

Shawshank Redemption

- **Duration:** 2:37 minutes
- **Level:** Intermediate
- **Objective:** To watch and discuss a classic scene from the film 'The Shawshank Redemption'
- **Target language:** Life sentence, sonny, fella, regret, to talk sense to someone, long gone, bull****, stamp, sonny, to not give a ****



“Please sit down. Alistair Boyd Redding, your files say you’ve served 40 years of a **life sentence**. Do you feel you’ve been rehabilitated?”

“Rehabilitated? Well now let me see. You know I don’t have any idea what that means.”

“Well it means you’re ready to rejoin society”

“I know what you think it means sonny. To me it’s just a made up word, a politician’s word so that young fellas like yourself can wear a suit and a tie and have a job. What do you really wanna know? Am I sorry for what I did? There’s not a day goes by I don’t feel regret. Not because I’m in here and you think I should. I look back on the way I was then; a young stupid kid who committed that terrible crime. I want to talk to him. I want to try and talk some sense to him. Tell him the way things are. But I can’t. That kid’s long gone and this old man is all that’s left. I gotta live with that. Rehabilitated, it’s just a bull**** word. So you go on and stamp your form sonny, and stop wasting my time, because to tell you the truth, I don’t give a ****.”

Discussion: What is the film about? What view of prison does it give? What is the age of criminal responsibility in your country? (and in Britain?) What do you think prison is for? What is punishment for? What does rehabilitation mean? Is prison the only way to deal with crime? Which crimes should we deal with in this way?

Adapted from: <http://www.tefl-iberia.com/resources/video-activities>