

Solving crime

I can understand a text about different solutions to crime.

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1 Complete the newspaper article with the words below.

combat commit cut petty
prevention rate violent wave

Statistics show that the local police force has ¹ _____ crime by 15%. However, this fall has only affected ² _____ crimes such as murder. The crime ³ _____ for ⁴ _____ crimes such as shoplifting has gone up. This crime ⁵ _____ is affecting small shops and businesses. The police are working with shop owners to help them ⁶ _____ crime. They want them to install security cameras and participate in other crime ⁷ _____ efforts. Shopkeepers, however, are asking for more severe punishment for people who ⁸ _____ crimes and break the law.

2 Read the article. What problem could the technology mentioned in the article cause?

Reading Strategy

When matching questions with texts, remember that the key words from these questions may not appear in the text. The same information may be expressed in different words.

3 Read the Reading Strategy. Match paragraphs A–C with questions 1–6 below. Each paragraph may be matched with more than one question.

Which paragraph mentions ...

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 the disadvantages of a new technology? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 successful results from new technology? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 stopping criminals from getting away? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 a reduction in UK crime? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 police ignoring crime in some cases? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 a possible increase in crime rates? | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Robo-Cops

Police forces have always used technology to help them combat crime, but as collecting data and storing it becomes much easier, more and more police forces are using it to improve crime prevention and therefore to predict crime before it happens.

A Crime prevention software called PredPol helps the police predict where crimes are likely to occur. The software analyses years of data on the location, time and nature of crimes committed and predicts where and when crime is most likely to occur in the future. Police officers receive this information on the computers in their cars and they then spend more time in these areas. As a result, the increased police presence in these neighbourhoods has cut crime significantly. Crime figures for one area of Los Angeles, USA, were reduced by 12% in 2011 when police officers used crime prediction software. In the same year, burglaries were cut by 26% in Manchester, UK, using the same methods.

B As well as software that predicts crime, companies are also developing technology that will help police patrols catch criminals before they can leave town. By combining information such as the places where crimes frequently take place with the routes that allow the fastest escape, computers will direct patrols to where they can arrest criminals.

C However, although the makers of this technology claim it will help reduce crime rates, some people are not so sure. Not all crime is reported and if the police just focus on the neighbourhoods where most crime occurs, they will neglect others. Some experts claim that if police officers just pay attention to the information that has been stored in their devices, crime rates could actually rise in some areas.

