

PRACTICE

It all went wrong

- 1 Work in pairs. Read about three robberies that went wrong. What were the robbers' mistakes?

Easy arrest

A bank robber in Marseille, France, held up a sign which said 'Give me all the money.' The cashier handed over the money, and the bank robber fled, leaving the note behind. Unfortunately, he had written the note on the back of an envelope. On the other side was his address. He was arrested later the same day.

Smile!

Car thief Lee Hoskins took pictures of himself stealing a Vauxhall Astra with a camera he found in the glove department. Lee and his girlfriend took turns posing before crashing the car and fleeing the scene, leaving the camera on the back seat of the car. 'It's amazing just how stupid some criminals can be,' said a spokesman for Somerset police.

Have a loan instead

A Finnish bank manager stopped a robbery by persuading the three criminals to take out a loan instead. The robbers burst into the bank near Helsinki, and demanded €50,000. The manager put the money on the table, but suggested that a loan would be more sensible. He offered them a €10 cash advance and told them to return in ten minutes to sign the loan papers. Police were waiting for them.



You're an idiot!

- 3 Your friend did some really stupid things.

I drove home even though I was falling asleep at the wheel.

You're an idiot! You might have had an accident! You could have killed someone!

How do you react when he tells you these things? Use *might have* or *could have*.

- 1 I went walking in the mountains for three days with no food or equipment.
- 2 I didn't feel like going to work, so I phoned in sick. I went shopping instead.
- 3 I had a temperature of 102, but I went out dancing all night.
- 4 I told Sally I couldn't see her, then went out to the pub with Danielle.
- 5 I used to be really good at tennis, I was an under-14 champion, but then I gave it all up.

T 9.4 Listen and compare.

Speaking

- 4 Think of a time in your life when things went wrong.

I went to a party with my boyfriend.
I kissed another boy.
I had a row with my boyfriend.
We broke up.

Make sentences like these.

I shouldn't have kissed the other boy.

If I hadn't kissed him, I wouldn't have had a row with my boyfriend.

I should have just said sorry to my boyfriend.
Then we wouldn't have broken up.

- 2 Rewrite the sentences about the robberies using the words in brackets.

- 1 It was a mistake to write his note on an envelope. (*shouldn't*)
He shouldn't have written his note on an envelope.
- 2 It would have been better to take the note with him. (*should*)

- 3 He left his address. The police found him. (*if*)

- 4 It was stupid to take his photo. (*shouldn't*)

- 5 They crashed the car. They didn't escape. (*if, could*)

- 6 He left photos of himself. He could have got away with it. (*if, might*)

- 7 They were so stupid. They didn't escape with the money. (*if*)

- 8 They listened to the manager. They didn't steal the money. (*if, could*)

- 9 It was silly to go back to the bank. (*shouldn't*)

- 10 It would have been better to just run away. (*should*)

SPEAKING AND LISTENING

A social conscience

- 1 Work in small groups. Do you have a social conscience? Discuss the situations 1–5 and decide what you would do.

I'd ... I wouldn't ... I might ...

Tell the class.

- 2 **T 9.5** Listen to five people describing a situation they were in. Answer the questions.

- 1 Where was he/she?
- 2 Who were the other people involved?
- 3 What was the problem?
- 4 Did he/she do anything? Say anything?
- 5 What was the other person's reaction?
- 6 What was the result?

Talking about you

- 3 What would *you* have done in the same situations? Discuss in your groups, then tell the rest of the class.

I wouldn't have done what she did.

I'd have told him ...

SPOKEN ENGLISH *just*

- 1 Look at the use of *just* in these sentences.

*I'd **just** reached the front of the queue ...*

*I **just** need to ask a quick question.*

*... I was **just** furious!*

In which sentences does *just* mean ...?

