11 Crimes: Pickpocket



THE LAKELAND GAZETTE

SATURDAY JUNE 14

Wave of **Thefts** Worries Locals

Last summer, Lakeland residents reported only two criminal acts. This year, twelve thefts were reported in June alone. "I felt someone **bump into** me and my **purse** was gone," local woman Shirley Andrews explains. "He got my wallet and other **personal items**. I didn't even see him."

Sheriff Bill Grady shared his thoughts with us. "The police will do what they can. But people need to **protect** themselves from being **victimized**." So, what does Sheriff Grady suggest? "**Awareness** is important. **Pickpockets** work together to create distractions and then take advantage." Fortunately, Grady points out, pickpockets are not typically violent. "Just leave your **valuables** at home," Grady says. "Lakeland is still a safe place."

Were you a victim of pickpocketing?
Share your story with the Lakeland Gazette.

Call (583) 555-2969.

Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

1 Are pickpockets common in your country?
2 How does law enforcement address pickpocketing in your country?

Reading

2 Read the newspaper article. Then, choose the correct answers.

1 What is this article mostly about?
- A how the police are stopping pickpockets
- B how to protect oneself from pickpockets
- C how to improve the Lakeland community
- D how to deal with a violent pickpocket

2 What can you infer about Lakeland?
- A It needs more police officers on duty.
- B It has more crime this year than last year.
- C It has had several homes robbed this year.
- D It has many tourists during the summer.

3 Which of the following is NOT common pickpocket behavior?
- A using violence
- B stealing in crowded places
- C working in groups
- D distracting people

Vocabulary

3 Read the sentence pairs. Choose where the words best fit in the blanks.

1 awareness / distraction
- A Pickpockets create a(n) _____ to steal valuables.
- B _____ prevents you from having your things stolen.

2 protect / victimize
- A _____ yourself from pickpockets by being aware.
- B Pickpockets _____ unaware people.

3 theft / personal items
- A Purses often contain _____ .
- B The punishment for _____ varies by state.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Crimes: Pickpocket 11

4 Fill in the blanks with the correct words and phrases from the word bank.

WORD BANK

purse pickpocket valuables bumped into

1 Many women keep their personal items in a _____.
2 Pickpockets steal backpacks hoping to find _____.
3 A man _____ Mr. Jones and stole his wallet.
4 A _____ often steals things in crowded places.

5 Listen and read the article again. What is the best way to keep expensive items safe?

Listening

6 Listen to a conversation between a citizen and a police officer. Mark the statements as true (T) or false (F).

1 __ The woman says the pickpocket was tall.
2 __ The pickpocket bumped into the citizen.
3 __ The woman's watch was stolen.

7 Listen again and complete the conversation.

Officer: Are you 1 _____ _____, Miss?
Citizen: No, not at all. Someone just stole my 2 _____!
Officer: All right, try to 3 _____ _____. Did you see the person who stole your purse?
Citizen: No – it was very 4 _____. I just felt someone bump into me. Then my purse was gone.
Officer: What did you have in your purse?
Citizen: Some 5 _____ _____. A little money and my ID.
Officer: Okay, well don't worry Miss. We'll do what we can to find the 6 _____ and your purse.

Speaking

8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then, switch roles.

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

Did you see ...
What did you have ...
Don't worry ...

Student A: You are a police officer. Talk to Student B about:

- how they are feeling
- what was stolen
- how it was stolen

Student B: You are a citizen. Talk to Student A about a stolen personal item.

Writing

9 Use the conversation from Task 8 to fill out the police report.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

COMPLAINT: Pickpocketing

Did the victim see the pickpocket?
Y / N

APPEARANCE: _____

Provide a brief description of the incident:

_____

_____

What items did the pickpocket steal?

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS