Crime and punishment

Lesson code: I2JM-LB9B-BEVU-J

1 Classify the crimes

In pairs, discuss which crimes are serious and which are petty:

- Serious crimes:
- Petty crimes:

Can you think of any other crimes to add to the lists?

2 Criminals

Look at the table below. Complete the sentences on the next page with appropriate words from the table in their correct form.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>Criminal</th>
<th>What does he do?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>burglary</td>
<td>a burglar</td>
<td>burgles houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pickpocketing</td>
<td>a pickpocket</td>
<td>pickpockets people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arson</td>
<td>an arsonist</td>
<td>sets buildings on fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>robbery</td>
<td>a robber</td>
<td>robs people or places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mugging</td>
<td>a mUGger</td>
<td>mugs people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blackmail</td>
<td>a blackmailer</td>
<td>blackmails people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kidnapping</td>
<td>a kidnapper</td>
<td>kidnaps people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>perjury</td>
<td>a perjurer</td>
<td>lies in court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fraud</td>
<td>a fraudster</td>
<td>deceives people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>smuggling</td>
<td>a smuggler</td>
<td>smuggles illegal goods</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Dan was caught trying to __________ cocaine into the country. He is currently serving a 5-year prison sentence.

2. This town is getting really dangerous. Yesterday, I was __________ in broad daylight. The attacker had a knife and took all my money.

3. The police are looking for the person responsible for burning down the church. They are confident they will catch the __________.

4. Hold on to your wallet. There are a lot of __________ on the train.

5. Joe was __________ on his way to work. The __________ contacted his wife and demanded a ransom of $1 million.

6. James was found guilty of __________. It was obvious that he was lying under oath.

7. A __________ broke into my flat while I was at work and stole my entire music collection.

8. Do not try to hide your true income from the government. Tax __________ is a very serious crime.

9. Sandra is trying to __________ Tom. She says he has to pay her $1000 or she will tell his wife about his affair.

### 3 Punishments

Look at the list of punishments below. In pairs, put them in order from 1 (most lenient) to 6 (most severe):

- a 5-year prison sentence
- a $500 fine
- a caution
- community service
- life imprisonment
- the death penalty

In pairs, discuss what punishments are normally given in your countries for people who are found guilty of the crimes on Page 1. For example:

"If you are found guilty of murder, the punishment is usually life imprisonment." / "If you are caught smuggling illegal drugs, you can get a 10-year prison sentence."

### 4 In court

What do people do in a court of law? Study the following definitions:

- **plead guilty/not guilty** - to officially state that you are guilty/not guilty of a crime
- **sentence somebody** - to officially give a punishment to a person who is found guilty of a crime
- **give testimony** - to tell the court what you saw/know
- **reach a verdict** - to arrive at a decision about whether a person is guilty or not guilty of a crime
- **acquit somebody** - to officially decide that someone is not guilty of a crime
- **convict somebody** - to officially decide that someone is guilty of a crime
In pairs, match the following people with their typical functions and activities in a court of law:

1. a defense lawyer  a. argues that someone is guilty of committing a crime
2. a defendant  b. gives testimony to the court
3. a prosecutor  c. listen to the facts/arguments, reach a verdict, convict/acquit someone who is charged with a serious crime
4. a judge  d. listens to arguments, hears evidence, deals with crimes that are not serious
5. a magistrate  e. listens to arguments, hears evidence, sentences a guilty person
6. a witness  f. pleads guilty/not guilty, gives testimony
7. the jury  g. represents someone accused of a crime, argues that someone is not guilty of committing a crime

Think about a well-known court case. Who was the defendant? What crime was he/she charged with? Did he/she plead guilty or not guilty? Who gave testimony? What was the verdict - did the jury acquit or convict the defendant? What sentence did the judge give?

5 Talking point

Discuss any of the following questions:

1. Have you ever given testimony in a court of law?
2. Is crime a problem in your hometown or country? What are the reasons for this?
3. Do you think sentencing a criminal to prison is always an effective punishment?

6 Flashcard review

Don’t forget what you learned in this lesson! Go to www.linguahouse.com, click ‘Learning English’ and enter Lesson code: I2JM-LB9B-BEVU-J.
1 Classify the crimes

Go through the different terms. The classification of some of the crimes, e.g. bribery, hacking and drug possession, is open to debate depending on the seriousness of the crime or a particular country’s legal system.
Possible answers:
Serious crimes: murder, manslaughter, fraud, drug dealing, kidnapping, burglary, robbery, arson, drunk driving, terrorism
Petty crimes: pick pocketing, drug possession, shoplifting, bribery, hacking

2 Criminals

Go through the table and explain the meaning of all the terms. In the sentences on page 2, pre-teach the expressions ‘in broad daylight’ and ‘under oath’.

1. smuggle
2. mugged
3. arsonist
4. pickpockets
5. kidnapped; kidnapper
6. perjury
7. burglar
8. fraud
9. blackmail

3 Punishments

Go through the punishments and explain any terms the students are unfamiliar with.
1 - a caution, 2 - a $500 fine, 3 - community service, 4 - a 5-year prison sentence, 5 - life imprisonment, 6 - the death penalty

4 In court

1. g  2. f  3. a  4. e  5. d  6. b  7. c

6 Flashcard review

For a state-of-the-art blended learning system, encourage your students to register on our website and review the material from this lesson in their spare time using our unique flashcard application, Expemo. The material from the worksheet is broken down into specially-designed multimedia flashcards, which are displayed at optimally scheduled intervals (spaced repetition). Students should try to review their flashcards on a regular basis in order to remember all the material from your lessons. Visit www.linguahouse.com/expemo.php for more information.