

# 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

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

### 1 Find and circle the verbs below.

fine break property violent law steal crime send somebody to prison criminal commit illegal serious

### 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

## B Types of crime

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

### SPOTLIGHT *steal* and *rob*

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

- Someone has **stolen** my bike. ■ I was **robbed** at the football match.
- Thieves **stole** €2,000 from the shop. ■ 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. **T**
- 2 You stab somebody with a gun. **T**
- 3 A burglar breaks into a home. **T**
- 4 A criminal is a person. **T**
- 5 You steal a bank. **F**
- 6 Theft is stealing. **T**
- 7 You shoot somebody with a knife. **T**

### 6 Complete the sentences.

- The thief stole \$1,000.

- 1 Two robbers were into the museum and stole three paintings. A guard tried to stop them, but one robber had a knife and stabbed him in the chest.
- 2 The man is a thief, and has spent much of his life in prison. It's mostly for theft: he steals computers and things like that.
- 3 Someone robbed me on the way home last night. He had a gun and stabbed 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 murdering his wife. He bought a gun and stabbed her three times while she was asleep.
- 5 A burglar broke into our house and took jewellery and cameras.
- 6 The three men robbed that bank because it was in a very quiet area.
- 7 Theft from cars has gone down in recent years because of better security. However, assaults have increased because more young people have knives.
- 8 The two men took money from the post office. The robbery happened at 4 p.m.



### TEST YOURSELF