Day Two The Killing of Tamir Rice

Part 1: Tricky phrases and words

 \rightarrow Read these phrases and words **out loud** to your partner.

- who the White officer had just shot
- A series of mistakes led to Tamir's death
- Somehow this information wasn't given to the officers
- The rule says police should always use less force
- Somebody has to be held accountable

| Tamir | tuh MEER |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| attention | uh TEN chun |
| vital | VEYE tuhl |
| accountable | uh KOWN tuh buhl |
| stomach | STUM uk |

| Circle the two base wo | ords in the compounds below | v. The first one is done for you. |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| nearby | handgun | cellphone |
| teenage | lifelike | somehow |

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// one minute



WPM _____

"Shots fired, male down." A police officer said these words into his radio. It was November, 2014 in a park in Cleveland, Ohio. "Black male, maybe 20... black handgun..."

But the police officer was wrong. It wasn't a Black man who the White officer had just shot.47It was a twelve-year-old boy, Tamir Rice. Tamir lived nearby. He wasn't holding a handgun.62He was holding a toy gun.68

This sad story began with a trade. Earlier in the day, Tamir searched through his mother's84drawer. He found a cellphone. He brought the cellphone with him to the park. A teenage100friend offered to take the phone to a store to have it fixed. Tamir was excited to borrow his119friend's lifelike toy gun. Tamir played with it in the park.130

What happened next? A series of mistakes led to Tamir's death. A man saw Tamir playing with147the toy gun. The man called 911. He said the gun was "probably fake." He said the person165holding it was probably a child. Somehow this information wasn't given to the officers. Also,180the officers didn't pay attention to an important rule. The rule says police should always use196less force, if possible. Instead, the officer shot Tamir in the stomach. The officer was only212a few feet away from Tamir. Nobody gave Tamir first aid. Neither officer took Tamir's vital228signs.229

People said Tamir was a friendly child who loved pranks. His upset mother said, "Somebody244has to be held accountable."249

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

The passage says, "A series of mistakes led to Tamir's death." Which mistake do you think was the biggest one? Why?

Share your ideas with your partner. Which mistake does your partner think was the biggest one?