

2 VOCABULARY Crime and justice

a Complete the text with the words in the box.

assault community controlled convicted life
possession psychiatric sentence served solitary

Our reactions to crime are very personal, depending on our social situation and our upbringing, according to a recent report from Swedish psychologists. Most people consider non-violent crimes, such as ¹ possession of a ² _____ substance, to be minor compared with crimes which involve injury to people, such as violent ³ _____. Views on punishment are also changing, with the majority now seeing ⁴ _____ service as the most beneficial punishment for both the offender and the victims. Increasingly, it is felt that punishments like being held in ⁵ _____ confinement or being sentenced to ⁶ _____ imprisonment are less appropriate, with ⁷ _____ help being seen as necessary to rehabilitate criminals. It was also felt that those ⁸ _____ of certain crimes should have it removed from their record when the ⁹ _____ has been ¹⁰ _____, or at least soon after.

b Underline the correct words to complete the conversation.

- A** People commit all types of crime today. How do you think we should deal with these offenders?
- B** Well, it depends on the crime and the person who has been found ¹ wrong / guilty of the crime.
- A** What about someone who has been ² punished / sentenced to life imprisonment? Should they ³ deliver / serve the full sentence?
- B** In my opinion, a ⁴ cut / reduced sentence for good behaviour should be a possibility. Such offenders need to receive one-to-one ⁵ counselling / punishment.
- A** Do you think offenders need to be brought face-to-face with their ⁶ crimes / victims?
- B** Yes, I'd agree that in certain situations a meeting could help both the victim and the offender.