really a short time before only/simply

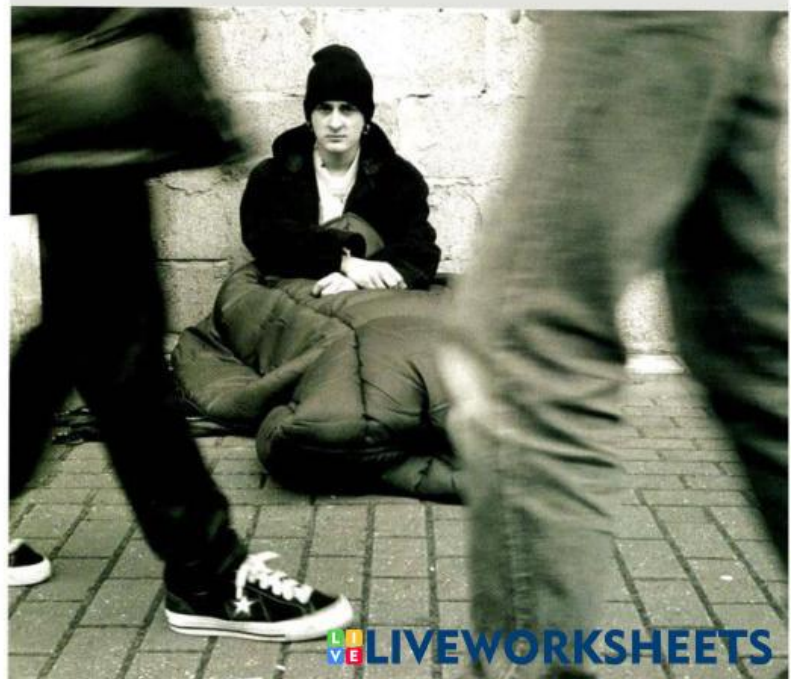
- 2 Find other examples of *just* in T 9.5 on p128.
- 3 Write the word *just* where you think it goes best in these sentences.
- 1 Alice isn't here. She's ^{just} gone.
 - 2 I'm sorry I'm in a bad mood. I'm tired, that's all.
 - 3 I love your new coat!
 - 4 I've finished the most wonderful book. You must read it!
 - 5 I don't want any wine. A glass of water, please.
 - 6 John's so generous. I think he's amazing!
 - 7 'Who's coming tonight?' 'Me.'
 - 8 Hold on a minute. I'm going to the loo.

T 9.6 Listen, check, and repeat.

Do you have a social conscience?

What would YOU do?

- 1 You are in the street. A man who says he's penniless and homeless is asking for money, so you give him some. As you're walking away, his phone starts ringing. He pulls out a really nice mobile phone and starts chatting to a friend.
- 2 You're in a shop. You see a woman shop-lifting some food. She's got three small children, who look hungry.
- 3 You're in a place where smoking is forbidden. Two men light a cigarette in front of you.
- 4 Your best friend is cheating on her boyfriend, Bill. She's been going out with him for ages, but she's also seeing a guy called Mark.
- 5 You see some kids in the street dropping litter. There is a litter bin five metres away.



READING AND SPEAKING

The victim meets the burglar

- 1 Have you or anyone you know ever been the victim of a crime? Discuss the questions.
 - What happened?
 - Were the police involved?
 - Was the criminal arrested?
- 2 There is an organization called the *Restorative Justice Consortium*. It brings together criminals and their victims.
 - What do you think it hopes to achieve by this?
 - What might the victim of a crime have to say?
 - What might the criminal learn?
- 3 Read the headlines and the introduction to the newspaper article. How do you think the burglar and the victim became friends?
- 4 Work in two groups.

Group A Read about the victim.

Group B Read about the robber.

Answer the questions.

- 1 What personal details do you learn? (*name, age, background ...*)
 - 2 What was he doing in the moments before their first encounter?
 - 3 What was his first reaction? How did he feel? What did he think?
 - 4 How does he describe the act of violence?
 - 5 How did he feel after the crime took place?
 - 6 What was his reaction when asked to meet the other person?
 - 7 What made Will so angry?
 - 8 What did this outburst of anger make him realize?
 - 9 What does he think of the experience of restorative justice?
- 5 Find a partner from the other group. Compare your answers to the questions in exercise 4.

What do you think?

- 1 Is bringing together the criminal and the victim a good idea? Could it help with all crimes? Could it help with bullying?
- 2 60% of people released after serving one year in prison are convicted of another crime. What does this statistic suggest?
- 3 The purposes of imprisonment are ...
 - to punish the criminal.
 - to protect society from the criminal.
 - to rehabilitate the criminal.

Do you think these aims are achieved?

What other forms of punishment might be more effective?

►► **WRITING PROS AND CONS** p112

I'M SORRY

How a burglar and his victim became the best of friends

THE VICTIM

BUSINESSMAN Will Riley, 50, lives in Islington, north London, with his wife and daughter ...

