**Nombre y Apellido**

1. **Read and answer**

Feeding the Homeless in Parks has been banned

Jane Seels pulled green grapes, bread, meat and, of course, in this blazing heat, bottles of water from a cardboard box. A dozen homeless people rose from shady spots in the surrounding city park and snatched the handouts from her. Ms. Seels, a firm defender of homeless people’s rights, is disgusted at a city ordinance that goes into effect next Friday making it illegal to offer so much as a biscuit to a poor person in a city park.

Las Vegas, whose homeless population has doubled in the past decade to about 12,000 people, joins several other cities across the country that have adopted or considered ordinances limiting the distribution of charitable meals in parks. Most cities have restricted the time and place of such handouts, hoping to discourage homeless people from gathering, and making an attempt to remove them from posh downtowns and neighbourhoods. But the Las Vegas ordinance is believed to be the first to explicitly make it an offence to feed “the indigent.” Not only does this ordinance show the growing pains the city has endured as tourism has boomed, but also the steps Las Vegas is taking to regulate where the growing number of homeless people can gather and eat.

“The government here doesn’t care about anybody,” said a 55-year-old homeless woman. “We just want to eat.”

On the one hand, Las Vegas government officials said the ordinance was not aimed at casual handouts from good Samaritans. Instead, they said it would be enforced against people like Ms. Seels, whose regular food offerings have drawn the homeless into parks and have led to complaints by residents about crime, public drunkenness and litter.

When asked, Mayor Robert Foster said, “Families are scared to go to the park. We needed this kind of ordinance as the city has just spent $1.7 million in landscaping and other improvements and we want people to make use of these public areas. I don’t think anybody in America wants people to starve to death,” Mr. Foster added. “But if you want to help somebody, people can go to McDonald’s or Kentucky Fried Chicken and give them a meal.” He also said that the police would ignore “isolated cases” of violating the ordinance, and predicted that the law would ultimately help the homeless because they would be forced to seek meals at homeless shelters run by social service organisations that could provide other assistance as well.

On the other hand, Elizabeth Brown, director of the ***National Law Centre on Homelessness and Poverty*** in Washington, said the prohibition would do more harm than good. “Nobody wants the poor and homeless living in public spaces,’’ Ms. Brown said, “but this kind of response is terribly absurd and unconstitutional.” She accused the Mayor, who supports the new restriction, of starting a campaign against homeless people. At a June meeting of the City Council, the Mayor suggested that beggars with signs asking for food be charged with “false advertising” because shelters provide free meals. “Some people say I’m the mean mayor,’’ Mr. Foster acknowledged, but he defended the ordinance as part of the effort to compel the homeless to contact social service groups, and said the city was taking part in a regional initiative to end homelessness in 10 years.

The controversial ordinance bans providing food or meals to the indigent for free, and violating it will be considered a crime, which may be punished with a fine of up to $1,000 or a jail term of up to six months, or both. However, the ordinance says nothing about offering money to the homeless, and allows offering food to poor people on adjacent sidewalks, something Ms. Seels said she was considering. “I’m not going to abide by this horrendous ordinance. I know these people need special treatment and care, but I also believe no one should ever go hungry”.

1. Why has this ordinance been issued in different American cities?

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1. In what ways is the Las Vegas ordinance different from the ones in other cities?

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1. According to government officials, how are homeless people damaging public areas?

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1. How does Mr. Foster believe the new ordinance will be beneficial to the homeless?

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1. Which course of action do you think Ms. Seels is going to take from now on?

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1. Keep on reading about homelessness and fill in each blank with one word only

A helping hand for the homeless

On a cold winter afternoon, 18-year-old Brian Goodman realises he is not able to rent a flat any more and that he has **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** out of friends willing to give him a helping hand. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ,** he has no idea where he’ll spend the night to shelter from the freezing cold. Three other families, including a husband and wife with two children and a young couple with a baby, face the same dilemma. Within an hour, all of them call the only place in town serving homeless people - a community centre called ***Love Inc***. Their message is really an urgent plea: Find us a place to sleep.

"We usually get one call **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** this a day," says Mary Griffin, a ***Love Inc.*** volunteer. "It's just unreal to get four in a row." Such calls reflect a new reality for small towns in the United States. Homelessness, widely regarded **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** an urban problem, is reaching rural areas, but without the services available in cities. Small towns typically have a **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** social workers and no shelters, which mainly leaves churches, community groups, and volunteers to do all the social work.

Stereotypes about the homeless abound. "The picture people have of a typical homeless is **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** of a single old man, drug-addicted or mentally ill, living under a bridge," says Ms. Griffin. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ,** those seeking help from ***Love Inc.*** are mostly single mothers or two-parent families.

Many of them have lost their homes even **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** they have a job. But, why is this so? Some of them are compelled to spend much money on their sick children **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** others find their salaries are **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** meagre that they can hardly buy any food for their children. In both cases, those people stop paying the rent and are finally evicted from their houses. Also, there are people who have taken one bad decision after another and their repeat failure has brought **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** their poverty. “People don’t always understand that the consequences of their decisions **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** leave them down and out,” Griffin says. “We have to be compassionate, caring and tough with them at the same time.” She and the other volunteers at ***Love Inc.*** must also be creative **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** trying to find accommodation for these people. With **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** shelter in their hometown, they generally turn **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** local motels or find residents willing to take in strangers for a night. Foundations, businesses and churches supply the rest.

