

# Protests

## Pre-Reading

### A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Have you ever taken part in a protest?
2. Why do some peaceful protests turn violent?
3. Why are riots often led by youths?

### B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

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|-------------------------------|---|
| ___ 1. campus                 | a) feeling very discouraged, wanting change           |
| ___ 2. riot                   | b) a violent disruption of the peace by a large group |
| ___ 3. frustrated             | c) the fees you pay for education                     |
| ___ 4. tuition                | d) a structural barrier that prevents movement        |
| ___ 5. corruption             | e) to get progressively worse without an end in sight |
| ___ 6. on strike              | f) immoral and dishonest behavior                     |
| ___ 7. picket                 | g) to hold in a secure area                           |
| ___ 8. barricade              | h) to damage property on purpose                      |
| ___ 9. vandalize              | i) the grounds for a college or university            |
| ___ 10. detain                | j) to hide  |
| ___ 11. conceal               | k) refusing to work (as a form of protest)            |
| ___ 12. spiral out of control | l) a person or group protesting a specific issue      |



## Reading

### PROTESTS

*Not without a fight*

1. A day does not go by without a protest taking place somewhere in the world. Protesters gather on university **campuses**, in front of government buildings, and in city centers and parks. Some protests are peaceful while others are violent. Peaceful protests sometimes turn into **riots** when police arrive on the scene.
2. It is part of human nature to stand up for one's rights. Many protests are related to the economy. People are **frustrated** with being unemployed, underpaid, or unable to afford **tuition** or childcare. Protests are often aimed directly at the government. Citizens speak out against inequality, new laws, government cuts, and **corruption**. Protesters and people **on strike** often form a line outside a building called a **picket** line.
3. Police forces often anticipate riots. Sometimes riot police or members of the military are on hand before important sporting events or government meetings. Riot police wear special protection and are trained to restore order. They use tear gas, rubber bullets, and **barricades** to protect important figures and themselves. Some police carry megaphones to communicate with the crowd. Angry or drunk rioters often throw rocks, torch vehicles, and **vandalize** property. In some countries, police fear the people. In other countries, it's the other way around. Which way is it usually in your country?
4. Protesters are often **detained** or arrested. Sometimes protesters are arrested because they are violent. Other times they are arrested for entering private property. In 2012, Russian protesters were arrested for simply wearing a white ribbon. These anti-Putin protesters had been warned not to protest on the day of Vladimir Putin's inauguration. Protesters typically fight for their beliefs and ignore these types of warnings.
5. These days, protesters are often hooded or masked youths who **conceal** their identity. They don't want their pictures showing up on social media sites. In 2012, the Canadian government proposed a new law requiring protesters to show their faces. The government felt this law would help prevent protests from **spiraling out of control**. Do you think this is a good law to have?

*"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."*

—Martin Luther King Jr.

## Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers in your notebook.

1. Where do protests often take place?
2. Why do people typically join a protest?
3. How do riot police differ from everyday police officers?
4. What techniques do riot police use to restore order?
5. Why does the reading mention Vladimir Putin?

## Vocabulary Review

### A. Complete the Sentences

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1. You may need to change the word forms.

1. Police \_\_\_\_\_ is a problem in my city. Police officers steal money from citizens.
2. The cost of \_\_\_\_\_ doubled this year. Many of the students who are picketing can't afford university anymore.
3. Miguel broke through the \_\_\_\_\_. The police detained him for five hours.
4. Rioters \_\_\_\_\_ the department store. They broke all of the windows and set off the alarms.
5. The peaceful protest by strikers soon \_\_\_\_\_. Riot police arrived on the scene an hour later.

### B. Odd One Out

Choose the word or phrase that does NOT belong in the group.

- |               |                  |            |            |                 |
|---------------|------------------|------------|------------|-----------------|
| 1. a) annoyed | 2. a) university | 3. a) riot | 4. a) hide | 5. a) barricade |
| b) bothered   | b) campus        | b) control | b) conceal | b) fence        |
| c) frustrated | c) vandal        | c) fight   | c) mask    | c) tear gas     |
| d) excited    | d) tuition       | d) chaos   | d) restore | d) wall         |

### C. News Report

Choose five words from the vocabulary on page 1. In your notebook, write a fictional news report about a protest in your hometown. Use the words you chose in your report.

