

Crime

In this lesson,
you will work
with words
about crimes.
Read this story
about a dangerous
neighborhood.



Last year, Jessica moved into a new apartment. At first, Jessica liked her new home. That was before she discovered that she lives in a high **crime** neighborhood. The **criminals** don't live in Jessica's neighborhood. They just like to work there.

The first problem that Jessica noticed was **shoplifting**. There is a lot of shoplifting at the grocery store on her street. The owner uses cameras to try to catch the shoplifters. People put items into purses and backpacks. They put items under their clothes. Last week the police **arrested** two people. They were stealing steaks from the store. They each had four steaks under their shirts.

Vandalism is also a problem in Jessica's neighborhood. Sometimes people use spray paint to write on the walls of buildings. Once someone broke a lot of car windows. Another time someone broke the gate in front of Jessica's apartment building. It costs a lot to repair the damage done by the vandals.

Last month there was a **robbery** in the neighborhood. Someone entered a jewelry store with a gun and robbed the owner. The robber stole some money and some rings. The police are **investigating** that crime now. The **victim** wasn't hurt, but he is too scared to open his store now.

Jessica also heard that there was a **kidnapping** in the neighborhood last year. Two men in a black car kidnapped a young woman. The kidnapping happened right in the middle of a busy street. Several people **witnessed** the crime and called the police. Jessica heard that the police found the woman and her kidnappers. She hopes that they were **punished** for their crime.

Jessica is afraid that the next crime she hears about is going to be a **murder** or other violent crime. That is why she is looking for a new apartment now.

Exercise 1

Definitions

Write each word next to its definition.

arrest
crime
criminal

investigate
kidnap
murder

punish
robbery
shoplift

vandalism
victim
witness

- _____ 1. someone who sees a crime or accident and can describe what happened
- _____ 2. to try to find out all of the information and facts about a crime or a problem
- _____ 3. when the police take a person away because they think he or she broke a law
- _____ 4. something that people do that is against the law
- _____ 5. the person who is hurt in a crime
- _____ 6. to take someone away illegally and by force and to hold him or her to get money or something else of value
- _____ 7. the crime of killing a person
- _____ 8. to cause someone to suffer because he or she did something wrong or broke the law
- _____ 9. someone who is involved in illegal activities or who commits a crime
- _____ 10. to take something from a store without paying for it
- _____ 11. the crime of destroying or damaging property
- _____ 12. the crime of stealing something from a person or a place, often with the use of force

Exercise 2**Initializations**

Match each initialization with what it stands for.

Initializations are short forms of long words or of two or more words. We often use initializations to talk about crime. You can explain these initializations with sentences using *stands for*.

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| <u> </u> 1. aka | a. Dead On Arrival |
| <u> </u> 2. ASAP | b. Headquarters |
| <u> </u> 3. DNA | c. As Soon As Possible |
| <u> </u> 4. DOA | d. Identification |
| <u> </u> 5. HQ | e. also known as |
| <u> </u> 6. ID | f. Not Available or Not Applicable |
| <u> </u> 7. NA | g. Private Investigator |
| <u> </u> 8. PI | h. Deoxyribonucleic Acid |

Exercise 3: Word Builder**Prefix**

Choose a word from the box, add *dis-* to it, and write it on the line.

The prefix *dis-* can mean *not*. If you add *dis-* to the beginning of a word, it makes the meaning negative.

advantage
agree

connect
honest

qualify
respectful

1. When Jessica moves, she will _____ her phone.
2. She and her neighbor _____ about the neighborhood. He thinks it's a great place to live and she hates it.
3. Crime is a big _____ to that neighborhood.
4. Some people aren't polite. They are _____.
5. _____ people often don't tell the truth.
6. They might _____ you from the race if you break the rules.

Exercise 4: Word Builder

Suffix

Study each rule. Then fill in the gerund form of the verb in parentheses.

The suffix **-ing** changes a verb into a gerund. A gerund works like a noun. We often use a gerund as the subject of a sentence.

Rule 1: If a word ends with a consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) pattern, double the final consonant before adding **-ing.**
Example: stop + ing = stopping

1. (stop) _____ crime is the job of the police.
2. (rob) _____ banks is dangerous.
3. (hit) _____ people is against the law.
4. (run) _____ from the police is a bad idea.

Rule 2: If a word ends with a silent **-e, drop the **-e** before adding **-ing**.**

Example: investigate + ing = investigating

5. (investigate) _____ crimes is the detective's job.
6. (fine) _____ people is a way of punishing them.
7. (move) _____ to a new neighborhood is Jessica's only option.
8. (chase) _____ criminals is a police officer's job.
9. (fire) _____ a gun on a crowded street is dangerous.

