

## Unit 2 Reading Comprehension 1

- I. Skim the text. What is it about? What are its main ideas? Vote in Menti.
- II. Read the article from 2020 "Safety according to the OECD". Then answer the questions.

### Safety according to the OECD

Personal security is a core element for the well-being of individuals and includes the risks of people being physically assaulted or falling victim to other types of crime. Crime may lead to loss of life and property, as well as physical pain, post-traumatic stress and anxiety. One of the biggest impacts of crime on people's well-being appears to be through the feeling of vulnerability that it causes.

#### *Feeling safe walking alone at night*

According to recent data, about 68% of people in OECD countries say they feel safe walking alone at night. There are major differences, however, between countries. While 85% or more of people in Finland, Norway, Slovenia, Iceland and Switzerland say they feel safe, the level in Chile is just below 50%, and below 40% in Brazil and South Africa. Latvia is closer to the OECD average with 62%.

#### *Homicide rate*

Homicide rates (the number of murders per 100 000 inhabitants) only represent the most extreme form of crime and thus do not provide information about more typical safety conditions. They are however the most reliable measure of a country's safety level because, unlike other crimes, murders are usually always reported to the police. According to the latest OECD data, **the average homicide rate in the OECD is 3.7 murders per 100 000 inhabitants.**

In most OECD countries, homicide rates for men are usually higher than those affecting women, with rates of 6.3 per 100 000 for men and 1.2 per 100 000 for women on average for the most recent data. However, while men are more likely to be homicide victims, women are the primary victims of domestic and intimate partner violence. EU data based on police-recorded offences indicate that 86% of the victims of sexual violence are women. Across the OECD as a whole, 76% of men and 61% of women feel safe when walking alone at night in the area where they live.

Social status also has an impact on victimization rates and perceptions of security. People with higher income and higher education usually report higher feelings of security and face lower risks of crime. This can be explained by the fact they can afford better security and are less exposed to criminal activities such as youth gangs or drug smuggling.

Note: data for the indicator "Feeling safe walking alone at night" is provided by the [Gallup World Poll](#).

- a. Why is personal security considered so important to determine someone's wellbeing?

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- b. What are Chile's figures in relation to feeling safe walking alone at night? Where is it located compared to other countries of the OECD?

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- c. If the homicide rates of a country do not provide information typical safety conditions, why is it considered a reliable measure?

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- d. What are the main differences between violent crime against men and those against women?

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- e. How does social status affect people's perceptions of security?

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- III. Look at Chile's profile in the OECD as for 2022. Write a brief summary with the most important information and differences provided by the text.


### Key Findings


Personal security is a core element for the well-being of individuals. Do you feel safe out walking, alone at night, for example? **In Chile, 41% of people say that they feel safe walking alone at night**, much less than the OECD average of 74%.

The homicide rate (the number of murders per 100 000 inhabitants) is a more reliable measure of a country's safety level because, unlike other crimes, murders are usually always reported to the police. According to the latest OECD data, **Chile's homicide rate is 2.4**, lower than the OECD average of 2.6.

<http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/topics/safety/>

#### Indicators


Feeling safe walking alone at night   
40.69%

Rank:   
40 / 41

#### Gender Inequality

1.77 men  women

Rank:   
41 / 41

Homicide rate   
2.4 homicides


Rank:   
32 / 41

#### Trend

 **+0.1%** average annual increase since 2005

#### Gender Inequality

6.00 men  women

Rank:   
35 / 41

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- IV. Analyze the graphs. What do the numbers mean? How do you interpret the *Gender Equality* figures under each of the indicators? Make an educated guess and then check the website.

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- V. What do you think of these figures? Do you feel safer or less safe than what these numbers indicate? Discuss the data in groups. Use expressions from the box to present your ideas. Try to reach an agreement.

### Personal Point of View

- In my experience...
- As far as I'm concerned...
- In my opinion...
- Personally, I think...
- I'd say that...
- I'd like to point out that...
- I believe that...

### General Point of View

- It is thought that...
- Some people say that...
- It is considered...
- It is generally accepted that...

### Agreeing with an opinion

- Of course.
- You're absolutely right.
- Yes, I agree.
- I think so too.
- That's a good point.
- Exactly.
- That's true.
- Neither do I.
- I couldn't agree more.

### Disagreeing with an opinion

- Yes, but...
- I'm afraid I have to disagree.
- I'm sorry to disagree with you, but...
- That's not entirely true.
- On the contrary...
- I'm not so sure about that.

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