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Prohibition in the 1920s

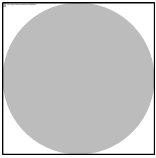
SPEAKING

LEVEL
Advanced

NUMBER
C1_1068S_EN

LANGUAGE
English






Goals

- Can read, listen to and understand an in-depth text about the prohibition of alcohol in the USA,
- Can present my own opinion on the law and prohibition and discuss its links to human nature.



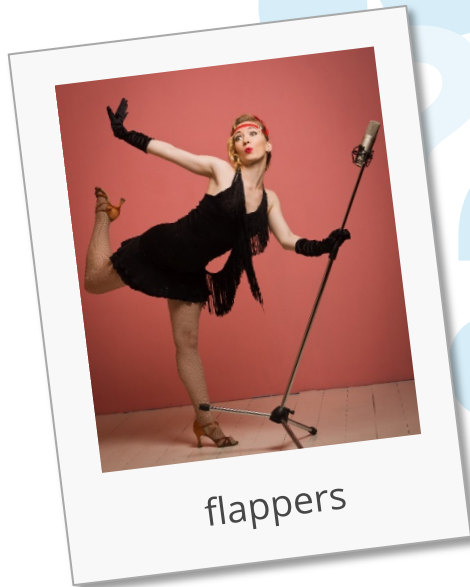


Prohibition of alcohol in the USA in the **1920s** on the one hand saw consumption of alcohol drop, while on the other many millions broke the law to drink illegal **liquor**.



The USA in the 1920s

What do you
know about the
USA in the
1920s?





Alcohol restrictions

Alcohol is restricted or prohibited in many parts of the world. Do you know any of these places and the reasons behind the restrictions?





Prohibition in your country

Are any other products prohibited or restricted in your country? Do you think they are legal or illegal elsewhere in the world?





Prohibition in the 1920s

Prohibition saw the production and sale of alcohol banned in America from 1920 to 1933. Though the movement to ban alcohol had been widely supported, millions of Americans were willing to break the law by drinking illegally brewed and **procured** liquor.

The origins of alcohol Prohibition lie 100 years before its **ratification** into law. The **Temperance** Movement started in the churches in the 1820s and gained much support among middle class Americans, particularly women. Alcoholism, family violence and political corruption in the **saloons** were the driving forces behind the movement. Laws were **rolled out** in many communities before the prohibition of alcohol became law in 1920 across the United States.