## Research

### WHO'S BEEN PROTESTING RECENTLY?

Have any protests been in the news lately? Choose one and do a little research on the Internet. Try to find answers to the following questions, and then present your findings to the class.

1. Who was protesting?

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2. What were they protesting about?

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3. Where and when did the protest take place?

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4. How did the police/military react?

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5. Did the protesters achieve their goals?

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## Discussion

1. Which types of protests are more effective, peaceful or violent ones?
2. What adjectives can you use to describe people who stand up for their rights?
3. If you had the chance to lead a peaceful protest today, what would it be for?
4. What role does social media play in today's protests?
5. Should protesters have the right to conceal their identity?

## Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

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4. Protesters are often \_\_\_\_\_ or arrested. Sometimes protesters are arrested because they are violent. Other times they are arrested for entering private property. In 2012, Russian protesters were arrested for simply wearing a white ribbon. These anti-Putin protesters had been warned not to protest on the day of Vladimir Putin's inauguration. Protesters typically fight for their beliefs and ignore these types of warnings.
5. These days, protesters are often hooded or masked youths who \_\_\_\_\_ their identity. They don't want their pictures showing up on social media sites. In 2012, the Canadian government proposed a new law requiring protesters to show their faces. The government felt this law would help prevent protests from \_\_\_\_\_ out of control. Do you think this is a good law to have?

# Answer Key

**LESSON DESCRIPTION:**

Students read about protests and riots. After reviewing related vocabulary, they discuss questions about youth-led protests and laws related to protesting. Students also practice writing a fictional news report using key vocabulary.

**TEACHING TIPS:**

See *Discussion Starters Teaching Guide* (<https://esllibrary.com/courses/72/lessons/>) for a variety of ways to use the reading.

**LEVEL:** High Int

**TIME:** 1.5–2 hours

**TAGS:** discussion, protests, protest, politics, riots, police, military, law, rights, human rights

## Pre-Reading

**A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS**

Have students work in small groups or as a class.

**B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW**

- |      |      |      |      |       |       |
|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 1. i | 3. a | 5. f | 7. l | 9. h  | 11. j |
| 2. b | 4. c | 6. k | 8. d | 10. g | 12. e |

## Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. Discuss the quote. You can also play the listening as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 5. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with.

## Comprehension

- Protests often take place on campuses, in front of government buildings, and in city centers and parks.
- People typically join a protest because they are unemployed, underpaid, or unhappy with their government.
- Riot police differ from everyday police officers because they wear protective clothing and are trained to restore order.

- They use different types of weapons such as tear gas and rubber bullets. They also use barricades and megaphones.
- The reading mentions Putin because, at a protest in Russia, some protesters were detained for simply wearing a white ribbon. In some cases, just associating with a certain group can cause a person to be arrested.

## Vocabulary Review

**A. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES**

- |               |               |                 |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. corruption | 3. barricade  | 5. spiraled out |
| 2. tuition    | 4. vandalized | of control      |

**B. ODD ONE OUT**

- |      |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1. d | 2. c | 3. b | 4. d | 5. c |
|------|------|------|------|------|

Challenge your students to identify the part of speech that works for all the words in each set.

- |               |          |          |
|---------------|----------|----------|
| 1. adjectives | 3. nouns | 5. nouns |
| 2. nouns      | 4. verbs |          |

**C. NEWS REPORT**

Answers will vary.

*(continued on the next page...)*

## Answer Key cont.

### Research

Answers will vary.

### Discussion

Answers will vary.

Can be done individually or in small groups or pairs.

### Listening

1. campuses, riots
2. frustrated, tuition, corruption, on strike, picket
3. barricades, vandalize
4. detained
5. conceal, spiraling

#### SPELLING NOTE:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the words *Center* and *Behavior*. Most other English-speaking countries spell these words this way: *Centre* and *Behaviour*. Also, you may want to point out to your students that *Protester* and *Protestor* are both acceptable spellings in the US, as are *Spiraling/Spiraled* and *Spiralling/Spiralled*. In Canada, *Protester* and *Spiralling/Spiralled* are the best spellings.