# 48 Crime

## A What is crime?



A **crime** is an activity which is **against the law**. For example, if you **steal** someone's **property**, you are **committing a crime** and **breaking the law**. Some **criminal acts** are **minor**, e.g. you get a **fine** for **illegal** parking. For **serious** crimes, especially violent crimes, e.g. the act of **killing** someone, a person can **go to prison** for a long time.

**GLOSSARY**

| | |
|---|---|
| **against the law** | against the rules of a country SYN **illegal** OPP **legal** |
| **steal** *pt* **stole** *pp* **stolen** | take sth belonging to sb else without permission |
| **property** [U] | sth that you have or own, e.g. a computer, jewellery |
| **commit a crime** | do sth wrong or illegal |
| **break the law** | do sth illegal/against the law |
| **criminal** | [*only before a noun*] connected with crime |
| **act** | a thing that you do ***a criminal act*** |
| **minor** | A **minor** crime is not bad or important. OPP **serious** |
| **fine** | money that you must pay because you have done sth wrong |
| **killing** | an act of killing sb in a way that was planned |
| **go to prison** | go to a place where criminals have to stay after they have committed a crime ALSO **send sb to prison** A person **in prison** is a **prisoner**. SYN **jail = prison** |

**1 Find and circle the verbs below.**

finebreakpropertyviolentlawstealcrimesendsomebodytoprisoncriminalcommitillegalserious

**2 Cover the glossary. Is the meaning the same or different? Write *S* or *D*.**

▶ steal / take something belonging to someone without permission S

1 illegal / against the law .....
2 property / something you own .....
3 the killing of someone / an attack on someone .....
4 a criminal act / a legal act .....
5 commit a crime / break the law .....
6 a minor crime / a serious crime .....
7 prison / jail .....

**3 Complete the sentences.**

▶ She did something terrible, and I heard that she was sent to prison.

1 Have you ever _____ a crime?
2 There is a lot of _____ behaviour at night: attacks on people and cars, for example.
3 In nearly every country, it is not _____ to drive on a public road without a licence.
4 Somebody _____ my bike and sold it in the market.
5 I heard that _____ has been stolen from several other houses in our street.
6 Some _____ escaped from the jail during the fire.
7 The attack on the old man was a very serious _____ of violence.
8 He committed a _____ crime, and he'll probably go to _____ for a long time.
9 He parked in the wrong place. It's only a _____ crime, but it's still _____ the law.
10 I've never _____ the law.
11 Some young men have started carrying knives, and there have been some terrible _____ in recent years.
12 I drove through a NO ENTRY sign and had to pay a _____ of £80.

TEST YOURSELF



LIVEWORKSHEETS

# B Types of crime

| Crime | Meaning | Verb | Criminal (= a person who commits a crime) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **theft** | taking sth which belongs to sb else without permission | *He **steals** cars then sells them.* | **thief (*pl* thieves)** |
| **robbery** | stealing from a person or place, often using violence | *Two men were planning to **rob** the bank.* | **robber** |
| **burglary** | entering a building illegally and stealing things from it | *They **broke into** the house and stole some jewellery.* | **burglar** |
| **assault**<br>**attack** | hurting sb physically | *He **assaulted/attacked** a man.*<br>*She **stabbed** the man with a **knife**.* | **attacker** |
| **murder** | killing sb when it is planned | *He **murdered** his neighbour.*<br>*He **shot** her dead with his father's **gun**.* | **murderer** |

**SPOTLIGHT** *steal* and *rob*

You **steal** money or things, but you **rob** a person or place.

- *Someone has **stolen** my bike.*
- *Thieves **stole** €2,000 from the shop.*
- *I was **robbed** at the football match.*
- *They **robbed** the museum last night.*

**4 Cross out any wrong answers. Be careful: more than one answer may be wrong.**

▶ *Rob, ~~thief~~, attack* and *steal* are all verbs.

1 *Theft, murder, robbery* and *burglary* are all ways of getting property.

2 *Theft, parking, burglary* and *assault* are all crimes.

3 *Shoot, assault, stab* and *break in* are all ways of attacking people physically.

4 *Assault, burglary, theft* and *murder* are acts of violence.

5 *Murderer, thief, attacker* and *robbery* are all criminals.

**5 True or false? Write *T* or *F*. Correct the false sentences.**

▶ You can steal property. T

1 If you murder somebody, they're dead. _____

2 You stab somebody with a gun. _____

3 A burglar breaks into a home. _____

4 A criminal is a person. _____

5 You steal a bank. _____

6 Theft is stealing. _____

7 You shoot somebody with a knife. _____

**6 Complete the sentences.**

▶ The thief stole _____ $1,000.

1 Two robbers _____ into the museum and _____ three paintings. A guard tried to stop them, but one robber had a knife and _____ him in the chest.

2 The man is a _____, and has spent much of his life in prison. It's mostly for _____: he steals computers and things like that.

3 Someone _____ me on the way home last night. He had a gun and and said he would _____ me if I didn't give him money and my mobile phone. It was horrible.

4 He will be in prison for the rest of his life for _____ his wife. He bought a gun and _____ her three times while she was asleep.

5 A _____ broke into our house and took jewellery and cameras.

6 The three men _____ that bank because it was in a very quiet area.

7 _____ from cars has gone down in recent years because of better security. However, _____ have increased because more young people have knives.

8 The two men took money from the post office. The _____ happened at 4 p.m.

**TEST YOURSELF**



LIVEWORKSHEETS