

Crime

A



Note the difference between the verbs: **steal** and **rob**. The object of the verb 'steal' is the thing which is taken away, e.g. they stole my bike, whereas the object of the verb 'rob' is the person or place from which things are stolen, e.g. I was robbed last night. A masked man robbed the bank. 'Steal' is irregular; steal, stole, stolen.

B

The table below gives the names of some other types of crimes together with their associated verbs and the name of the person who commits the crimes.

<i>crime</i>	<i>definition</i>	<i>criminal</i>	<i>verb</i>
murder	killing someone	murderer	murder
shoplifting	stealing something from a shop	shoplifter	shoplift
burglary	stealing something from someone's home	burglar	burgle
smuggling	taking something illegally into another country	smuggler	smuggle
kidnapping	taking a person hostage in exchange for money or other favours, etc.	kidnapper	kidnap

All the verbs in the table above are regular.

C

Here are some more useful verbs connected with crime and law. Note that many of them have particular prepositions associated with them.

Bill **committed** a crime when he robbed a bank. Someone **witnessed** the crime and told the police. The police **charged** him **with** bank robbery. They also **accused** his twin brother, Ben, of being his accomplice.

The case came to court and they **were tried**. The trial did not last very long. Bill and Ben both **pleaded not guilty** in court. Their lawyer did her best to defend them but the **prosecuting** lawyer produced a very strong case against them.

After brief deliberations, the jury **passed verdict** on them. They decided that Bill was **guilty** but Ben was **innocent**. The judge **acquitted** Ben of any involvement in the robbery but **sentenced** Bill to three years in prison. He also had to **pay** a large fine. Bill **served** two years in prison [jail] but **was released** from prison a year early. He **got time off** for good behaviour.

D

Here are some useful nouns.

trial: the legal process in court whereby an accused person is investigated, or tried, and then found guilty or not guilty

case: a crime that is being investigated

evidence: information used in a court of law to decide whether the accused is guilty or not

proof: evidence that shows conclusively whether something is a fact or not

judge: the person who leads a trial and decides on the **sentence** i.e. the punishment

jury: group of twelve citizens who decide on the **verdict** i.e. whether the accused is guilty or not

