

High-Intermediate 3

Unit 8 Reading

Presented by Mohammad Rajabpur



## Compassion

Compassion = Kindness, Forgiveness

**I**t was the evening of September 29, 1994. Having spent a wonderful day exploring the ruins at Paestum in southern Italy, Reg and Maggie Green were driving south in the area of Italy known as the boot, their children Nicholas and Eleanor sleeping peacefully in the back seat.

September 29 = September Twenty-Ninth => **American**

29 September = The Twenty-Ninth of September => **British**

having spent = after spending

ruins = ruined monuments

southern Italy = the south of Italy

Having spent a wonderful day exploring the ruins at Paestum in southern Italy => **Adverb Phrase**



The Ruins at Paestum in southern Italy

Suddenly an old and decrepit car pulled up alongside them, and an Italian with a bandana over his face screamed at them, signaling them to stop. Not knowing what to do, Reg weighed the gravity of the situation. If they stopped, they risked a potentially deadly confrontation with criminals; if they sped away, they might escape.

decrepit = not in a good shape, worn out

bandana = a piece of cloth covering one's face

signaling them to stop => **Adverb Phrase**

Not knowing what to do => **Adverb Phrase**

weigh = consider, take into account

gravity = seriousness

**confrontation** *noun*



/,kɒnfrʌn'teɪʃn/

/,kɑ:nfrən'teɪʃn/

[uncountable, countable]

★ a situation in which there is anger between people or groups who disagree because they have different opinions

- **confrontation (with somebody)** *She wanted to avoid another confrontation with her father.*
- **confrontation between A and B** *Confrontation between employers and unions has resulted in strike action.*

Guessing that their newer-model car could probably get away from the old car the criminals were

driving, Reg floored the gas pedal.

Shots rang out, shattering both windows on the driver's side of the

car. The Greens' car took off, easily outdistancing the bandits' car.

Checking the children, Reg and Maggie found them still sleeping peacefully in the back seat. A bit

farther down the road, Reg saw a police car parked on the shoulder and pulled over to alert the

authorities. Upon opening the door, he saw blood oozing from the back of Nicholas's head. Rushed to a

hospital, Nicholas lay in a coma for two days. Then doctors declared him brain-dead.

Guessing that ..., => **Adverb Phrase**

Reg floored the gas pedal. = Reg drove faster.

shatter = break sth into small pieces

shattering both windows on the driver's side of the car => **Adverb Phrase**

outdistance = get farther and farther from

bandit = a thief on a road

checking the children => **Adverb Phrase**

pull over # pull out

alert = inform

authorities = مسؤولين، مقامات = people who are responsible

Upon opening the door = As he opened the door

Upon opening the door => **Adverb Phrase**


ooze = flow; run


Rushed to a hospital => **Adverb Phrase**

lie => lay, lain

lie = to be in a particular state or position = قرار داشتن

**coma** *noun*

 /'kəʊmə/

 /'kəʊmə/

★ a deep unconscious state, usually lasting a long time and caused by serious illness or injury

• to go into/be in a coma

This was not the end of the story, however. As Nicholas lay on his deathbed, Reg and Maggie decided that something good ought to come out of the situation. Realizing that it would be far better to return good for evil than to seek revenge, they offered Nicholas's organs for transplant. "Someone should have the future he lost," Reg said. Profoundly moved by the gesture, Italians poured out their emotions. Maurizio Costanzo, the host of a talk show, summed up the common feeling by saying, "You have given us a lesson in civility . . . shown us how to react in the face of pain and sorrow."

far better = much better

Realizing that . . . , => **Adverb Phrase**

transplant = moving an organ from one body into another body

profoundly = deeply

moved = shocked

gesture = action

pour out one's emotions = show one's feelings

host = presenter

sum up = summarize

civility = polite behavior

The great irony of this tragedy was that it was a mistake. Investigators later determined that Nicholas was killed by two small-time Calabrian thugs who thought the Greens were jewelers carrying precious stones. Having been turned over to the police, apparently by the Calabrian Mafia, they were placed on trial.

irony = a situation in which the actual result is totally different from the expected result

investigator = detective

determine = understand, realize

small-time = unimportant # big-time

thug = criminal, outlaw, offender

Calabrian = from Calabria

precious = valuable, very expensive

precious stone = gem

Having been turned over to the police => **Adverb Phrase**

apparently = seemingly

place sb on trial = judge sb at the court of law

## turn over to *phrasal verb*

turn somebody ↔ over to somebody

★ to deliver somebody to the control or care of somebody else, especially somebody in authority

- *Customs officials turned the man over to the police.*

## Mafia *noun*

🔊 /'mæfiə/

🔊 /'ma:fiə/

1 ★ **the Mafia** [singular + singular or plural verb] a secret organization of criminals, that is active especially in Sicily, Italy and the US

- *a Mafia boss*
- *Large areas of the city were controlled by the Mafia.*

People all over Europe and North America reacted in sorrow. Headlines in Italian newspapers spoke of LA NOSTRA VERGOGNA ("Our shame"). Wherever the Greens went, they met Italians who begged their forgiveness. The Greens were given a medal, Italy's highest honor, by the Prime Minister.

beg someone's forgiveness = ask someone to forgive you

Some good has indeed come out of Nicholas's death. Seven Italians received Nicholas's heart, liver, kidneys, islet cells, and corneas. Perhaps more importantly, a blow was struck for organ donation. Having heard Reg and Maggie speak on French television, 40,000 French people pledged to donate their organs when they died. After returning to the United States, the Greens began to receive requests to tell their son's story and speak about organ donation. "It gradually dawned on us," says Reg, "that we'd been given a life's work."