I WAS getting ready to go to the gym when I walked into my hall and stopped dead. There, standing on the stairs, was a man about the same age as me, dressed in a scruffy leather jacket.

"What are you doing here?" I asked in shock. He said he was a neighbour who'd got lost. But it was obvious who he was.

I was suddenly scared. I thought, "If he's got a knife, he could kill me." We kind of fought with each other. A passer-by saw us and phoned the police. Somehow I managed to hold him until the police arrived. It was only after they arrested him and took him away that a policeman asked if I was OK. I put my hand to my head and felt blood. I hadn't realized what he'd done to me. It's incredible, but I just didn't register that he'd hit me really hard. He'd smashed a flower pot on my head, and all the bits were on the ground. I went to hospital and needed stitches.

After the burglary, my whole life changed. I've always lived in big cities, and I've never been afraid of urban crime, but suddenly I became too frightened to open my front door. All I could think was "What if my daughter had been at home? Would he have attacked her?"

PETER WOOLF, a life-long criminal, broke into Will Riley's home one March evening. Will found Peter standing in his hall, his pockets stuffed with money and jewellery.

Peter was jailed for three years for the burglary. So it's hard to think of them becoming friends.

Here, Will and Peter describe their first encounter, and why meeting each other again was the best thing for both of them ...

By VICTORIA KENNEDY



CLOSE FRIENDS:
Peter Woolf and
Will Riley

I was asked to meet the burglar in prison. I wasn't sure what the purpose was, but I went anyway. I was curious.

We sat in the prison library, and he explained how he'd come from a dysfunctional family, was a heroin addict and spent his life in and out of jail. He spoke without any emotion. But it was when he suddenly said "Last time we met ..." that I exploded.

I screamed at him, 'Why me? Why did you ruin my life?'

"We didn't meet in a bar, you little ...! You broke into my house!" I was so angry. I screamed at him, "Why me? Why did you do this to me? Why did you ruin my life?"

I could see from his face that I had got through to him. He looked stunned. It was then I realized he was just an ordinary guy. And I wanted to help him ...

When I got home, I felt relieved. All my fears disappeared. Because I could see Peter was just a normal human being, he became less frightening.

When he was finally released, we stayed in touch. I've met him dozens of times since and the change in him is amazing. It's hard to believe he's the same person who broke into my home. He's totally different.

I'm delighted that I've done something to help Peter get his life back. ☺

THE ROBBER

PETER WOOLF, 50, is married to Louise, and works as a counsellor to rehabilitate criminals ...

IT WAS easy to break into Will's house. Just one push and the lock broke. I quickly took some gold jewellery and some money from upstairs. I was feeling lucky.

But when I was coming downstairs and I bumped into Will in the hall, I suddenly felt frightened. I thought, "He's a big guy. If he wanted to, he could hurt me."

I tried to escape. I didn't want to hit him, but I did. I'm not a violent guy, but I just did what I had to do. There was a flower pot, and I smashed it on his head.

After I was arrested, all I felt was a big sense of relief. I was going back to a place I knew well. I'd been in and out of prison for 18 years, for theft, burglary, and fraud.

I started using drugs when I was 10 and became an addict at 14. I'd hit rock bottom. I stole because it was the only thing I knew how to do. I knew it would only lead me back to prison.

I was given a three-year sentence. It was while I was in jail someone mentioned Restorative Justice. I couldn't see the point, but I agreed to do it because I was bored.

It wasn't until I started walking down the corridor towards the library that I got scared.

When I got there I sat down and just looked at the floor. I said the same rubbish I always used to say to the police. But Will was furious, and I was shocked. I thought, "My God, I did all this."

I felt angry with myself, and ashamed. I was determined to make things better.

I suddenly realized that I was responsible for this man's pain. He wasn't just a faceless nobody that I'd stolen from. I felt angry with myself, and ashamed. I was determined to make things better.

I did a course of rehab to get off drugs. I also started a course to be a counsellor.

It was at the counselling class that I met Louise. I was over the moon. And my life changed completely ...

I was released early after 18 months, and Louise and I got married. Life hasn't been easy, but I've worked hard to get things together.

I'm now helping others. I'm clean of drugs and haven't committed another crime. I feel proud of myself. These days, I consider myself lucky that I broke into Will's house that day. If I hadn't – and if we hadn't become friends – I don't know what I would have done. I guess I'd be dead by now. ☺