8.3 Reading and Vocabulary

The right punishment?

1 Complete the sentences with the negative form of the adjectives below.

important interesting legal logical patient responsible usual

1 Why do you wash your hands before having a shower? It's completely *illogical*.
2 If you do something _____, the police will come after you.
3 That's a very _____ plant – I've never seen one like it before.
4 It was very _____ to stay up so late the night before the exam.
5 The fingerprint was _____. It wasn't connected to the crime.
6 Henry hates waiting. He's really _____.
7 I didn't enjoy that lesson. It was really _____.

2 Read the article. Choose the correct answer.

1 Why did Roberta hack into her school's records?
a She wanted to make money by selling the information she found.
b Her schoolwork was boring and she needed some excitement.
c She always wanted to be a hacker.
d She wanted to see if she could do it.

2 Why didn't Roberta go to a court?
a Because she was still a teenager.
b Because the crime wasn't very serious.
c Because she answered all the questions the police officers asked her.
d Because the police officers thought Roberta could use her skills somewhere else.

3 What do Roberta's new employers think about people like Roberta?
a They should work rather than spend their young years in prison.
b They will always make poor choices in life.
c They will enjoy working in cyber security.
d They are often unfair to people.

4 What is Roberta's job now?
a Designing safer websites and servers.
b Helping other hackers like her to get a job.
c Testing the safety of websites and servers.
d Catching dangerous hackers.

I can understand an article about crime and punishments.



What punishment?

Is it possible to commit a crime without knowing it? And if it's true, then what is a fair punishment?

When Roberta was eighteen, a typical school day turned into the most irregular day of her life. To her embarrassment, she was arrested outside her school with all her classmates watching. Her crime was theft. She didn't rob a bank and she wasn't a burglar. She was a hacker and her crime was hacking into her school's records.

But how did Roberta get into hacking? When she was growing up, she had some health problems and she had to spend a lot of time indoors. She thought schoolwork was uninteresting, but she really loved computers. She enjoyed creating programs and doing things that were impossible for others.

After she was arrested, Roberta said she never meant to use the stolen information. She just wanted to test her skills as a hacker. She didn't realise it was illegal. Luckily, the police believed her and had an interesting solution.

Roberta's crime was very serious. But because she wasn't trying to hurt anyone, the police decided to give her a choice. The detectives believed she could have a successful career in cyber security. Roberta could be taken to court and go to prison, or she could start working for a cyber security company.

Roberta did not think twice about it and accepted their offer. Now she works for an IT company who employs young people like her – those who have good computer skills, but have made bad choices in life. The company understands that a prison sentence is too heavy for teenagers. Roberta's job is to stop people from stealing online information. She tries to break into websites and servers to see how they can be improved and protected from attacks in the future.

Roberta earns good money and has a bright future ahead. But do you think it's fair? What punishment would you give Roberta?

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