

Guns in Japan



● Warm-up Questions

1. How many times have you shot a gun?

2. What do you think about hunting?

3. What kind of violence is in Japan?

4. Do you think the police should always carry guns?

VOCABULARY

● WRITE THE CORRECT WORD IN THE SENTENCES BELOW

especially, attend, shooting, a criminal record, relatives, inspection, strict, rarely, deal with, violent, high-ranking, cause lots of problems

1. Doctors do careful _____ on sick people.
2. I couldn't _____ the meeting because I woke up too late.
3. I _____ see police officers with guns in Japan.
4. I think guns _____ in the USA.
5. Drunk men can become _____, so be careful in Susukino at night.

Guns in Japan

Japan is one of the safest countries in the world, especially when it comes to guns. In 2014, there were only 6 gun deaths in Japan. In contrast, there were 33,599 gun deaths in the USA the same year.

It is not easy to get a gun in Japan. First, a person must attend an all-day class, take a written test, and get a score over 95% on a shooting exam.

If a person passes all of them, there is also a mental health exam and a blood test to check for drugs. If a person has a criminal record, they can't get a gun. The police also check the person's relatives and even co-workers to see if the person can be trusted to own a gun.

There are few gun shops in Japan. By law, there can be no more than 3 in any prefecture. Every year, gun owners must bring their gun to the police for an inspection. After 3 years, the gun licence expires, and the gun owner must take the all-day class and tests again.

Japan's gun laws started in 1958, but Japan has always had strict laws for guns.

Writer Ian Overton says, "Japan is the first country in the world to have gun laws. The laws are strict so people know that guns aren't a part of Japanese society."

Many Americans have guns. They are also

are afraid of the police. This is because the police sometimes shoot people making trouble. In contrast, Japanese police officers rarely use guns. Instead, they are expected to practice judo and kendo. In 2015, police officers across Japan only shot their guns 6 times.

So, how do the police in Japan deal with violent people? The police will get large *futons* and roll up a person who is acting violent or drunk into a *maki* roll. Then the police carry them back to the station to calm down.

Japan is not the only country with almost zero gun crime. In Switzerland, gun violence is also very low. However, 48% of Swiss people have guns. People in Switzerland feel they need a gun to protect their country from attack.

Even though it is hard to get a gun in Japan, gun crime still happens. In August, 2020, a high-ranking *yazuka* member was shot while walking home in the city of Iwahuni. The man was shot 3 times in the stomach, but survived.

Gun crime is rare in Japan, but sometimes guns cause lots of problems. In 2020, one 26-year-old police officer forgot his gun in a public toilet in Narita Airport.

One week before, another officer left his gun in a 7-Eleven toilet in Okazaki City. Maybe it's true that customers can find anything in Japanese convenience stores.

PREPOSITION PRACTICE

Fill in the blanks using: out, in, like, at, away, by, from, over, about, for, to, down, with

Write a proper preposition for each sentence. Sometimes, there is more than one answer.

1. I was attacked _____ a dog when I was walking _____ my home.
2. Criminals hide guns _____ the police because guns are illegal.
3. Don't aim your gun _____ me. You might shoot me _____ the foot.
4. Everybody please calm _____. We will find the missing cobra _____ no time.
5. Hey, check _____ that guy flying _____ the sky. He looks _____ Superman.
6. The robber emptied _____ all the money _____ the safe.
7. I found _____ today that some police officers leave their guns _____ toilets.
8. It's dangerous _____ children to play _____ guns.
9. The robber got _____ by climbing _____ a wall.
10. Did you read the story _____ the stolen Mona Lisa? The painting _____ da Vinci was stolen _____ The Louvre Museum _____ an Italian man.

WRITING SENTENCES

1. across: _____
2. check: _____
3. violent: _____
4. few: _____
5. blood: _____
6. stomach: _____