

Idioms to do with crime.

(a) Match the idioms 1-15 with the correct definitions a-o.

1 a con trick

a (of goods) to be stolen.

2 a fence

b bribe someone.

3 an inside job

c discover someone in the act of committing a crime.

4 blow the whistle on sb/smth

d a dishonest trick played on someone in order to get money from them.

5 case a joint

e legitimize money obtained illegally.

6 catch someone red-handed

f publicly reveal something illegal or dishonest.

7 cook the books

g stealing a car and driving it, often dangerously, just for fun.

8 do a bunk

h examine or inspect the place you intend to rob.

9. do time

i someone who buys and sells stolen goods.

10 fall off the back of lorry

j avoid punishment completely.

11 go straight

k falsify a company's accounts; cheat at bookkeeping.

12 get off scot-free

l a crime committed by someone connected with the place or organisation where the crime took place.

13 grease someone's palm

m serve a prison sentence.

14 joy-riding

n give up a criminal way of life; not break the law again.

15 launder money

o disappear without telling anyone where you are going.

(b) Complete the following sentences with a suitable idiom. Choose from the ones listed above and make changes to the verbs where necessary.

- 1 The police _____ the thieves _____ as they were leaving the shop through a back window.
- 2 The mysterious disappearance of one of the cashiers shortly after the robbery confirmed the police's suspicions that it had been an _____.
- 3 He only got the contract because he _____ a government official's _____.
- 4 He had been _____ for years, trying to cover up the £10,000 he had taken from the company.
- 5 When Tom came out of prison after serving two years, he promised his girlfriend that he would _____ and never steal again.
- 6 A few years ago, my cousin _____ for fraud. He was in prison for three years altogether.
- 7 Don't buy those cassette recorders. If they're that cheap they must have _____.
- 8 Although the police knew they had committed the crime, they couldn't prove it, so the men _____.
- 9 Most bank robbers _____ thoroughly before attempting to rob it.
- 10 He _____ in the middle of the night to avoid paying his hotel bill.