67 Crime

A Crime reports in newspapers

Here are some people telling others about things they have just read in the newspaper. Look at the phrasal verbs they use to explain what happened.

SECURITY GUARD ATTACKED

A security guard at an electronics factory was attacked and badly injured by thieves last night. They punched him and kicked him ...

Gosh! A security guard was **beaten up** at that electronics factory last night. Terrible!

£30K JEWEL ROBBERY

Thieves entered a town-centre jewellery store by force last night and stole £30,000 worth of jewels and watches ...

Did you hear? Somebody **broke into** that jewellery shop in the town centre last night and stole £30,000 worth of stuff.

PRISONERS ESCAPE

Three prisoners escaped from the Holton Maximum Security Prison this morning. Police are searching a wide ...

Hey! Three prisoners have **broken out** of Holton Jail. We'd better lock all our doors tonight!

SCHOOL COMPUTERS STOLEN

Two men persuaded a teacher at Stanbridge School yesterday that they were collecting six computers for repair and maintenance. They took them away, but it later became clear they were thieves.

Wow! Did you hear that? Two guys **walked off with** six computers from a school yesterday in broad daylight!

B Other verbs connected with crime

If you ...	*then you ...*
hold up sth/sb or **hold** sth/sb **up**	steal money from a building, person or vehicle, by using violence or by threatening to use it
tip off sb or **tip** sb **off**	warn someone secretly about something that will happen so that they can take action or prevent it from happening
put sb **up to** sth	encourage someone to do something stupid or wrong
take in sb or **take** sb **in**	deceive someone or make them believe something that is not true
lead on sb or **lead** sb **on**	make someone believe something that is not true, especially to make them do something they don't really want to do
let off sb or **let** sb **off**	do not punish someone who has committed a crime or done something wrong, or do not punish someone severely
lean on sb	try to make someone do something by threatening or persuading them (informal)
are or **get mixed up in** sth	are or become involved in an illegal or bad activity

LIVEWORKSHEETS

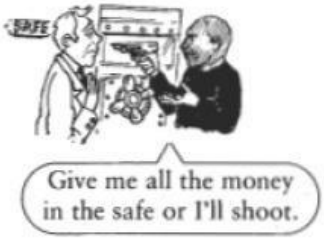
Exercises

67.1 Match the beginning of each sentence with its ending.

1 An old man was beaten	into the house by a side window.
2 The thieves walked	up a local bank yesterday.
3 The burglars broke	off with some priceless antique silver.
4 The prisoner managed to break	up in his own home yesterday.
5 The thieves held	out in broad daylight.

67.2 Describe what each speaker is doing, using one of the phrasal verbs from the opposite page.

1



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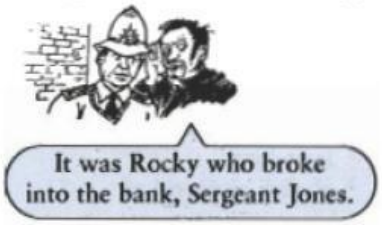

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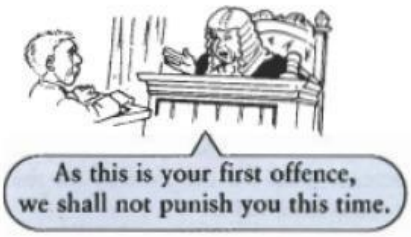

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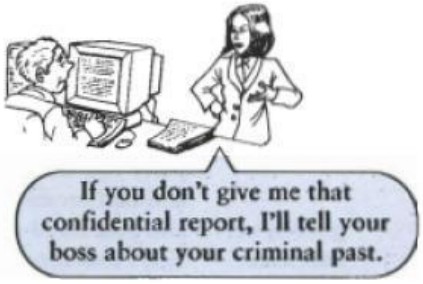

67.3 Complete these dialogues using phrasal verbs.

Mandy: I suspect that young neighbour of ours has got (1) ..... in something illegal.

Rose: Yes, I was beginning to think that too. He spends a lot of time with rather suspicious-looking people and I think they may be (2) ..... to doing some dishonest things.

Mandy: Well, I suppose they could (3) ..... him by threatening him if he refuses to help them.

Rose: Or he might just not realise what's happening. He was always very easily (4) ..... by people.

Mandy: Well, if he does end up in court, I suppose they might (5) ..... lightly as he's never been involved in crime before.

67.4 Here are some newspaper headlines using noun forms of phrasal verbs presented on the opposite page. Match each headline 1–4 to the first sentence of its article a–d.

1 HOLD-UP AT BANK – $10,000 STOLEN
2 TIP-OFF LEADS TO ARREST
3 TEN BREAK-INS IN ONE NIGHT
4 THIRD BREAKOUT THIS YEAR

a) Oddways Prison is clearly not as secure as it is supposed to be.
b) Police are extremely grateful to an anonymous caller who rang them last night.
c) Terrified staff were held at gunpoint at the National Bank on Brown Street yesterday.
d) A series of burglaries was reported in Brook Street and adjoining roads last night.

LIVEWORKSHEETS