Rule 3: For most other words, just add **-ing.**

Example: steal + ing = stealing

10. (steal) _____ is always illegal.
11. (shoplift) _____ is a crime.
12. (shoot) _____ a gun without a license is not legal.
13. (witness) _____ a crime can be scary.
14. (repair) _____ vandalized property is expensive.
15. (find) _____ a safe neighborhood is important.
16. (stay) _____ somewhere safe is essential.

Exercise 5

Antonyms

Choose an antonym from the box for each underlined word and write it on the line.

death
freed

lie
low

safe
violent

1. The judge sentenced him to _____, not to life in prison.
2. He told a _____. He never told the truth.
3. They arrested him, but then _____ him the next day.
4. It was a _____ scene, not a peaceful one.
5. She wanted a _____ neighborhood but found a dangerous one.
6. She lives in a high crime area and is looking for a _____ crime neighborhood.

Exercise 6

Collocations

Choose a word from the box to complete each collocation below.

English speakers use many two- and three-word collocations, some with *and*, when talking about crimes.

against
assault

break
cheat

crime
house

jury
punishment

1. He was guilty of _____ and battery.
2. Why do they have to lie, _____, and steal?
3. It's all about crime and _____.
4. In your home, you can be the judge and _____.
5. That's _____ the law.
6. Is bank robbery a victimless _____?
7. If you _____ the law, you go to jail.
8. The judge placed him under _____ arrest.

Exercise 7

Confusing Words

In each of the following, circle the word that best completes the sentence.

Rob and **steal** are both crimes having to do with taking something that is not yours. **Rob** tells about the person or place from which something is taken, and **steal** tells about the thing that was taken. You **rob** a person or a place, but you **steal** a thing.

1. Ted (robbed/stole) a drug store.
2. Ms. Reed was (robbed/stolen) on the street.
3. They (robbed/stole) my new car.
4. Did someone (rob/steal) that painting?
5. Someone (robbed/stole) that gas station.
6. I thought that man was going to (rob/steal) me.
7. The famous thief (robbed/stole) that museum.
8. Some money was (robbed/stolen) from her purse.

Write a form of *drop* or *fall* on each line.
Use present or past tense.

Drop and **fall** both tell about moving to a lower position. **Drop** means to cause something to move to a lower position, and **fall** describes the action in which something moves to a lower position.

9. The police officer yelled to the thief, “_____ the gun!”
10. Some of the stolen items _____ on the street as the shoplifter ran.
11. As he was running away, the shoplifter _____ on the sidewalk.
12. The robber _____ some of the money that he had just stolen.
13. The gun _____ out of his pocket.
14. The shoplifter _____ the steak when he ran.
15. The money _____ on the sidewalk as the bank robbers escaped.
16. The police officer tripped and _____ while chasing the thief.

Exercise 8

Context Clues

Copy the two words or phrases with similar meanings in each of the following.

When you guess from context, you can often find a word with a similar meaning in the same sentence. Look for words like *similar*, *same*, *and*, *both*, and the verb *to be* to show that a sentence contains words with similar meanings.

1. Burglars and robbers both steal things.

2. Battery is similar to assault, so you can go to jail if you commit either one.

3. Some people think shoplifting is a victimless crime, but it is the same as stealing.

4. If you get arrested, you need a lawyer because you should never talk to the police without an attorney present.

5. Killing someone can be considered murder.

6. A gun is one weapon that most robbers own.

7. If you shoot at a police officer, he or she may fire back at you.

8. When you finish talking to that detective, another investigator wants to talk to you.

9. The boys were charged with vandalism and destroying property.

10. Stealing is against the law, and vandalism is illegal, too.

Exercise 9

Parts of Speech

Identify the underlined words. Write N on the line if the word is a noun, and write V if it is a verb.

Many common vocabulary words can work either as nouns or as verbs. Look for a noun after *the* or a preposition. Look for a verb after *to* or after a modal like *can*.

1. That novel is about murder and other crimes.
2. I can't witness a crime and stay silent.
3. The police are about to arrest that man.
4. They investigated the murder.
5. I don't want to witness a crime.
6. The criminal will murder someone.
7. There is a special room in the police station for witnesses.
8. The police should arrest her.
9. The police are going to make the arrest now.
10. They questioned the witness.

Exercise 10

Dictionary

Identify the part of speech of each underlined word. Write N or V on the line. Then look up the word in your dictionary. Choose and write the best definition.

1. The police arrested that person for battery.

definition: _____

2. The criminal had to appear in court.

definition: _____

3. The officer was going to shoot the suspect.

definition: _____

4. The fine for vandalism could be \$5,000.

definition: _____

5. The judge will decide the sentence after the trial.

definition: _____

Review 1

Crossword Puzzle

Fill in the puzzle with words from the box.