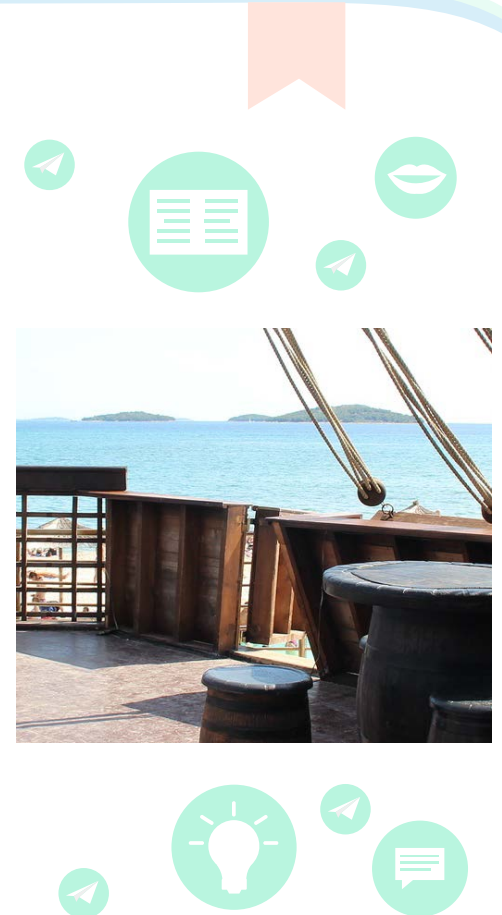




Prohibition in the 1920s

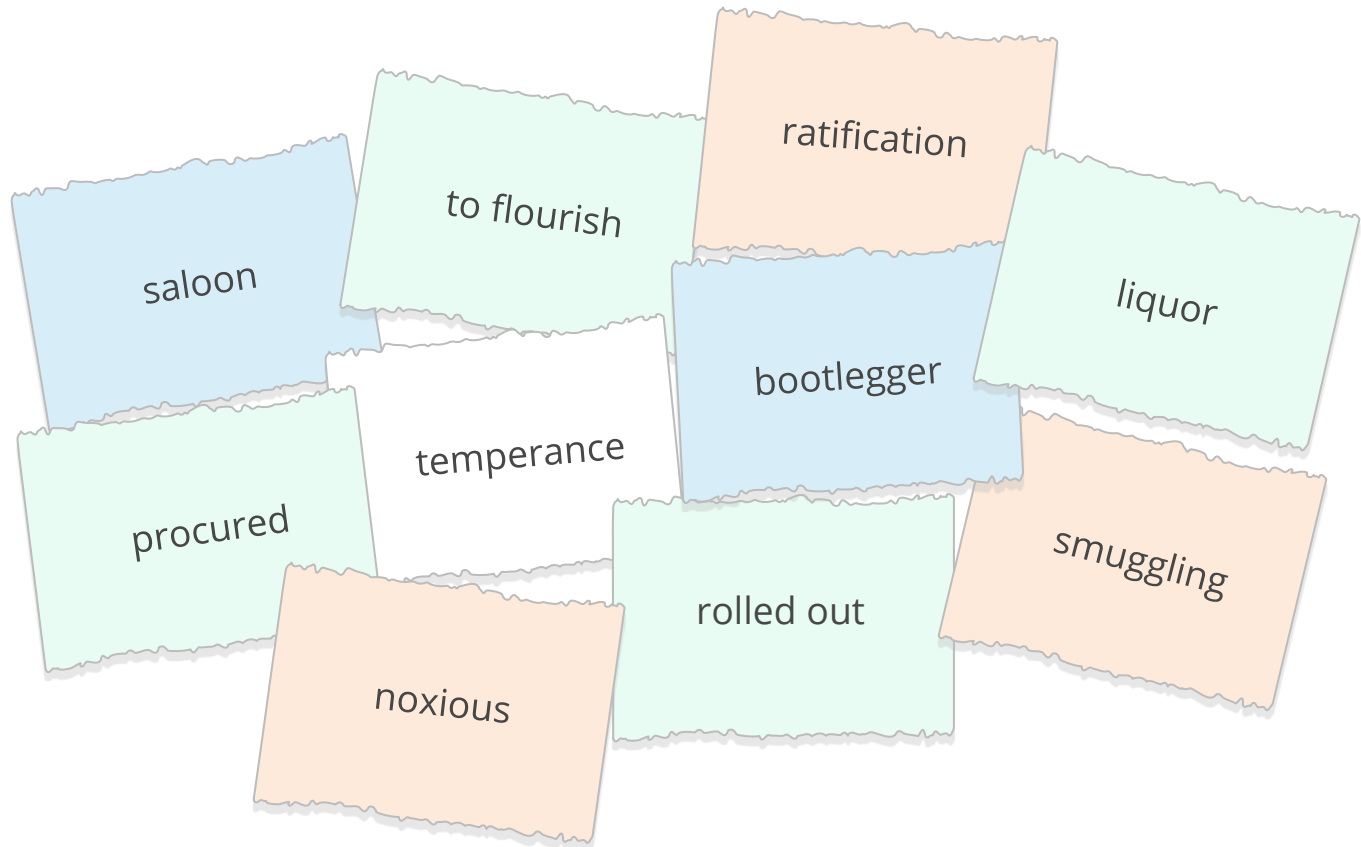
Prohibition, however, was not enforced with any great success. First, the importation of alcohol **flourished**, mainly from the Caribbean, Mexico and Canada via sea. When this type of **smuggling** became more difficult, other sources were found, including medicinal whiskey sold at drugstores and industrial alcohol which was stripped of **noxious** chemicals before being mixed and sold. Finally, **bootleggers**, illegal producers of alcohol, began to make and sell their own **liquor** in the late 1920s.

Prohibition was seen as an early success. Arrests connected to public drunkenness declined and the consumption of alcohol went down by 30%. Though in the end prohibition was deemed a failure, it did manage to halve the consumption of alcohol in the 1920s and levels of alcohol consumption did not match those of 1919 until the 1940s.





What do these words mean?





Complete the sentences

Using the vocabulary from the previous page, plus anything else you can remember, finish these sentences orally with your teacher.

1. Prohibition was ratified...
2. Some of the reasons for prohibition were...
3. Smuggling...
4. Bootleggers...
5. The successes of prohibition included...



Over to you

Answer these questions related to prohibition.



Are you surprised by the support for, and early success of, prohibition?

Do you think it was an easy choice to break the prohibition law?

Would you have been willing to drink smuggled alcohol, or drinks mixed from noxious chemicals?



What do you think?

Do you think that making something illegal is the best way of reducing its popularity?



Human nature and prohibition

Read the quote below and discuss it in relation to your answer in the previous activity. Do you agree or disagree with the opinion below?

“As soon as you tell a person, or indeed a group of people, that they can't have something, all they can and will think about is whatever you have banned. The best way to encourage people to avoid something is through educating them about why they shouldn't have it in the first place.”



