

Putting words together...

36.3

- We say that people **commit a crime**. It is not correct to say that they 'do a crime'. We also use the word **commit** with names of crimes, e.g. **commit murder**.
- If something is not allowed by law, it is **against the law**, and if you do something that is against the law, you **break the law**.
- If people are guilty of a serious crime, they **go to prison** or are **sent to prison**. If the police have to deal with someone who has done something wrong, especially someone young, we say that person is **in trouble with the police**.
- If you see someone committing a crime, you could **call the police**.

Exercise 4

Match the first part of each sentence (1–6) with the second (a–f).

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|---|--|
| 1 I think it should be against the law | a you should call the police and tell them. |
| 2 Anyone who commits murder | b who drive too fast to pay a fine. |
| 3 I think it's right for people | c all people who commit crimes. |
| 4 I think society should punish | d for parents to hit their children. |
| 5 If your friend steals something from a shop | e than to steal something. |
| 6 It is a much worse crime to hurt someone | f should be sent to prison for the rest of their life. |

Exercise 5

36.4

Stuart and Emma have very different opinions about crime. Use the words from the box to complete what they say. Listen and check.

trouble steals commit criminals send honest against go break damages

There is a lot of crime in our city, but in order to stop it, we need to think carefully about why people ¹ commit crimes. Why are some people ² _____ while others are prepared to ³ _____ the law to get what they want? I think that when young people get into ⁴ _____ with the police, it is better to offer them help than to punish them. We shouldn't ⁵ _____ them to prison; we should give them more education and a better chance in life.

Stuart



I think we need to build more prisons. It's quite simple. If people do something that is ⁶ _____ the law, they should be punished. Why should we feel sorry for ⁷ _____? If someone ⁸ _____ my money or ⁹ _____ my car, I don't see why they should get help. If you commit a crime, you should ¹⁰ _____ to prison for a long time. It's the only way the rest of us can be safe.

Emma



Use the words you've learned...

Talk or write about crime. What are the most common crimes where you live? What is the best way to stop them? What should happen to criminals?