

# 49 The justice system

## A A police investigation



### GLOSSARY

|                                     |                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>report</b>                       | give information about sth that has happened                                                                                                          |
| <b>victim</b>                       | a person who has been robbed, injured, killed, etc.                                                                                                   |
| <b>investigate</b>                  | try to find out about sth <b>investigation</b> <i>n</i>                                                                                               |
| <b>witness</b>                      | a person who sees sth happen, e.g. a crime or an accident                                                                                             |
| <b>take place</b>                   | happen                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>catch</b> <i>pt/pp caught</i>    | find and hold sb                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>responsible</b> <i>(for sth)</i> | being the person who made sth happen                                                                                                                  |
| <b>arrest</b>                       | When the police <b>arrest</b> sb, they take them to a police station to question them about a crime.                                                  |
| <b>charge</b>                       | If the police <b>charge</b> sb, they are saying officially that they believe this person committed a crime: <i>He was <b>charged with</b> murder.</i> |
| <b>court</b>                        | the place where <b>trials</b> (see part B) happen and crimes are judged                                                                               |

### SPOTLIGHT *evidence and proof*

**Evidence** [U] can be facts, signs or objects that make you think something is true. **Proof** [U] is something that shows that an idea about a crime, an event, etc. is true. **prove** *v*.

- The police collected **evidence** so they could **prove** the man was guilty.

### 1 Answer the questions. Some questions have more than one answer.

- ▶ Who is caught? The person that the police believe may be responsible for the crime.
- 1 Who takes photos? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Who is charged? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Who investigates the crime? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Who is affected by the crime? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Who sees the crime take place? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Who usually reports the crime? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Who is arrested? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Who goes to court? \_\_\_\_\_

### 2 Circle the correct answer.

When a robbery has **taken place** / **reported**, someone will (1) **investigate** / **report** it to the police. (2) **Victims** / **Witnesses** will then tell the police what happened to them, so that the police can begin to (3) **investigate** / **charge** the crime. They may take photos where the robbery (4) **took place** / **caught**. If possible, they will (5) **report** / **arrest** the person who they think is responsible. If they get enough (6) **evidence** / **victims**, they will (7) **catch** / **charge** the person, and he/she will have to go to (8) **court** / **the police station**.

### 3 Complete the sentences.

- ▶ A group of young people have been arrested for several crimes in the area.
- 1 I saw the robbery and \_\_\_\_\_ it to the police.
- 2 The police think he committed the crime, but unfortunately they can't \_\_\_\_\_ it.
- 3 Two men were \_\_\_\_\_ with robbery.
- 4 The police \_\_\_\_\_ the man leaving the shop. He had over £1,000 on him, so they \_\_\_\_\_ him immediately and took him to the police station for questioning.
- 5 The police carried out a very detailed \_\_\_\_\_ to find the people responsible.
- 6 They are looking for \_\_\_\_\_ who saw what happened.
- 7 One problem is that \_\_\_\_\_ often suffer for a long time after a crime has \_\_\_\_\_ place.
- 8 They charged the woman with the crime and she will appear in \_\_\_\_\_ on Monday.



### TEST YOURSELF

## B In court

In Britain, serious crimes such as robbery and murder, are tried in **court** by a **judge** and **jury**. The **purpose** of the **trial** is to **examine** the evidence and **determine** whether somebody is **innocent** or **guilty** of the crime that they have been charged with. That is the jury's decision. If the person is guilty, the judge will then decide the correct **punishment** for the crime.

### GLOSSARY

|                         |                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>try</b>              | ask sb questions in court to decide if they have done sth illegal                                                                    |
| <b>purpose (of sth)</b> | the aim or intention of sth                                                                                                          |
| <b>trial</b>            | the process in a court of law where a judge, and often a jury, listens to the evidence and decides if sb is guilty of a crime or not |
| <b>examine</b>          | look carefully at sth/sb <b>examination</b> <i>n</i>                                                                                 |
| <b>determine</b>        | discover the facts about sth                                                                                                         |
| <b>innocent</b>         | If you are <b>innocent</b> , you haven't done anything wrong. <b>OPP</b> <b>guilty</b>                                               |
| <b>punishment</b>       | what sb must suffer for doing sth wrong, e.g. go to prison <b>punish</b> <i>v</i>                                                    |



### SPOTLIGHT *whether (... or not)*

- We use **whether** to talk about choosing between two things:  
I don't know **whether** to go **or not**.  
I don't know **whether** to buy that suit **or not**.
- Whether** can also mean **if**:  
She asked me **whether** I was Spanish.

#### 4 True or false about British courts? Write **T** or **F**. Correct the false sentences.

- A trial decides that somebody is guilty. **F - A trial decides whether somebody is innocent or guilty.**
- Trials take place in a court. \_\_\_\_\_
- A trial looks at all the evidence. \_\_\_\_\_
- A judge determines whether the person is guilty or not. \_\_\_\_\_
- The jury must listen to all the evidence. \_\_\_\_\_
- If the person is innocent, they will go to prison. \_\_\_\_\_
- The jury decides the punishment. \_\_\_\_\_

#### 5 Put the sentences in the correct order.

- The jury decided that the person was guilty.
- The police charged this person.
- Somebody committed a crime.
- The person went to court.
- The police arrested somebody.
- The jury listened to the evidence.
- The police investigated the crime.
- The victim reported the crime.
- The judge decided on the punishment.

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#### 6 Complete the sentences.

- The person on trial may be guilty or **innocent**.
- I sat in \_\_\_\_\_ for three days while a man was being \_\_\_\_\_ for the crime.
- If you are guilty of a crime, the \_\_\_\_\_ could be years in prison.
- The police \_\_\_\_\_ all the evidence they had.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ has to tell the court what they saw or know about the crime.
- We had to decide \_\_\_\_\_ to believe the witness or not.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ have to \_\_\_\_\_ whether the person is innocent or \_\_\_\_\_.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of the investigation was to find who was responsible for the murder.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ lasted for six days, and at the end, the \_\_\_\_\_ sent the woman to prison for two years.



### TEST YOURSELF