

CRIME: THE PRISON SYSTEM

Watch the [video](#) titled “How Norway designed a more humane prison” by Vox.

1

WARM UP

Read and discuss the following quote.

“Crime is a measure of the State's failure. All crime in the end is a crime of the community.”
- H. G. Wells

2

CRIME VOCABULARY

Look at the newspaper **headlines** and match the **crimes** with their appropriate names. Then, answer the questions.

Headlines:

- “Arson charges made against firefighter.”
- “Burglary gone wrong - couple injured in crossfire.”
- “Former Vatican banker convicted of money laundering and embezzlement.”
- “Under investigation: Vandalism at Japanese Buddhist Temple.”

- “Lady Gaga’s bulldogs returned unharmed after kidnapping.”
- “South African President fights own party over corruption.”
- “Petty crime ruins holiday plans.”



Crimes:

1. The theft of funds from one's employer.
2. The action of abducting someone and holding them captive.
3. Involving minor crimes such as shoplifting or theft.
4. Deliberately causing damage to private or public property.
5. The act of deliberately setting fire to property.
6. The illegal entry of a building to commit a crime, especially theft.
7. Dishonest or fraudulent behaviour of those in power, usually involving bribery.
8. The concealment of the origin of illegally obtained money.

Questions:

- Do you believe that all of these crimes deserve jail time?
- Which of these crimes do you think deserves the biggest punishment?
- Which of these crimes are most common in your country?
- Do you think it is easy to launder money?
- Do you think graffiti is vandalism?

3

MUST VS SHOULD

Study the difference between “must” and “should” and then complete the tasks.

Both ‘must’ and ‘should’ are modal verbs. They are similar in meaning, although there is a small difference.

Must / Mustn't	Should / Shouldn't
Used when talking about an obligation where you have no choice.	Used when talking about a strong suggestion.
<u>Example:</u> You must abide by the law. You mustn't drink and drive - it's illegal.	<u>Example:</u> You should stop smoking - it's unhealthy. You should sleep more - you're tired.

Task 1: Complete the sentence with should / must / shouldn't or mustn't.

1. You _____ apply for that job.
2. You _____ fasten your seatbelt.
3. You _____ pay your taxes.
4. You _____ eat sweets - it's unhealthy.
5. You _____ commit crime.
6. You _____ exercise if you want to lose weight.
7. You _____ drink and drive, it's illegal.



Task 2: Read the statement and say whether you agree with it or not.

1. Inmates mustn't be allowed any comfort in prison.
2. Criminals mustn't be allowed a second chance to enter society.
3. Inmates should receive medical treatment in prison.
4. Inmates should stay active and exercise to keep morale up.
5. People shouldn't isolate ex-convicts.

4

VIDEO: VOCABULARY & DISCUSSION

Watch the [video](#) again and then complete the tasks below.



Listening exercise: Answer the questions about the video.

1. What does the prison in Halden (Norway) resemble?

2. What is the main motivation behind these well-designed prisons?

3. How many types of traditional prisons exist? What are their flaws?

4. In what way does the humane prison mimic the outside world?



5. How can prisoners track the passage of time in this human prison?

6. Why are the guards' rooms intentionally small?

Speaking exercise: Look at the topics in the box and talk about them related to prisons. Give your opinion on what prisoners must and mustn't be able to do. Use the grammar in exercise 3 to formulate your answers.

have access to a library	- have nutritional meals	- have time outside in nature
be able to have pets	be able to earn and save money	be able to study
have access to the internet	be able to leave prison in the day	play team sports

5

COMMON SAYINGS

Replace the phrases with words from the box and then answer the questions.

in jail	put in jail	commit fraud	tell the authorities
silent thief	trick	leave restaurants without paying	

1. He is an accountant - so he can easily cook the books and make himself a fortune!
2. He is doing time for armed robbery and larceny.
3. Nearly 2000 people are put behind bars over driving penalties each year.
4. The minister tried to blow the whistle about corruption but failed.
5. They used to dine and dash when they were at university.
6. Last night they were robbed by a cat burglar - they only noticed this morning.
7. He is not being truthful - he is trying to pull a fast one on us.



Questions:

- Why do you think it is hard for people to blow the whistle?
- Are people put behind bars for speeding in your country?
- Have you ever dined and dashed?
- Have you ever been robbed by a cat burglar?
- Do you know anyone that has done some time?
- Do you think it is easy to cook the books for a company?



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CRIME IDIOMS

Complete the idioms by matching two halves and then complete the tasks.

1. Face the	a. red-handed
2. Get caught	b. leg to stand on
3. To do something	c. scot free
4. To not have a	d. by the book
5. Get off	e. music



Task 1: Guess the meanings for each of the idioms.

1. To catch someone while they are doing something wrong.
2. To have no facts that support or justify one's actions or arguments.
3. To do something following all the rules.
4. To avoid punishment for something that you do wrong.
5. To be confronted with the unpleasant consequences of one's actions.

Task 2: Answer the questions.

1. Have you ever been caught red-handed? (E.g. cheating on a test / game...)
2. In your country, do a lot of criminals get off scot free?
3. Do you like to do everything by the book or to take chances?
4. Do you think that all criminals eventually face the music?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Discuss the questions together as a class.

1. Would you be willing to work with an ex-convict?
2. Do you think that the prison system in your country is efficient?
3. Do you think it is easy to find a job as an ex-convict? Should society help them?



HOMEWORK

1

WRITING TASK

Write answers for the following questions:

1. Do you think that all criminals can be integrated back into society?

2. Do you think the government should help ex-convicts get a job after they are released from prison?

3. Would this “campus” design - described in the video - work in your country?

4. Do you think there is a lot of corruption in your country’s prisons?



2

GRAMMAR PRACTICE: MUST VS SHOULD

Complete the sentences with must / mustn't / should / shouldn't.

1. You _____ apply sunscreen when you go to the beach.
2. We _____ fill our car with petrol before we leave tomorrow.
3. She _____ go to university if she wants to become a doctor.
4. She _____ travel alone, it could be dangerous.
5. He _____ drink beer if he is trying to lose weight.
6. You _____ be 21 years old to drink in the United States of America.



3

PHRASAL VERBS

Complete the phrasal verbs with either “on” or “out”. Then complete the sentences with the correct phrasal verb (**Note:** The tense of the phrasal verb might change).

Phrasal Verbs:

Lawyer _____: To obtain the services of a lawyer, especially when being investigated.

Bail _____: To pay a large sum of money to get someone out of jail temporarily.

Rat _____: To tell the authority about something illegal someone did.

Fess _____: To admit to one's own wrongdoing.

Sentences:

1. As soon as he realised that he was being investigated for fraud - he _____.
2. Although he pleaded innocent for months, the murderer finally _____ and admitted to his crime.
3. In order to get a better deal from the FBI, the drug dealer is going to _____ his colleagues.
4. Although the thieves are awaiting trial, they were _____ by their parents.

