incident

1 Verb + incident

Use the correct form of these verbs:

highlight	*investigate*
occur	*cause*
report	*witness*

1. There was a serious accident in the middle of town last night. The police have appealed for anyone who ..... the incident to come forward.
2. I saw some older boys bullying one of the first-year students. I felt I had to ..... the incident to the headmaster.
3. A number of windows in our church were smashed at the weekend. The police are ..... the incident.
4. Somebody walked out of the building yesterday with two of our computers. This incident ..... our need to improve our security system.
5. A man was shot dead in the city centre last night. The incident ..... outside the Crown Hotel around three o'clock in the morning.
6. A French jet flew into Russian airspace and ..... a major diplomatic incident.

2 Noun + preposition

Use these nouns in the sentences below:

account of	*investigation into*
knowledge of	*reports of*
seriousness of	*wake of*

1. There have been ..... an incident at the airport. The police are already at the scene.
2. Police said there would be a full and thorough ..... the incident.
3. Relations between the countries are strained in the ..... the latest cross-border incident.
4. When she was accused of starting the fire, she denied all ..... the incident.
5. I gave the police a full and exhaustive ..... the incident in the underground.
6. Some of the older pupils were found with drugs. The headmaster has tried to play down the ..... the incident to save the reputation of the school.

Go back and underline the noun + preposition + *incident* expressions.

3 Common adjective collocations

Choose the most natural collocation from the pair in brackets:

1. The yacht sank after it hit the pier. A tourist with a video camera caught the ..... incident on film. *(full / whole)*
2. What do you remember most about your days in the army?
   >Well, apart from a lot of hard work, one ..... incident sticks in my mind, but perhaps it is too unpleasant to talk about over dinner. *(single / particular)*
3. There was a very ..... incident involving a group of youths outside a pub in London late last night in which a number of people were badly injured. *(severe / serious)*
4. We are sorry to hear that your money was stolen while you were a patient at this hospital. We are sure this was a(n) ..... incident as this is the first complaint of this kind which we have received. I enclose a cheque for £20 to replace the money you lost. *(isolated / remote)*
5. News is coming in of a ..... incident involving two passenger trains in the south of India. *(main / major)*
6. The army said that the recent shelling of civilians was a ..... incident and they wish to assure people that it will not happen again. *(regretted / regrettable)*

Notes

1. Note the following expressions:
   Protesters threw eggs and tomatoes at the President, who was visibly shaken by the incident.
   Mugging is becoming a serious problem. There have been countless incidents in recent months.
   The alleged incident was said to have taken place in the office canteen.
   Quick thinking by the police in keeping rival fans apart averted a serious incident.
2. The expression 'without incident' means without any trouble:
   The demonstrators were well-behaved and the protest passed without incident.

LIVEWORKSHEETS