AKA
arrest
burglar

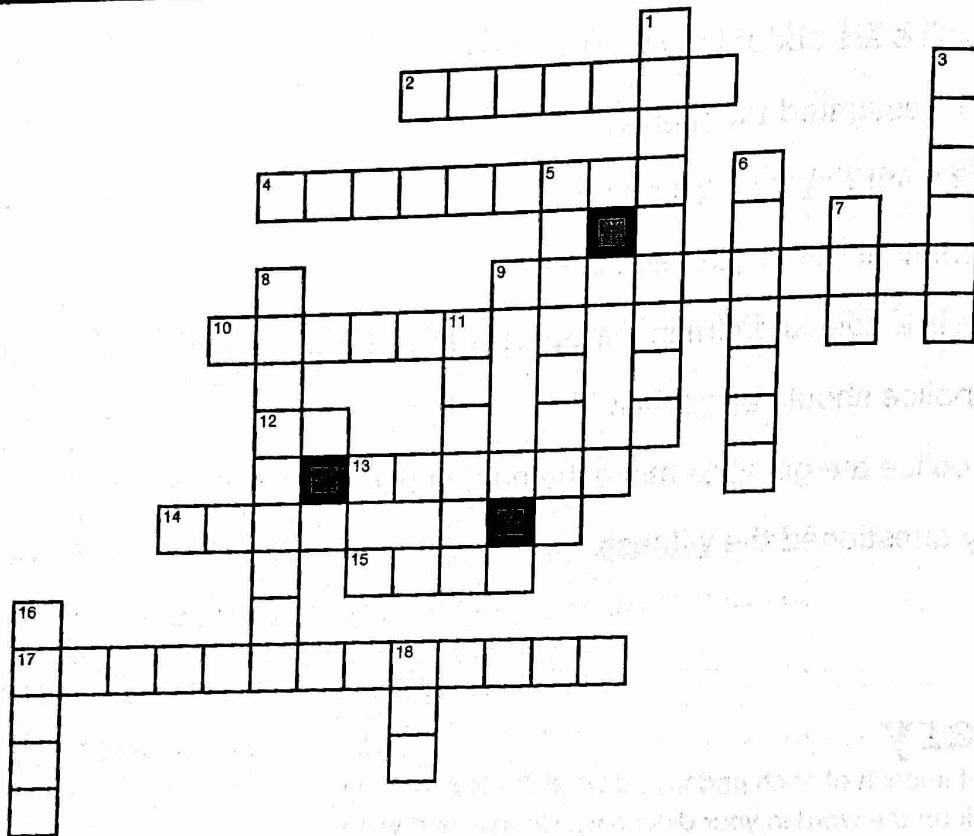
criminal
dishonest
DOA

fine
fired
HQ

investigating
jury
kidnap

murder
sentenced
vandalism

victim
violations
witness



ACROSS

2. A _____ entered the house and stole something.
4. The judge _____ the criminal to life in prison.
9. People almost never go to jail for traffic _____.
10. The person who is hurt in a crime is the _____.
12. _____ stands for *headquarters*.
13. If you take him by force, you _____ him.
14. Money that you pay as a punishment is a _____.
15. The judge or the _____ can decide.
17. The police are _____ the crime.

DOWN

1. Destroying property is _____.
3. The police take you away when they _____ you.
5. A person who commits a crime is a _____.
6. A person who sees a crime is a _____.
7. _____ stands for *dead on arrival*.
8. A _____ person doesn't tell the truth.
11. Killing someone intentionally is _____.
16. A police officer _____ the gun.
18. _____ stands for *also known as*.

Review 2

Vocabulary in Context

Choose a word from the box and write it on the line.

crime

murder

robbery

shoplifting

vandalism

Jessica lives in a high-1 neighborhood. Since she has lived there, she has noticed 2 in the local grocery store, and 3 to some cars on the street. Once there was an armed 4 at the jewelry store. Jessica just hopes she doesn't witness a violent crime like assault or 5.

disadvantages

disagrees

disconnected

dishonest

disrespectful

Jessica's apartment building has a lot of 6. First, her landlord is 7. He tells her one thing but he does another. Once he even 8 her cable TV service even though she paid her rent on time. Also, 9 some teenagers in the building are 10. They always make rude comments to Jessica. Jessica's neighbor 11 with her. He thinks it's a great place to live. But Jessica is sure she wants to move.

fired

gun

rob

shot

steal

One day, someone 11 a 12 in Jessica's neighborhood. Jessica discovered that the jewelry store owner had been 13. Someone was trying to 14 the jewelry store, but the robber didn't 15 anything.