

**A The law**

If you do something **illegal/against the law** (= wrong), you have **committed a crime**. Most people commit a crime at some time in their lives, e.g. driving above the speed limit or parking illegally, etc. If you **break the law** (= do something wrong/illegal) and commit a crime, you could **get into trouble** (= be in a bad situation) with the police.

**B Crimes**

crime	criminal (= person)	verb
theft (= general word for stealing)	thief	steal (also take)
robbery (= steal from people or places, e.g. banks)	robber	rob
burglary (= break into a shop/house and steal things)	burglar	break in
shoplifting (= steal from shops when they're open)	shoplifter	shoplift
murder (= kill someone by intention)	murderer	murder
manslaughter (= kill someone but without intention)	-	-

**C Scene of the crime**

Two men **robbed** a jeweller's in west London early this morning. They **broke in** (= forced their way into the building, e.g. they broke a window) around 7am and **took/stole** rings and necklaces valued at over £10,000. Several **witnesses** (= people who see a crime) saw them leave the shop and **get away/escape** (= go away from a dangerous situation) in a blue car. The police believe both men are **armed** (= have guns) and extremely dangerous.

**D Crime prevention**

What can governments do to **prevent crime** (= stop crime happening) or **reduce it** (= make it less)? These things happen in some countries.

The police **carry guns**. (= have guns)

The police **are allowed to** (= are permitted to/can) stop anyone in the street and ask them questions.

Criminals receive **tough** (= hard) **punishments**, e.g. go to prison for long periods.

There is **capital punishment** (= death, e.g. by injection or electric chair) for some crimes.

What can people do to **protect themselves** (= keep themselves safe) and their **property** (= home and land)? They can do these things.

**Avoid** (= keep away from) dark streets **late at night** (e.g. midnight).

**Avoid wearing** (= try not to wear) expensive rings or watches. [Note the *-ing* form after 'avoid'.]

Have a **burglar alarm**.

Put money and **valuables** (= things worth a lot of money) in a **safe**.

Leave lights **on** at home when they go out.

Lock doors and windows when they go out.



safe burglar alarm lock

Exercises

85.1 Complete this table.

crime	person
bank robbery	bank robber
murder	.....
burglary	.....
theft	.....
shoplifting	.....

85.2 Respond to these statements or questions confirming the crime in each one.

- A: He broke into the house, didn't he?  
B: Yes, he's been charged with *burglary*.
- A: He killed his wife?  
B: Yes, he's been charged with .....
- A: She stole clothes from that department store, didn't she?  
B: Yes, and she's been charged .....
- A: The man on the motorbike didn't mean to kill the boy.  
B: No, but he's been .....
- A: He took the money from her bag?  
B: Yes, but they caught him and he's .....

85.3 Find the best noun on the right to follow each verb on the left.

- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1 lock       | a a gun     |
| 2 commit     | b a house   |
| 3 go         | c the door  |
| 4 carry      | d a crime   |
| 5 break into | e the law   |
| 6 break      | f to prison |

85.4 How safe and secure are you? Answer these questions with YES or NO.

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| 1 Do you often walk in areas which are not very safe?          | YES = 1 NO = 0 |
| 2 Do you often walk on your own in these areas late at night?  | YES = 2 NO = 0 |
| 3 Do you wear an expensive watch or expensive jewellery?       | YES = 1 NO = 0 |
| 4 Do you lock doors and windows before you leave the house?    | YES = 0 NO = 2 |
| 5 Do you have a burglar alarm?                                 | YES = 0 NO = 1 |
| 6 Do you leave lights on when you go out?                      | YES = 0 NO = 1 |
| 7 Is there someone who protects the building when you are out? | YES = 0 NO = 2 |
| 8 Do you have a safe in your home?                             | YES = 0 NO = 1 |

Add up your score. Less than 3 = very safe; 3-5 = quite safe; 6-8 = you could take more care; more than 8 = you are a dangerous person to know!

85.5 Fill the gaps in these questions with a suitable word. What's your opinion?

- Do you think the police should ..... guns?
- Do you think the police should be ..... to stop people without a reason?
- Do you agree with capital ..... for certain crimes such as murder?
- Do you think tougher punishments will help to ..... crime?