

3 The Law's the Law



Discuss the following. Work in pairs or in groups.

- Think of as many crimes as you can.
- Why do some people commit crimes?
- Is crime a serious problem where you live?

Reading

Read the paragraphs quickly and answer these questions.

- When is it illegal to eat mince pies in Britain?
- Where are you not allowed to tie your giraffe to a streetlight?
- What must dolls have in France?

article

It's the Law!

You're under arrest for riding an ugly horse!

A We all know that murder, burglary and shoplifting are illegal. **(1)** ... We probably all think that, faced with a particular situation, we could make a good guess whether it's legal or not. But in fact there are **some extremely weird laws** around.

B While we're on the subject of **America**, the Americans seem to be particularly keen on passing strange animal laws. In Atlanta, it's illegal to tie a giraffe to a streetlight. In Wilbur, Washington, you're committing a crime if you 'ride an ugly horse' and in Barber, North Carolina, it's against the law for cats and dogs to fight! **(2)** ... In Nevada, it's illegal to ride a camel on the highway. So, if you're planning to go camel riding in Nevada, do be careful. You don't want to end up in prison!

C It's **not just in Britain** that these kind of laws exist. **(3)** ... In France, for instance, shops are not allowed to sell dolls that don't have a human face. **(4)** ... In Québec, Canada, there's a law that says margarine must be a different colour to butter. In Salt Lake City, Utah, in the USA, it's illegal to carry a ukulele (a musical instrument) on the street unless it's wrapped up. In **Alabama, USA**, it's a crime to carry a comb in your pocket.

LIVEWORKSHEETS