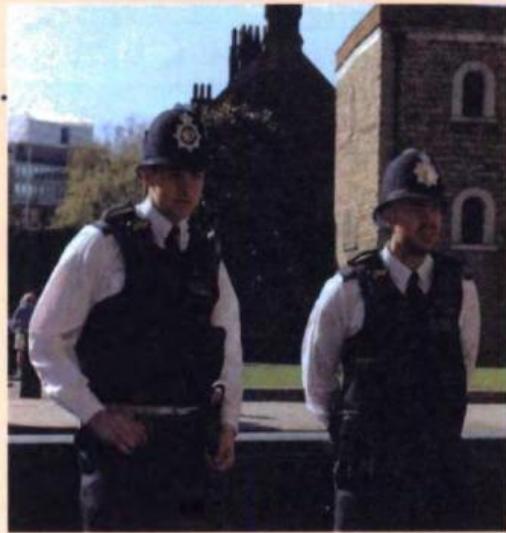


Police procedures

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 <i>formal</i>	a crime: commit an offence	remand sb	send sb away from court until their trial: be remanded in custody
valid	legally or officially acceptable	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 <i>formal</i>	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  to help you.

detain	suspect <i>v</i>	suspect <i>n</i>	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.

- 1 A PC is the lowest in the police force.
- 2 A search allows the police to search someone's property.
- 3 After someone has appeared before a magistrate and is awaiting trial, they will often be in custody.
- 4 Police have to follow very strict when they arrest someone, otherwise solicitors may argue that an arrest is not
- 5 The police can detain someone if they that this person has committed an
- 6 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**