Get ready to listen

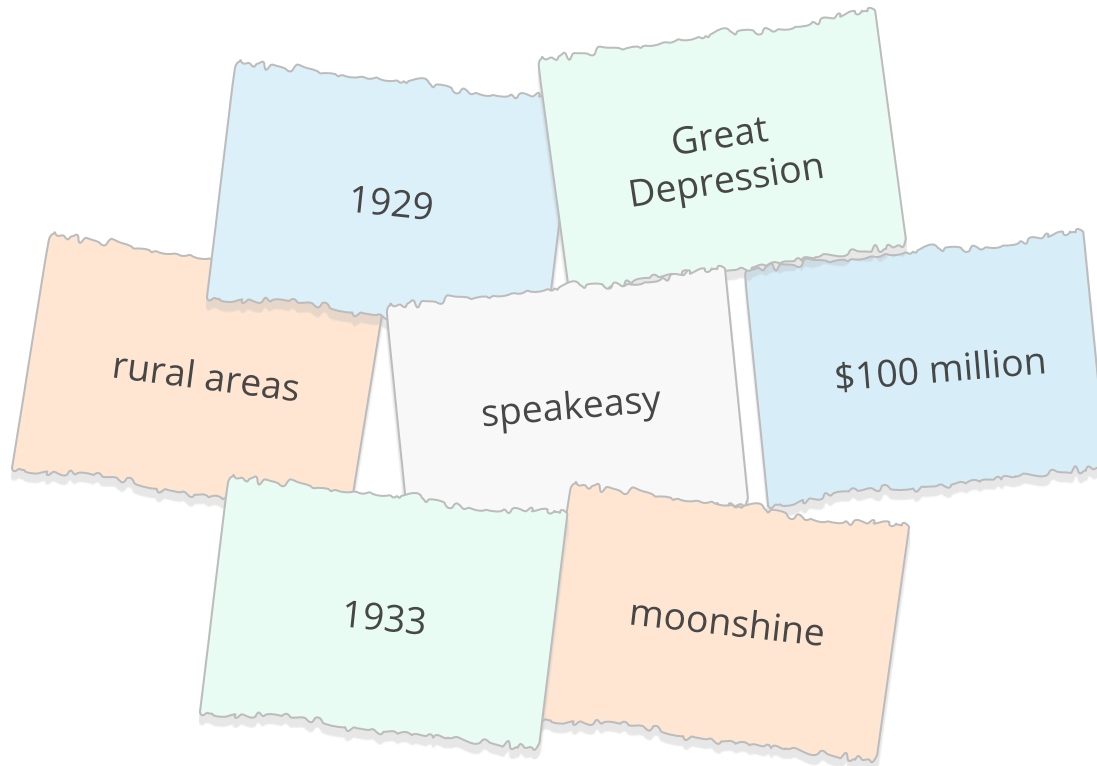


The next few slides will focus on training your listening comprehension



Listening activity

The following numbers, dates and words are mentioned in the listening text – as you listen, make notes on the details of each. When your teacher is finished reading, take each thing and give a piece of background information on it.





Do you know these words from the text? Can you remember why they were mentioned?

disparity

speakeasy

moonshine

notorious

massacre

romanticised

spiral

revenue

repeal



Over to you

Answer these questions with your teacher.



1

Bars based on speakeasies have boomed in recent years. Have you ever visited one? Would you like to?

2

Have you ever tried moonshine? Where in the world is it common to drink this?

3

Do you think the ending of prohibition was a good thing?



Good news?

How do you think people would have reacted when Prohibition of alcohol was lifted? Imagine how the atmosphere might have been and describe it.





Gangsters

**Why do you think we romanticise gangsters?
What films or TV shows about gangsters do you know?**

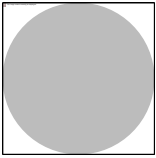




Prohibition now

How do you think people would react if prohibition were ratified into law again?





Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!





