

Home Security

Pre-Listening Exercise

Homeowners should always take precautions to protect their places from burglars and theft. In addition to home alarm systems, what are two other things that people can do to protect their homes from crime?



Idioms

"get (all) worked up" = become upset or emotional

"My mom got worked up when she found out that someone broke into her car and stole her purse."

"pull the wool over someone's eyes" = deceive or trick someone

"Don't let that used car salesman pull the wool over your eyes. Be sure you get a detailed report on that car's history."

Listening Exercise. Listen and answer the questions.

Where was the homeowner when the theft occurred?

at school

in the shower

at the supermarket

The evidence that indicates a burglar entered the house is ____.

an unlocked door to the house

a mark of a person's shoe

a broken window in the
bedroom

According to the announcer, you should never leave a house key ____.

in places a burglar might
suspect

inside your unlocked car

with a neighbor you don't
know well

A good method to safeguard your house is ____.

putting in good lights
around the house

calling the police
department periodically

installing security cameras
in your house

You should ____ if you encounter an intruder in your home.

avoid the intruder
if possible

hide under your bed
until the intruder leaves

call the police after
you find the burglar

Post-Listening Exercise

What are three things you do to protect your apartment or home from burglary?

Are there certain crime-prevention methods that you might see in one culture, but you wouldn't see them in other countries?

Transcript. Listen again to the recording on home security systems and read along with the conversation. Review the key vocabulary and the sample sentences.

Bob: Hi. I'm Bob, and welcome to the show, *My Home Your Home*.

Imagine that it's Monday afternoon, and you decide to **step out** and buy a few things for dinner before the kids get home from school. You look at your watch. It's 1:30 PM, and you need to be back in 20 minutes. When you get back, you notice nothing **out of the ordinary**, and everything is just as you left it. Then, as you are looking through your dresser drawer, you notice that the contents are in **disarray**. You realize that the money you had hidden carefully at the bottom is gone. Nothing else in the house has been taken. And the only evidence of entry is a dirty footprint through an unlocked window.

Sound untrue? Not to our family because it happened to us.

Now, there are several basic steps you can take to avoid being victimized in your own home. First of all, make sure that all of your **exterior** doors and windows have **secure** locks. If you recently moved into a new home, you would be **wise** to rekey all of the doors because you never know who might be walking around with a copy of one. Never leave a copy of the key outside under a doormat, on a window sill, above a door, or in the mailbox. Burglars are very aware of your temptation to do so, and they will find an easy way in through your carelessness.

Second, discourage burglars from even considering your home by keeping your yard well-groomed. Trim back **shrubbery** and trees around entryways and windows where burglars can **conceal** themselves. Install bright porch lights in front and in back of your house and consider investing in a motion detector as well. Also, use a light timer to automatically turn on your **interior** or exterior lights at times when you're away. Next, set up a neighborhood watch group to **patrol** the area. Keep neighbors informed when you might be away, and have them collect your mail and newspapers if needed.

Finally, prepare your family in the event someone breaks into your house in order to avoid serious **confrontations**. If you hear strange sounds in the house, call the police rather than **seeking out** the intruder. Having a gun to protect you at home is often not the best **deterrent** because it can be used against you.

Think smart and prepare. Doing these basics will go a long way to securing your home, property, and peace of mind.

Vocabulary and Sample Sentences

- **step out** (*phrasal verb*): leave or go outside a room for a short period of time
 - Be sure to lock the front door if you step out to get lunch.
- **out of the ordinary**: unusual or unexpected
 - If you notice anything out of the ordinary, call the police.
- **disarray** (*noun*): a state of confusion or lack of organization, not tidy
 - The whole house was in disarray when we returned home from the store.
- **exterior** (*adjective*): outside
 - The lock on the exterior door to the building needs to be replaced.
- **secure** (*adjective*): strong
 - You ought to buy a very secure lock for your bike, so it doesn't get stolen.
- **wise** (*adjective*): smart
 - You would be wise to keep your valuables in a secure place.
- **shrubbery** (*noun*): small bushes
 - We planted some shrubbery around our house.
- **conceal** (*verb*): hide
 - Burglars sometimes conceal their true identities by wearing different clothes.
- **patrol** (*verb*): go around an area to check security
 - The police patrol our neighborhood on a regular basis for suspicious people.
- **confrontation** (*noun*): a fight or argument
 - There was a serious confrontation between the neighbors.
- **seek out** (*verb*): look for
 - I suggest that we seek out more effective ways to prevent crime.
- **deterrent** (*noun*): something that prevents or discourages people from doing something else
 - Keeping a light on in your house can be a good deterrent to burglars while you are away.