

Police procedures

An arrest is when a police **constable** **detains** someone **suspected** of an **offence**. In the UK, the police can arrest you if they have a **valid** arrest **warrant** (**issued** by a **magistrate**), or if they have reasonable **grounds** for suspecting you have committed or **are about to** commit an offence. You are **cautioned** and then taken to a police station as soon as possible. Once you are **in custody**, you have the right to legal advice from a **solicitor**. If there is sufficient evidence, the police will **charge** you, and you will then appear in court where a magistrate will decide whether you should be **remanded in custody** or **released on bail**.

If your case goes to trial, you will either be **convicted** of the crime, or found innocent and **acquitted**. If you are found guilty, you will be **sentenced** by a judge.



SPOTLIGHT *the police*

A **police officer** is any member of the **police force**. In the UK, a (**police**) **constable** (abbreviated as **PC**) is an officer of the lowest **rank** (= position in an organization). Above the rank of constable is the **sergeant**, the **inspector**, and so on. The **chief constable** is the head of each regional police force.

GLOSSARY

procedure	the usual or correct way for doing sth	custody	the state of being in prison while waiting for trial: in custody
detain	keep sb in an official place, e.g. a police station, and prevent them from leaving: be detained in custody	solicitor	a lawyer who gives legal advice and prepares legal documents
suspect sb of (doing) sth	believe that sb is guilty of sth, though you do not have proof. A person is a suspect .	charge sb (with sth)	say officially you believe sb has committed a crime
offence formal	a crime: commit an offence	remand sb	send sb away from court until their trial: be remanded in custody
valid	legally or officially acceptable <i>OPP</i> invalid	bail	money left with a court of law to ensure that a prisoner will return for their trial. A judge can either grant bail or refuse bail .
warrant	a legal document signed by a judge that allows the police to do sth. A search warrant is a warrant to search sb's property.	convict sb (of sth)	say officially in court that sb is guilty of a crime
issue	give or say sth to sb officially: issue a warrant/visa	acquit sb (of sth)	state formally that a person is not guilty of a crime
magistrate	an official who acts as a judge in the lowest courts of law	sentence sb (to sth)	(of a judge) tell sb who has been found guilty of a crime what their punishment will be: He sentenced him to two years in prison.
grounds (for sth/doing sth) (usually pl)	a reason for sth		
be about to (do sth)	be going to do sth very soon		
caution sb formal	warn sb officially that anything they say may be used against them as evidence in court		

1 Underline the stress on these words. Use the APP to help you.

detain suspect *v* suspect *n* offence invalid magistrate
custody solicitor remand convict acquit constable

2 Write the missing preposition.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 be detained _____ police custody | 4 convict someone _____ an offence |
| 2 have grounds _____ doing something | 5 acquit someone _____ a crime |
| 3 charge someone _____ an offence | 6 sentence someone _____ five years |

3 Complete the phrases with suitable words.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 a police _____ | 4 remand someone in _____ |
| 2 commit an _____ | 5 _____ bail OR refuse bail |
| 3 _____ a search warrant | 6 convict OR _____ someone |

4 Write your answers.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------|
| 1 Who issues an arrest warrant? | _____ |
| 2 Who detains someone? | _____ |
| 3 Who offers legal advice? | _____ |
| 4 Who is able to grant bail? | _____ |
| 5 Who is remanded in custody? | _____ |
| 6 Who cautions someone? | _____ |
| 7 Who has a lower rank than a sergeant? | _____ |
| 8 Who is above a sergeant? | _____ |
| 9 Who is the head of a regional force? | _____ |
| 10 Who sentences someone? | _____ |

5 Complete the sentences.

- A PC is the lowest _____ in the police force.
- A search _____ allows the police to search someone's property.
- After someone has appeared before a magistrate and is awaiting trial, they will often be _____ in custody.
- Police have to follow very strict _____ when they arrest someone, otherwise solicitors may argue that an arrest is not _____.
- The police can detain someone if they _____ that this person has committed an _____.
- When police arrest someone, the first thing they do is _____ them.

6 Complete the text with words from the opposite page.

ARRESTED IN ROAD RAGE INCIDENT

An 82-year old man is facing prison after an angry incident at a road junction in which he pointed a gun at another driver and was, possibly, (1) _____ to use it. A young police (2) _____ arrested the man, before taking him to the police station, where he was (3) _____. Once he was in (4) _____, the (5) _____ refused to say anything, and also refused his right to speak to a (6) _____. The police later (7) _____ him with several (8) _____, including the illegal possession of a weapon. The man will now appear before a (9) _____ tomorrow morning, where he hopes to be (10) _____ bail. However, his case will almost certainly go to trial, and if he is (11) _____, he could be (12) _____ to a lengthy period in prison.



TEST YOURSELF