11 Crimes: **Pickpocket**

awareness

purse

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

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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.

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?
_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS