

Write two texts corresponding to the following tasks:

Task 1

You are participating in an English book club in your local area. One of the members has proposed a challenge - to write a short narrative which begins with the first few lines from a short story. The text proposed is the one below. Accept the challenge and finish the story.

(about 300 words)

If she'd quit smoking the week before, like she'd planned, Penny never would have found the gun. That summer a heatwave was crisping the hedges, killing old people and making the birds pant helplessly, beaks agape. Walking home from work that night Penny was pissed off, and she'd flicked her cigarette butt into the bushes without thinking.

As she stamped out the butt, she spotted something nestled in the parched shrubs, a shape glinting under the streetlight. At first she thought it was a toy but when she picked it up, the weight of it sent a quick thrill skating through her. She checked the street: empty.

A childish thought skipped across her mind: finders keepers. Penny put the gun in her shoulder bag and walked away quickly, her blood banging out a loud pattern.

Meg MUNDELL, *The Chamber* from *Things I did for Money*, 2013

Task 2

You have worked as a lighthouse keeper for 5 years, but are now quitting the job because you are moving in with someone you have met online. Now the coastguard is having difficulties in filling the post you have vacated. They ask you to write a text for their website in which you try to persuade potential applicants to apply for the job.

(about 300 words)

