

11 Crimes: Pickpocket

purse

awareness

theft

personal items

valuables

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

THE LAKELAND GAZETTE

megaphone icon

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.

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.


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- 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.



COMPLAINT: Pickpocketing

Did the victim see the pickpocket?
Y / N

APPEARANCE: _____

Provide a brief description of the incident:

What items did the pickpocket steal?
