

Crime and Punishment



1 Before you read Work with a partner.

- Have you read a newspaper today? What was the headline?

2 Reading Read and fill in the spaces.

Police are appealing for witnesses to a robbery which took place Monday afternoon in Fenbury.

Two masked men broke into Statham Jewelers. One robber brandished a sawn-off shotgun, while an accomplice ¹..... display cases, stealing rings and necklaces.

Police believe that the robbers escaped in a get-away car driven by a third gang member.

A fire at Fenbury Warehouse is being treated as arson, according to a police spokesperson.

The fire broke out at around 5 am and quickly engulfed the whole building. By the time the fire brigade arrived at the scene, almost the entire warehouse had been ².....

The warehouse contained electronic parts, and insurers have estimated the damage to be in the region of three million pounds.

A local woman was involved in a hit-and-run incident early Sunday afternoon.

Monica Parsons, 27, was ³..... Finchley Road near her house, when she was hit by a car being driven at speed.

Hospital sources say that the victim has no recollection of the incident. Police have appealed for information from anyone who saw a white car being driven at speed in the area.

A local man has been given a three-month jail sentence for repeatedly shoplifting in the Newbury area.

Gary Dibbot, 28, who paid a fine six months ago for a previous conviction, admitted stealing DVDs from RentaVideo in Fenbury.

Dibbot's lawyer said that his client ⁴..... his actions and that he would turn over a new leaf after serving his sentence.

Choose From

- destroyed
- smashed
- regretted
- crossing

3 Headlines

Write a headline for each story. Use no more than five words for each one.

4 Crime Vocabulary Match the phrase to the definition.

In the context of this article, choose the best explanation for the following phrases:

1. When the police appeal for witnesses:
 - A) they want to speak to witnesses
 - B) they are interviewing witnesses
 - C) they are pleased with the witnesses
2. In the region of three million pounds is:
 - A) under three million pounds
 - B) at least three million pounds
 - C) about three million pounds
3. A previous conviction is:
 - A) something you used to believe
 - B) a past crime you were guilty of
 - C) something you did that you regret
4. If you brandish a shotgun:
 - A) you fire the gun repeatedly
 - B) you point it at someone
 - C) you keep a shotgun hidden under your clothes

5 How well do you remember?

Are these sentences true or false? Correct the false ones.

1. The two robbers threatened staff and customers with knives.
2. The robbers got away on foot.
3. Police think the warehouse fire was an accident.
4. The fire spread through the building quickly.
5. The car that hit Monica Parsons was going very fast.
6. She can remember the incident clearly.
7. A man has gone to prison for three months for stealing.
8. He says he will steal again in the future.

6 Collocations #1 Match the two halves of these crime-related collocations.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. to admit | in a getaway car |
| 2. to be given | stealing something |
| 3. to escape | at the scene |
| 4. [the police] arrived | for witnesses [to something] |
| 5. to appeal | a sawn-off shotgun |
| 6. to brandish | a three month prison sentence |

7**Collocations #2**

Rewrite these sentences using a collocation from exercise six. Make grammatical changes where necessary.

1. The police want to speak to people who saw the accident.
2. The masked man held a knife.
3. The robbers left by car.
4. An ambulance soon arrived at the place the accident happened.
5. My neighbour has been sent to prison for 5 years.
6. The prisoner said that he had broken into the victim's house.

8**Discussion Ask your partner(s) these questions. Ask follow-up questions.****Crime**

- Do you think crime is common in your country?
- What kinds of crime happen near where you live?
- How do you think crime rates have changed in the last 25 years?
- Which countries are seen as having high/low rates of crime?

Punishment

- What kinds of penalties does the law have for criminals?
- Do you think criminals are punished strongly enough?
- What do you think of community service as a punishment for crime?

In Addition

- Have you ever been a victim of petty crime, such as pickpocketing? What did you do?
- Do you feel safe when you walk in a street at night?
- Are you worried about 'new crimes' such as Internet-related fraud?
- What do you think are the main causes of crime?

A Criminal Crossword

The answers to the clues can all be found in the news stories.

						1		2				3		
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		10											11	
	12									13				
				14										
	15													
		16												

Across

1. to hold a weapon in a threatening way
4. a 'partner' criminal
7. to take something without permission
9. someone who experiences a crime
12. money paid as a punishment
13. to say that you did a crime
14. stealing something using violence
15. "Tom was given a six month #####."
16. stealing from a store

Down

2. "Police are ##### for information."
3. the place a crime or accident happens
5. illegally burning a building
6. a car used to escape from a crime scene
8. someone who gives legal advice
10. someone who sees a crime happening
11. "### and run"

Crime and Punishment: Teaching Notes

Target Structure:	The Language of Crime
Vocabulary:	General
Level:	Upper Intermediate to Advanced
Time:	90 minutes
Preparation:	None

Suggested Teaching Method

This worksheet looks at some common vocabulary and expressions used when reporting crime in newspapers.

- ① Give one worksheet to each student. Students should discuss the question in pairs, or small groups. Don't spend too long on this section - the main discussion questions come at the end of the worksheet.
 - ② Direct your students' attention to the four words in the box below the articles. Check understanding of these words. Students should then read the articles at a brisk pace, and fill in the spaces.

When finished, they can check their answers with a partner.
 - ③ This exercise checks that your students understand the gist of the articles. They can work with a partner. Accept any answers that are sensible English.
 - ④ The underlined words are in the four texts. Students can use the context of the article to help guess the meaning of the phrases.
 - ⑤ Students can work alone or in pairs for this. Do the first one as an example. If an answer is true, they can write 'true' after the sentence.

If necessary, you can make this exercise easier by allowing students to look at the original news stories.

Go through the answers with the group.
 - ⑥ Students can work alone for this. To make the exercise more challenging, do not allow students to look at previous exercises. When finished, they can check their answers by referring to the original news stories. Go through the answers with the group.
 - ⑦ Follow the instructions on the student sheet. Do one as an example. Go through the answers at the end.
 - ⑧ Students should read all the questions first, before beginning the discussion. Maximize student talking time by putting students in pairs, or small groups.

While the students are speaking, monitor the conversations, but try not to interrupt. When the discussion comes to a close, ask a few of the questions yourself, and go through any points of English you made a note of while monitoring.
- Crossword This crossword recycles the vocabulary from the worksheet. It can be set as homework, or in a subsequent lesson to check that students have learned the key vocabulary and phrases.

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