

# 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 <sup>1</sup>..... display cases, stealing rings and necklaces.

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

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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 <sup>2</sup>.....

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

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

Monica Parsons, 27, was <sup>3</sup>..... 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.

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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 <sup>4</sup>..... his actions and that he would turn over a new leaf after serving his sentence.

- |                    |             |           |             |            |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|------------|
| <b>Choose From</b> | • 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**

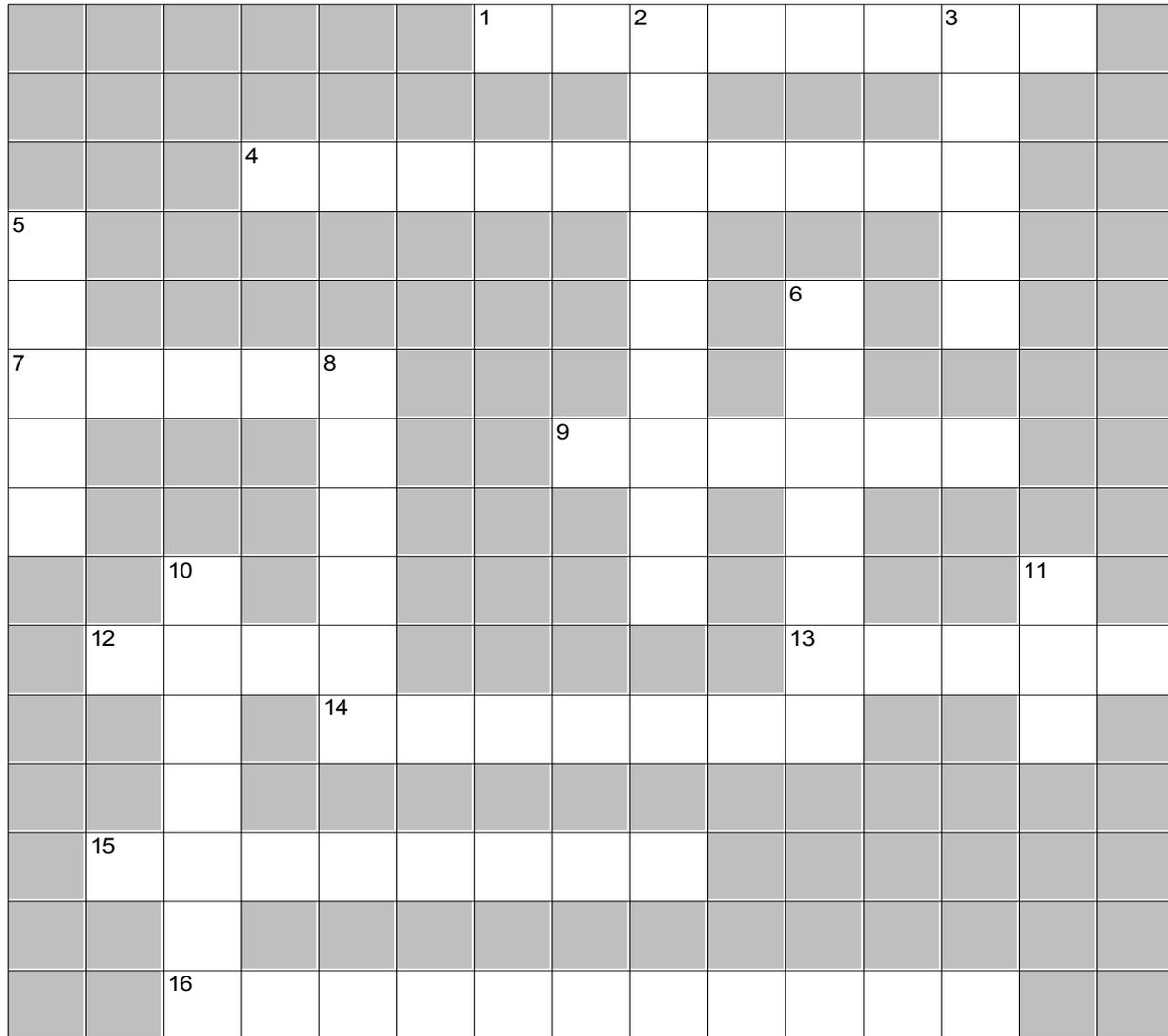
- What kinds of penalties does the law have for criminals?
- Do you think criminals are punished strongly enough?
- What do you think of community service as a punishment for crime?

**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.



## 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"