The **pancreatic islets** or **islets of Langerhans** are the regions of the pancreas that contain its endocrine (hormone-producing) cells, discovered in 1869 by German pathological anatomist Paul Langerhans.

### pancreas *noun*

🔊 /'pæŋkriəs/

🔊 /'pæŋkriəs/

★ an organ near the stomach that produces **insulin** and a liquid that helps the body to **digest** food

### cornea *noun*

🔊 /'kɔːniə/

🔊 /'kɔːniə/

(anatomy)

★ the clear layer that covers and protects the outer part of the eye

A blow was struck for organ donation. = Organ donation was encouraged.

pledge = swear, vow

donate (v.) = اهدا کردن

➤ All donated blood is tested for antibodies.

donation (n.) = اهدا

➤ Please send your donation of £20 to the Disaster Appeal.

donor (n.) = اهداکننده

➤ An anonymous donor has given £25.

Having heard Reg and Maggie speak on French television => **Adverb Phrase**

dawn on sb = become clear to sb

It dawned on us = We understood; We realized

we'd been given = we had been given

Nicholas Green is gone, but others live on because of his parents' compassionate act. How many of us would do the same thing if given the chance? 🐾

gone = dead

live on = continue one's life

The Article of Wikipedia on Nicholas Green:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Shooting\\_of\\_Nicholas\\_Green&oldid=109000444](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Shooting_of_Nicholas_Green&oldid=109000444)

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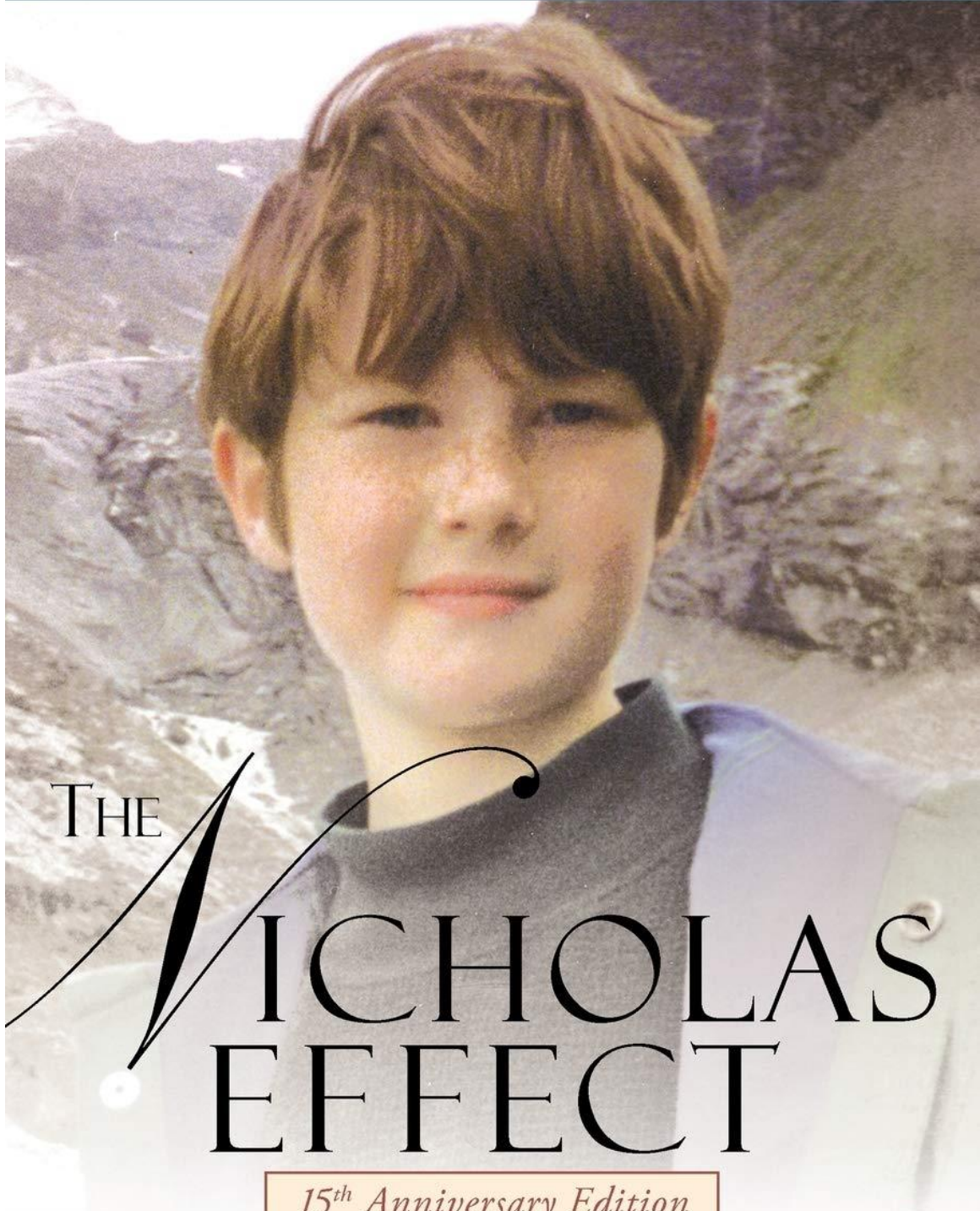


Monument erected for Nicholas Green



Nicholas Green's parents return to Italy 25 years after he was killed.

REG GREEN



THE

NICHOLAS  
EFFECT

*15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition*

A BOY'S GIFT TO THE WORLD