 For the last 15 years, ***Love Inc.*** has welcomed the homeless at night. This organisation has **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** its own community room built by volunteers and as many as 45 people are now able to sleep and eat there. During the night, nearly 100 volunteers **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** it in turns to wash clothes, pack lunches and prepare breakfast. But, overnight shelter is not enough since the homeless haven’t got any place to go during the day. “The town government doesn’t help much **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** our frequent pleas for having more shelters in town. Now, they have decided to arrest those people who are sleeping in public places. What the government officials don’t seem to understand is that those people **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** not be sleeping in public areas if there were shelters in town. For years we’ve been asking the town government where it would be safe and legal for the homeless to sleep, but the town has not answered yet. They don’t realise a person has to sleep to stay alive, **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** there’s a bed available for him or not”.

1. Tamara Jones has decided to work as a volunteer and help the homeless. Read her story and put the verbs in brackets in the correct tense. Whenever you see + add a modal verb.

When I decided to help the homeless I had no idea that my choice **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (+lead) to new career plans, friendship and love! When I started university in New York, it was quite a shock moving from a small town in Alabama to a big city. Suddenly, you see so many homeless people and you never know how to act. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (+you talk) to them, ignore them, walk away or give them money? To be honest, I knew nothing about the homeless and they kind of scared me, since you keep **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (hear) all these stories that they're mentally ill or alcoholics, so I decided I just wanted to know for myself.

Two years ago, a friend of mine **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (ask) to join a project with homeless people and invited me to go along for one week. Every Sunday evening a group of students **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (+make) sandwiches in the student halls and drive to a small town to hand them out to the homeless. Initially, I imagined we were just going to hand out the food and leave, but we actually stayed for about an hour talking to them and hearing their stories.

The main thing I **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (realise) so far is that homeless people are real people with shocking experiences. There was this little boy, Jay, whose father **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (die) so his mother didn’t have much money to pay the rent. While his mother **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (work), he took care of his younger sister- he took her to school and prepared her meals. No matter how hard his mother worked, she **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (+ not afford) the rent so the three of them ended up **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (sleep) on the street. Luckily, we managed **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (find) them a shelter before winter set in. Although Jay’s story is quite sad, there are good ones, too. There was a homeless man that always said he had his name on a housing list and that he **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (offer) a job as a road sweeper. I thought he **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (lie) until one day he came and said: "I’m just coming along to say good-bye; I've got myself a place." It was amazing and really nice that he had remembered us and came back to tell us the good news. It's very satisfying when good things like that happen.

After a year of helping out, they asked me if I wanted to get a bit more involved, so now I organise everything: I make sure there are people to do the shopping and to drive the bus to the poor areas. By this time next year I **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (do) even more things since I’ve just been appointed co-ordinator of the university's Community Action Group. Initially, enhancing my CV didn't even cross my mind; I just wanted to interact with homeless people, but **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (be) in charge of the whole thing is going to be a much bigger job.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (work) on this project has encouraged me to stay connected with homeless people in the future. I **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (currently study) to be a doctor, and I do see myself working in specialist surgeries for homeless people. I **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (see) some doctors get nervous when a homeless person comes in to the E.R. since they don't know where to start- if they had been in contact with these kinds of people before, they **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (not feel) at a loss. Until someone suggested that I **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (+ become) a volunteer, I'd never really thought of myself as one! Now, however, I'd definitely encourage other young people to start volunteering since they will find it a most rewarding job.

1. Complete the conversation between Tamara and a homeless man she is trying to help called Robert.

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| --- | --- |
| Tamara: | Hi, Robert. My friends and I were told you needed some help, **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_****\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**? |
| Robert: | Well, it would be great if you could get me a place to spend the night and some food, too; I’m starving! |
| Tamara: | Don’t worry, we can get those things for you.But, tell me,  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_****\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**? |
| Robert: | I was recruited and sent to fight in a foreign country many years ago, and when I came back my boss didn’t want to give me my job back, so I took to the streets.  |
| Tamara: | Itmust **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ;** I mean . . . coming back and not having a job to pay the rent and all.  |
| Robert: | Yeah, it was really hard at the beginning. Nothing seemed to go right at that time, even my marriage ended. No sooner **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**. |
| Tamara: | Did she tell you why she wanted to divorce?  |
| Robert: | No, but I didn’t need to ask. A long time had gone by and I wasn’t the same person, so I packed my things and left. I’ve been living on the streets since then.  |
| Tamara: | **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**? |
| Robert:  | Before the war? Well, I was a pretty happy guy, very responsible and hard-working. If only **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_****\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**! |
| Tamara: | That’d have been great! Unluckily, your boss fired you, but you shouldn’t give up hope. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ? |
| Robert: | Yes, of course I have. But whenever I manage to get an interview and I tell them I don’t have a permanent address or a phone number they don’t give me the job. It’s really frustrating because employers don’t understand that unless **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**. It’s a vicious circle!  |
| Tamara: | **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**? |
| Robert: | No, I don’t. I talked to one government official once but, he said I wouldn’t be getting any compensation until I did all the paperwork. Anyway, I can’t afford a lawyer, can I? |
| Tamara: | Mmm . . . I’ll see if my friends and I can do something about it, maybe we can get you a job. Listen, Robert, **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ,** do you think?  |
| Robert: | In ten years’ time? Hopefully, I’ll be working and earning a decent living.  |

1. Writing.

Write between 180 and 200 words on **one** of the following:

* Homelessness has become a big problem for governments all over the world. Discuss
* The most incredible moment in my life.