

Gang members taught first aid for stab wounds

Level 2 • Intermediate

1 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences using these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers are given to help you.

rehabilitation	controversial	offender	voluntary	rival
ice pick	resuscitation	dispute	consequence	stab

- If you _____ someone, you injure or kill them by pushing a knife or a sharp object into their body. (title)
- _____ is the process of helping someone to return to a healthy, independent and useful life. (subtitle)
- An _____ is someone who has committed a crime. (subtitle)
- A _____ is a person, group or team that competes with another. (para 2)
- An _____ is a metal tool with a sharp point used for breaking ice. (para 3)
- If you work on a _____ basis, you work for free to help people. (para 4)
- A _____ is a serious and long-lasting disagreement, especially between groups of people. (para 5)
- _____ is the process of making an unconscious person start to breathe again. (para 6)
- If something is described as _____, people disagree about it or disapprove of it. (para 7)
- The _____ of an action is its result or effect. (para 7)

2 Find the information

Look in the text and find this information as quickly as possible.

- Where do the students who had the idea for the course study?
- What does YOT stand for?
- How much does knife and gun crime cost the National Health Service each year?
- How old was the boy who was shot in the back?
- How old are the offenders attending the class?

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Rehabilitation course in Liverpool gives life-saving skills to young offenders involved in knife and gun crime

Amelia Hill

30 December, 2010

- 1 It might seem dangerous to teach young, violent criminals the first aid techniques that could save the lives of their fellow gang members but a new project is doing exactly that. The course is the idea of a group of medical students at Liverpool University. It teaches teenagers who are already involved in knife and gun crime the skills to give pre-hospital care immediately after a knife or gun injury.
- 2 The two-week course is now a central part of the Young Offenders Team's rehabilitation programme in Liverpool. "The course changed my life," said Michael, 16, who was found guilty of threatening a rival gang member with a knife earlier this year. "It makes you think, because you realize you can kill someone really easily with a knife. There's no safe place on the body to stab someone. I had a friend who was stabbed recently. I could have helped him if I'd done this course before it happened. But it's good to know these things in case I'm in that situation again," he added. "I've told my friends what I've learned here, so now they all know the basic first aid techniques too."
- 3 World Health Organization research showed that knives were used in almost four out of ten killings of young people in the UK last year, more than any other weapon. The cost to the UK health service of gun and knife crime is more than £3 million a year. In the Liverpool area alone, the tragic list of teenage killings includes a boy of 11 who was killed when he was shot in the back and an 18-year-old who was murdered with an ice pick in a racially motivated attack.
- 4 Nick Rhead, a fifth-year medical student, helped to start the course after realizing that most of the 11- to 16-year-old offenders attending his general first aid class had either known someone who had been stabbed or shot, had stabbed someone themselves or had been stabbed. "I realized we had the chance to make real contact with young people involved in extremely high-risk behaviours, who had to engage with us because it was part of their court order," said Rhead, who teaches the course on a voluntary basis.
- 5 "Talking to them, we realized knife violence isn't just something that drug dealers and gangs involved in territory disputes do. For young people today, it almost seems like a game. It's part of everyday gang culture to stab someone in the back of the knee or the arm. They don't realize they can kill someone like that. At the same time, these young people could also provide first aid when people are injured."
- 6 The course, which all young offenders must attend, teaches the basic principles of dealing with knife and gun wounds, as well as resuscitation and the recovery position. These principles are taught in two 90-minute sessions. The course has the full support of Steve Boote, a senior member of the YOT. "Knife and gun crime is so prevalent that it seemed common sense to teach every young offender the basics of specialized first aid," he said. "The nice thing about this project is that someone from the YOT is always in the class to make sure the young people engage," he added. "I have the power to rule that they have breached their court order if they refuse to take part, and return them to court."
- 7 The scheme is controversial because the medical students and YOT team workers do not try to stop the young people from being violent. "We don't want to say they should never stab people because that's not our job," said Rhead. "We hope the course will change their behaviour but we don't preach to them. They know it's wrong. We're just there to reduce the number of deaths and limit the consequences of any violence. If we give these young people the idea that they can deal with the consequences of violence, this doesn't mean there will be more incidents," he added. "These young people are already involved in high-risk behaviour."

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8 Luke, an 18-year-old former offender who attended the course earlier this year, agreed. "After doing this project I have stopped going around with the wrong sorts of people because I realized that the consequences of being mixed up in this sort of thing are too serious. I've persuaded a couple of my friends to join me. Another thing I realized was how bad knife

wounds can make you look. Even if you leave that lifestyle, if you've got a big knife scar on your face, people won't want to give you a job. It made me think," he added.

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3 Comprehension check

Are these statements true (T) or false (F) according to the information in the article?

1. The medical students try to persuade the young offenders to give up violence.
2. The course teaches the young offenders the basic principles of dealing with knife and gun wounds.
3. There are a few safe places on the body where you can stab someone.
4. The course is the idea of a group of medical students.
5. Knife violence is seen as a game for some young people.
6. The young offenders attend the course on a voluntary basis.

4 Find the word

Find the following words and phrases in the text.

1. a three-word expression meaning *first aid* (para 1)
2. a two-word expression meaning *caused by racial factors* (para 3)
3. a two-word expression meaning *a ruling made by a court of law that someone must or must not do something* (para 4)
4. a two-word expression meaning *the ability to use good judgement and make good decisions* (para 6)
5. a verb meaning *to say that you will not do something that someone has asked you to do* (para 6)
6. a verb meaning *to give people advice or tell them how to behave in a way that annoys them* (para 7)
7. a three-word expression meaning *involved in a bad situation* (para 8)
8. a noun meaning *a permanent mark on your skin where you have been injured* (para 8)

5 Verb + noun collocations

Match the verbs on the left with the nouns or nouns phrases on the right.

- | | |
|-----------|------------------------|
| 1. attend | a. contact |
| 2. save | b. someone's behaviour |
| 3. make | c. a course |
| 4. limit | d. a court order |
| 5. breach | e. lives |
| 6. change | f. the consequences |

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6 Word-building

Complete the table.

	verb	noun
1.	injure	
2.	recover	
3.	behave	
4.	dispute	
5.	resuscitate	
6.	offend	(person)

7 Discussion

Is it a good idea to teach young criminals first aid skills? Why? Why not?

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KEY

1 Key words

1. stab
2. rehabilitation
3. offender
4. rival
5. ice pick
6. voluntary
7. dispute
8. resuscitation
9. controversial
10. consequence

2 Find the information

1. Liverpool University
2. Young Offenders Team
3. £3 million
4. 11
5. 11 to 16

3 Comprehension check

1. F
2. T
3. F
4. T
5. T
6. F

4 Find the word

1. pre-hospital care
2. racially motivated
3. court order
4. common sense
5. refuse
6. preach
7. mixed up in
8. scar

5 Verb + noun collocations

1. c
2. e
3. a
4. f
5. d
6. b

6 Word-building

1. injury
2. recovery
3. behaviour
4. dispute
5. resuscitation
6. offender