57 Crime



Crimes, people who do them, and verbs

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crime	robbery	murder muselo	burglary longues	mugging
person	a robber	a murderer	a burglar	a mugger
verb	to rob somebody or a place (e.g. a bank)	to murder somebody	to break into a house/flat (break/broke/broken)	to mug somebody
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crime	car theft	drug pushing/ dealing	terrorism	shoplifting
person	a car thief	a drug pusher/ dealer	a terrorist	a shoplifter
verb	to steal a car (steal/stole/stolen)	to sell drugs (sell/sold/sold)	to attack somebody or a place	to steal things from a shop

There was a burglary at the school last night.

John West murdered his wife.

There are a lot of muggings in the city centre.

A robber robs a person or a place. That bank was robbed yesterday. My sister was robbed in the city centre.

A thief steals something (steal/stole/stolen). Somebody stole my bicycle. [NOT Somebody robbed my bicycle.]

I was robbed in the city centre yesterday. [NOT I was stolen.]



The law

A student was arrested for shoplifting this morning. The police came to the school and spoke to his teacher. The student has to go to court next week.

If he is guilty he will have to pay a fine.

I don't think he will go to prison.



Some vandals broke the windows in the telephone box.

(A vandal breaks and smashes things.)

We have a lot of vandalism in my town.

A lot of young people take drugs nowadays.

Is football hooliganism a problem in your country? The the pour zone

(A football hooligan is a person who goes to a football match and makes trouble.)



Exercises

- **57.1** What do we call ...?
 - 1 a person who steals cars? a car thief
 - 2 a person who kills someone?
 - 3 a person who steals things from shops?
 - 4 a person who robs people's houses and flats?
 - 5 a person who attacks someone in the street and steals their money?
 - 6 a person who sells dangerous drugs?
- **57.2** Fill the gaps in these sentences.
 - 1 There were a lot of football hooligans, near the stadium.
 - 2 The police officer a.....her for shoplifting.
 - 3 Some v..... destroyed all the flowers in the park.
 - 4 He had to pay a f...... of £50 for parking his car in the wrong place.
 - 5 There are a lot of b..... in this part of the city, so always close the windows.
 - 6 The police made a mistake; she was i................. She did not steal the money.
 - 7 People who t...... drugs often do other crimes too.
 - 8 A group of t..... have attacked the airport.
 - 9 He murdered his wife. He was in p..... for 20 years.
- **57.3** What do you think should happen to these people? Choose from the list a i on the right. If you do not like the list, what do you think should happen to them?
 - 1 A man murdered his wife and three children.
 - 2 A student with no money stole a book from a bookshop.
 - 3 A woman sold some drugs to a teenager.
 - 4 Some terrorists attacked a bus and killed 5 people.
 - 5 A woman parked her car and blocked the traffic.
 - 6 A teenager broke some trees in the park.
 - 7 A man who drank too much alcohol drove his car and crashed.

- a fine of £100
- b 30 years in prison
- c six months in prison
- d death
- e five years in prison
- f in prison for life
- g a fine of £50
- h must work in a hospital for six months
- i must not drive a car for a year
- **57.4** What do you think? Put all the crimes on the opposite page in a list, from *least serious* to most serious.
- **57.5** Choose five or six words opposite and use them to make your own sentences.