CRIME

Why do we have crime? When will it all stop? It’s sad that there is so much crime in our society. It hurts so many people. Most people in the world just want to live happily and be good neighbours. Why do some people turn to crime? Money is a big reason. Many criminals pickpocket, steal, kidnap, or even kill people to get money. There are many terrible crimes in the world. Perhaps the worst is ethnic cleansing. This is a crime against humanity. Many people are killed because of their colour or religion. People who commit this crime rarely go to prison. Have you ever been a victim of crime? What do you think we need to do to reduce crime rates? Perhaps you should write to your government. Tell your leaders enough is enough.

Crimes and criminals

* **Theft. Thief. To Steal-stole-stolen**
* **Burglary**: going into another person's home or business with force. **Burglar**: is someone who breaks in and steals from a private house. To **Steal. Stole, stolen**
* **Robbery**: going into a bank or business. **Robber**: is someone who breaks in and steals from a bank or business. To **Rob**.
* **Shoplifting:** stealing goods from a store. **Softlifter** is someone who steals something when he/she is in a shop. To **Steal. Stole, stolen**
* **Pickpocket: is someone who steals from you in the Street, often without you noticing. To Steal. Stole, stolen**
* **Mugging. Mugger is someone who uses violence to steal from you in the Street. To Mug.**
* **Theft. Thief. To Steal-stole-stolen. Somebody stole my car last night from outside my house.**
* **Murderer. Murder. To murder. She went to her boyfriend’s house and shot him dead.**
* **Drug dealing.** Drug dealer. To sell drugs. Someone tried to sell me some marijuana during a concert.
* **Fraud. To commit fraud.** A man transferred company money into his own bank account
* **Rape. Rapist. To rape**. After the party the man made the woman have sex against her will
* **Vandalism. Vandal. To vandalize**. Someone threw paint on the cathedral walls.

What happens to a criminal?

1. Juan committed a crime (minor offence). He murdered a man
2. The police investigated the crime.
3. Juan was caught on the way to the airport
4. He was arrested and taken to a police station.
5. The police questioned him for ten hours.
6. He was charged with murder.
7. Two months later, He appeared in court
8. Witnesses told the court what they had seen o knew.
9. The jury looked at and Heard all the evidence.
10. The jury reached their verdict.
11. Juan was found guilty because her fingerprints were on the gun. (Juan was found no guilty because there was no proof)
12. The judge sentenced him to 10 years in prison/jail. The judge sent him to jail. (Juan was allowed to go free)

Punishments

* Doing community service (painting walls, cleaning streets)
* Alternative and creative sentences like spending one day working as a a school crossing guard (people accused of speeding). Offenders who spend a day helping other people never reoffend again.
* Paying a fine
* A life sentence
* Capital punishment (the death penalty)

Questions

* What are the most common crimes in your town or city?
* What crimes have been in the news recently?
* Do you have trial by jury in your country? Do you think it’s a good system?
* Do you know anyone who has been burgled/ unfairly accused of shoplifting/ victime of a crime?
* Are you in favour or against alternative sentences?

Vandalism is a crime.

Some people say that vandals should be sent to prison or made to repair the damage that they cause. Who suffers?

