

# CAPONE BELONGINGS SOLD

## **WARM-UP QUESTIONS** • Discuss the following questions:

1. What are the worst crimes? Which crimes are most common where you live?
2. Read the headline above. Have you heard this news story? If so, say what you know. If not, can you guess what it's about?

## **VOCABULARY** • Match the following vocabulary words with a description. Use a dictionary if you need to.

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|--------------------|--|
| 1. Fascinating     | a) earn  |
| 2. Descendant      | b) a big, luxurious home   |
| 3. Pull in         | c) very interesting  |
| 4. Go for          | d) the killing of many people  |
| 5. Mansion         | e) the crime of avoiding paying tax  |
| 6. Demolish        | f) a person's child and any person who lives after them in their family line |
| 7. Preservationist | g) the time when it was illegal to sell alcohol in the U.S.                  |
| 8. Heyday          | h) a person who works to preserve something                                  |
| 9. Prohibition     | i) sell for (a certain price)  |
| 10. Massacre       | j) the period when someone is most successful                                |
| 11. Tax evasion    | k) to destroy  |

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## **READING** • Read the text. Try to fill in the missing words.

Although long dead, the gangster Al Capone remains\_\_\_\_\_to the public. At a recent auction, his descendants sold various items that belonged to the gangster, pulling in more than \$US3 million. The most\_\_\_\_\_item was Capone's gun, a pistol that went for \$US860 000.

Additionally, his former mansion in Miami\_\_\_\_\_sold for \$US15.5 million. It had been bought earlier in the year by developers who intended to demolish the building and replace it. However, local preservationists had strong\_\_\_\_\_, and the developers were forced to resell it.

Al Capone's heyday was in Chicago during the prohibition\_\_\_\_\_of the 1920s. By illegally selling alcohol, Capone made a\_\_\_\_\_and was quite popular with the public. However, when he was blamed for 'the Saint Valentine's Day Massacre,' in which seven people were murdered, he lost popularity. The government, under\_\_\_\_\_to restore law-and-order, found Capone guilty of tax

evasion and sent him to prison on Alcatraz Island. In poor health, he was released from prison, and in 1947, he \_\_\_\_\_ in his Miami mansion.

The Italian-American gangster's legend has been kept alive in the \_\_\_\_\_, including in the 1932 film, Scarface, and in the television series, Boardwalk Empire, which ran from 2010-2014. Scarface was a nickname Capone received due to scars on his \_\_\_\_\_ received in a knife fight.

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**COMPREHENSION** • Decide if the following are true (T) or false (F), and then discuss the answers with your partner(s).

1. Al Capone recently sold his gun at auction. ( T / F )
2. Some people want to save Al Capone's former home from demolition. ( T / F )
3. Al Capone loved drinking alcohol. ( T / F )
4. Al Capone went to prison for not paying tax. ( T / F )
5. Al Capone died in prison. ( T / F )

**WORD FORMS** • Fill in the different forms for the vocabulary from the article. Use a dictionary if you need to. Where there is an x, the word is uncommon, has a different meaning, or doesn't exist.

VERB	ADJECTIVE	ADVERB	NOUN
		x	Descendant
Demolish		x	

			Prohibition
	Fascinating		
		x	Massacre
			Evasion

**COMPLETE** • Re-order the following sentences. You may need to capitalize and add punctuation.

- gun / at / was / al capone's / auction / sold

- to / for / tax / went / capone / evasion / prison

**DISCUSSION** • Discuss the following questions

- Are you interested in crime as a topic in the news, in stories on television, or in books?
- Some criminals become famous and sometimes, they become popular. How do you feel about this?
- Do you like gangster movies? Have you seen many? What about Scarface?
- Would you be interested in buying something that used to belong to someone important? Why or why not?
- Some preservationists want to save buildings that are connected with historical events. What do you think about this? Should we preserve these old buildings?
- During the period known as 'prohibition' from 1920 to 1933, alcohol could not be sold legally in the US. Why do you think selling alcohol was made illegal? And why do you think prohibition was later ended?
- People thought Al Capone was responsible for many murders, yet he went to prison for tax evasion. Does it matter that he didn't get punished for the more serious crime?
- Why is it important that we pay taxes?
- If you had a mansion, what would it be like? Describe it in as much detail as you can.
- Al Capone didn't like the nickname 'Scarface'. Do you have a nickname? Do you like it?

**Vocabulary answers:** 1-c, 2-f, 3-a, 4-i, 5-b, 6-k, 7-h, 8-j, 9-g, 10-d, 11-e

**Comprehension answers:** 1-F, 2-T, 3-F, 4-T, 5-F.

**Word Forms answers:** descend, descendent, demolished, demolition, prohibit, prohibited/prohibitive, prohibitively, fascinate, fascinatedly, fascination, massacre, massacred, evade, evasive, evasively

**Complete answers:** 1. Al Capone's gun was sold at auction. 2. Capone went to prison for tax evasion.