

Listening & Reading

1 Answer the questions.

- Are young people worried about crime in your area?
- Do you think the boys in the photo are criminals or are they worried about crime?

2 In pairs, check the Words2know.

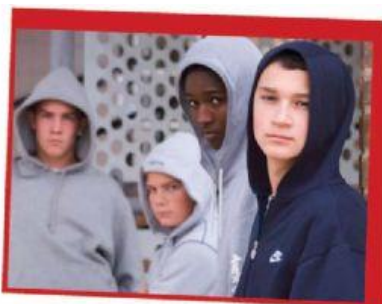
Words 2 know (A37)

to threaten to commit a crime to blame victim violence to protect to get hurt fear valuable possessions

3 Read the newspaper article below. Tick (✓) true and cross (X) false. Correct the false statements.

- ☐ Teenagers are more often the victims of crime than adults.
- ☐ Teenagers nowadays have more expensive possessions than before.
- ☐ More young women are victims of crime than young men.
- ☐ Half the teenagers in Central London have committed a crime recently.
- ☐ Most London teenagers aren't worried about crime.

b Which problems mentioned in the article are the same in your country?



4 Listen to Part 1 of a radio phone-in about teenagers and crime. For each caller, choose two correct answers.

- Josh:
 - had to give his money to a group of boys.
 - had to give them his mobile phone.
 - was robbed but not attacked physically.
- Judy:
 - doesn't understand why teenagers carry so many valuable things.
 - is the parent of teenagers herself.
 - blames teenagers' parents for the problem.
- Becky:
 - feels safer with a mobile phone.
 - has stopped listening to music on her iPod.
 - thinks teenagers should have the same rights as everyone else.

5 Read the advice, 'Stay Safe', about how to avoid crime. Which pieces of advice do you find most and least useful?

STAY SAFE

Follow these rules and cut the risk of crime

- Before you use your mobile in the street, look around – if you don't feel safe, don't use it.
- Cover your jewellery when you are in the street.
- Don't keep all your valuable possessions together.
- If anyone threatens you with violence, give them what they want – it's better than getting hurt.
- Keep your bag where you can see it and keep it closed.
- If possible, sit near the driver on trains and buses.
- If your phone is stolen, report it immediately.
- Stay in places where there are other people, especially after dark.

Teenage victims of crime

Statistics show that there has been a rise in crime against teenagers in the last few years. But why is this? A new report suggests one reason: teenagers nowadays have more to steal.

According to the report, the average UK teenager now walks around in clothes and equipment worth £700. As well as clothes, trainers and jewellery, this includes valuable equipment such as MP3 players, mobile phones and watches. The authors of the report believe that this is the main

reason why crime against teenagers is increasing. They say that teenagers should leave their phones and iPods at home if they want to be safe on the streets.

Teenagers – particularly young men – are more likely to be the victims of crime than adults: about half of all fifteen-sixteen-year-olds in Central London have been victims in the last eighteen months. It's not surprising that 51 percent of London teenagers say that crime is their biggest worry.

6 Listen to Part 2 of the phone-in. Tick the advice in 'Stay Safe' that Alison mentions.

7 Imagine that you are a caller on the phone-in. Do one of the tasks below:

- Describe a crime that happened to you or someone you know.
- Say how you or this person felt afterwards. (You can invent a story.)
- Give your opinion about one of the things that Judy, Becky or Alison said.

MINI WORKBOOK exercise 9 page 123

Reading & Writing

8 Read the newspaper article and answer the questions.

- What is the biggest worry for pensioners in Peterborough?
- What does Mr Robinson want the government to do?

Pensioners fear 'hoodies'

ACCORDING TO a survey by Peterborough Council, 72% of pensioners say that their biggest worry is walking past groups of teenagers in the street. They find young people dressed in hoods particularly frightening. 'The government should ban these hoodies,' says George Robinson, aged 74. 'I don't understand why young people want to walk around in these hoods. Older people find it very threatening.'

* hoodie: a top with a hood, also describes a young person who wears a hoodie and who looks like a criminal.



9 Read the letter a reader wrote in response to the article. Does she agree with the article? Why? Why not?

Letters to the editor

1 Dear Sir,

2 'Pensioners fear hoodies', 17 January.

3 As a teenager myself, I am sorry that pensioners are frightened of us.

4 'teenagers in hoods sometimes look frightening', many teenagers put their hoods up because they are worried about crime themselves, not to frighten older people.

5 Mr George Robinson when he says that the government should ban hoods for young people. I think everyone has the right to wear what they want, including teenagers. What do we do if it is raining or cold? Why should older people have the right to wear a hood but not teenagers?

6 'older people should see teenagers as individuals and not judge them by their clothes.'

7 Alex Whittaker

10 Complete the letter in exercise 9 with the Phrases2know.

Phrases 2 know (A40)

A letter from a reader

I agree that I disagree with However which appeared on Dear Sir ✓ Yours faithfully In my opinion I am writing in connection with your article

11 Write a letter responding to the article in exercise 3. Use the Phrases2know and the ideas below.

- Paragraph 1: Say which article you are writing about and if you generally agree/disagree with it.
- Paragraph 2: Say what you agree with and why.
- Paragraph 3: Say what you disagree with and why.
- Paragraph 4: Suggest a solution to the problem.