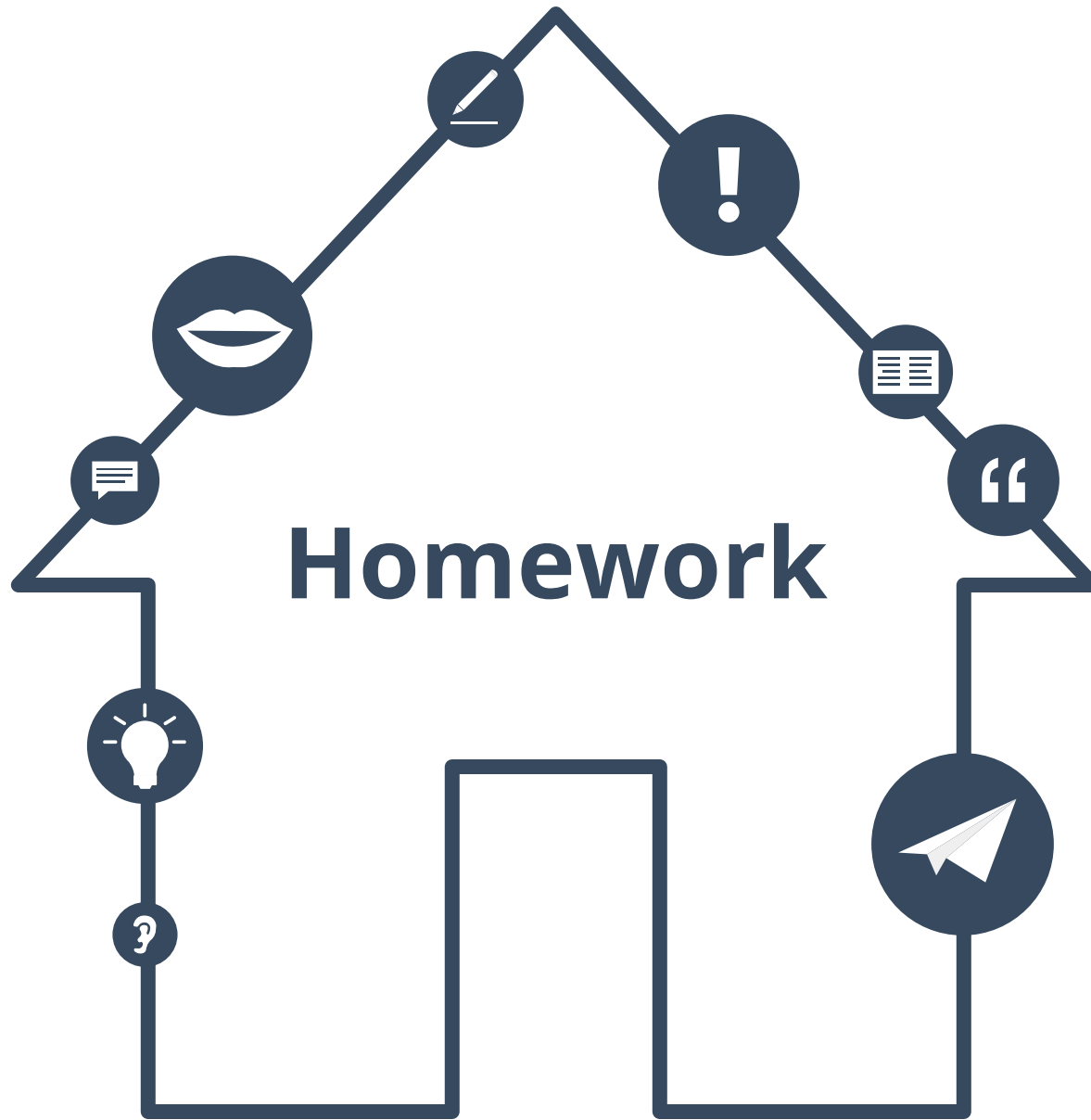
Transcription

Exercise p. 15

However, there was a huge disparity between the enforcement of the law in rural and urban areas, the former seeing it enforced strongly, the latter hardly at all in some cases. Urban areas also saw the arrival of speakeasies, hidden bars which served illegal liquor, while all areas saw increases in the production of moonshine, or homemade alcohol.

Prohibition most famously gave rise to criminal activity related to bootlegging and speakeasies. The most notorious gangster was Al Capone, whose wealth in 1929 was estimated to be \$100 million. Violence was associated with rival gangs, a famous example being the Valentine's Day massacre in Chicago in 1929, when members of Capone's gang killed several members of another gang. The public's appetite for gangster films also developed during prohibition, and gangsters were romanticised in popular culture.

Support for prohibition began to wane in the late 1920s. Costs for law enforcement were spiralling upwards and the Temperance Movement lost power. Stuck in the Great Depression, the appeal of revenue from alcohol taxes and jobs created in the industry proved the final push and the law of prohibition was repealed in 1933.





Complete the sentences

Complete the following sentences with vocabulary from the text.

1. Another word for alcohol is...

2. The _____ movement supported prohibition.

3. A _____ is a bar in the USA.

4. Illegally importing alcohol is called...

5. Underground bars were called...

6. _____ is the name for homemade alcohol.

7. Gangsters were _____ in films.

8. Prohibition was lifted partly because of a need for...



New vocabulary

Write a list of any new vocabulary you learned in this lesson.
Try to use the words in sentences.

A graphic of a spiral-bound notepad with a light gray cover and white lined pages. A white sticky note with a blue tab is attached to the top right of the notepad, with the text "New words" written on it. The word "ratification" is written in a light gray font on the second line of the notepad. The rest of the notepad is blank.



Homework answer key

Exercise p. 24

1. liquor, 2. temperance, 3. saloon, 4. smuggling, 5. speakeasies, 6. moonshine, 7. romanticised, 8. revenue



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