea. After an hour they swam back to rest on the rocks. The gunmen then returned and shot them all dead at point blank range. One girl survived by acting dead. Another student said, "It was like (8)_____."

attacks
mourners
rampage
lone
eternity
detonated
tragedy
gunman

shot
students
terror
policeman
escape
sector
hell
rescuers

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Norway Tragedy

_____ was recovering from what has been described as its greatest tragedy since World War II. The tragedy started on Friday 22 July when a _____ in the centre of the capital Oslo shattering buildings all around. Then about two hours later a lone gunman went _____ island about 60km from the capital killing 85 students who were attending a youth summer camp, for youths aged 14-21, run by the ruling Labour party. So far 93 people have been killed in the attacks. Another 96 have been injured and _____. The tragedy has rocked the nation and the world. A lone Norwegian gunman has admitted he did it. _____? On Sunday Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg told mourners at a memorial service at the city's Lutheran cathedral in Oslo that since the attacks the last two days felt like an eternity. Norway's King Harald V and his wife were also there laying single white flowers as they _____.

On Friday afternoon seven people were killed in the government sector of the city. Soon after 85 people were shot _____ who was dressed as a policeman on Utoeya Island. Police today were using underwater mini submarines to look for dead bodies of those still missing. Some people may have drowned while trying to _____ the gunman coming after them shooting everyone in sight. There have been many courageous tales from students who managed to survive _____. Boat rescuers were lucky the gunman didn't shoot them dead. Some students hid in a log cabin, acting dead for several hours until police broke in to discover them hiding there. Many students on _____ shot dead. They ran for their lives, sometimes with nowhere to go. The gunmen shot many who tried to escape into the sea. After an hour they swam back _____. The gunmen then returned and shot them all dead at point blank range. One girl survived by acting dead. Another student said, "_____."

GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Norway Tragedy

Norway (1)___ weekend was recovering from (2)___ has been described as its greatest tragedy since World War II. The tragedy started on Friday 22 July when a massive bomb detonated in the centre of the capital Oslo shattering buildings all around. (3)___ about two hours later a lone gunman went on the rampage on an island about 60km from the capital killing 85 students who were attending a youth summer camp, for youths aged 14-21, run by the ruling Labour party. So far 93 people have been killed in the attacks. Another 96 have been injured and (4)___ are (5)___ missing. The tragedy has rocked the nation and the world. A lone Norwegian gunman has admitted he did it. The question is why? On Sunday Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg told mourners at a memorial service at the city's Lutheran cathedral in Oslo (6)___ since the attacks the last two days felt like an eternity. Norway's King Harald V and his wife were also (7)___ laying single white flowers as (8)___ entered the cathedral.

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SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	terror	11	rampage
2	tragedy	12	lone
3	cathedral	13	mourners
4	detonated	14	shattering
5	memorial	15	fertilizer
6	eternity	16	flowers
7	government	17	described
8	sector	18	agricultural
9	discover	19	policeman
10	ordeal	20	underwater

LINKS

http://edition.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/europe/07/24/norway.terror.attacks/index.html?hpt=hp_t1

http://edition.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/europe/07/23/norway.society.change/index.html?hpt=hp_c1

http://edition.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/europe/07/23/norway.survivors/index.html?hpt=hp_t1

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-14268100>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-14260297>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-14266815>

ANSWERS

GAP FILL: Norway Tragedy: Norway this weekend was recovering from what has been described as its greatest tragedy since World War II. The **tragedy** started on Friday 22 July when a massive bomb **detonated** in the centre of the capital Oslo shattering buildings all around. Then about two hours later a **lone** gunman went on the **rampage** on an island about 60km from the capital killing 85 students who were attending a youth summer camp, for youths aged 14-21, run by the ruling Labour party. So far 93 people have been killed in the attacks. Another 96 have been injured and some are still missing. The tragedy has rocked the nation and the world. A lone Norwegian **gunman** has admitted he did it. The question is why? On Sunday Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg told **mourners** at a memorial service at the city's Lutheran cathedral in Oslo that since the **attacks** the last two days felt like an **eternity**. Norway's King Harald V and his wife were also there laying single white flowers as they entered the cathedral.

On Friday afternoon seven people were killed in the government **sector** of the city. Soon after 85 people were shot dead by the gunman who was dressed as a **policeman** on Utoeya Island. Police today were using underwater mini submarines to look for dead bodies of those still missing. Some people may have drowned while trying to escape the **terror** of the gunman coming after them shooting everyone in sight. There have been many courageous tales from students who managed to survive the terrible ordeal. Boat **rescuers** were lucky the gunman didn't shoot them dead. Some **students** hid in a log cabin, acting dead for several hours until police broke in to discover them hiding there. Many students on the island saw friends **shot** dead. They ran for their lives, sometimes with nowhere to go. The gunmen shot many who tried to **escape** into the sea. After an hour they swam back to rest on the rocks. The gunmen then returned and shot them all dead at point blank range. One girl survived by acting dead. Another student said, "It was like **hell**." (V3)

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