

LEXICAL RESOURCE – TOPIC 60 – CRIMES

Topic 60: It is observed that ex-prisoners commit crimes after being released from prison. What do you think is the cause? How can it be solved?

Exercise 1: Match the word or phrase with the definition:

1. break the cycle (v phr): /breɪk ðə 'saɪkl/
2. community service (n phr): /kə'mju:nəti 'sɜ:vɪs/
3. deterrent (n): /dɪ'terənt/
4. discrimination (n): /dɪskrɪmɪ'neɪʃən/
5. incarceration (n): /ɪnka:sə'reɪʃən/
6. law-abiding (adj): /'lɔ: əbaɪdɪŋ/
7. marginalization (n): /ma:dʒɪnəlɪz'zeɪʃən/
8. poverty cycle (n phr): /'pɒvəti 'saɪkl/
9. preventive measures (n phr): /prɪ'ventɪv 'meʒəz/
10. recidivism (n): /rɪ'sɪdɪvɪzəm/
11. rehabilitation (n): /rɪ:əbɪlɪ'teɪʃən/
12. social exclusion (n phr): /'səʊʃəl ɪk'sklu:zən/
13. stable employment (n phr): /'steɪbəl ɪm'plɔɪmənt/
14. stigma (n): /'stɪgma:/
15. vocational training (n phr): /vəʊ'keɪʃənəl 'treɪnɪŋ/

- A. actions taken to stop problems before they happen
- B. negative social label or shame
- C. obeying the law
- D. process of helping someone return to normal life
- E. being shut out from society
- F. pushing a group to the edge of society
- G. reliable long-term job
- H. repeating pattern of poverty
- I. something that discourages crime
- J. stop a repeated negative pattern
- K. the state of being imprisoned
- L. the tendency of a convicted criminal to reoffend
- M. training for specific jobs
- N. unfair treatment of people
- O. unpaid work for public benefit

Exercise 2: Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase:

- A. break the cycle
- B. deterrent
- C. incarceration
- D. law-abiding
- E. poverty
- F. recidivism
- G. rehabilitation
- H. stigma
- I. unemployment
- J. vocational

Reducing crime in the long term requires more than harsher punishments; it demands policies that address the underlying causes of criminal behavior. While imprisonment may serve as a short-term (1) _____, relying solely on (2) _____ often fails to prevent people from committing crimes again after release.

One major concern is the high level of (3) _____ in many countries. Former prisoners frequently reoffend because they face serious barriers once they return to society. After release, an offender may encounter (4) _____, discrimination, and limited access to employment. Without realistic job prospects, many struggle with (5) _____, which increases the likelihood of falling back into crime. In this sense, prison alone does little to address the deeper issues that push individuals into the (6) _____ cycle.

To tackle these problems, governments should invest in effective (7) _____ programs. Providing (8) _____ training during imprisonment can significantly improve a person's employability after release. Equally important are well-designed re-entry programs that help individuals secure stable employment and housing. When former prisoners are supported in rebuilding their lives, they are far more likely to become (9) _____ citizens.

In addition, strong social support is crucial. Many individuals who enter prison struggle with mental health issues or substance abuse, which often remain untreated during incarceration. Community-based preventive measures, such as counseling and community service, can help individuals reconnect with society and build a reliable support network. These initiatives not only reduce crime but also promote successful reintegration into the community.

In conclusion, reducing crime requires a balanced approach that combines punishment with meaningful rehabilitation. By focusing on long-term strategies that address employment, social support, and personal development, societies can (10) _____ of reoffending and create a more sustainable long-term solution to crime.