

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.

crime	definition	criminal	verb
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

Exercises

61.1 Put the right form of either **rob** or **steal** in the sentences below.

- Last night an armed gang the post office. They £2,000.
- My handbag at the theatre yesterday.
- Every year large numbers of banks
- Jane of the opportunity to stand for president.

61.2 Here are some more crimes. Complete a table like the one in B opposite.

crime	criminal	verb	definition
terrorism
blackmail
drug-trafficking
forgery
pickpocketing
mugging

61.3 Fill the blanks in the paragraph below with one of the verbs from C opposite.

One of the two accused men⁽¹⁾ at yesterday's trial. Although his lawyer⁽²⁾ him very well, he was still found guilty by the jury. The judge⁽³⁾ him to two years in prison. He'll probably⁽⁴⁾ after eighteen months. The other accused man was luckier. He⁽⁵⁾ and left the courtroom smiling broadly.

61.4 Here are some words connected with law and crime. If necessary, use a dictionary to help you check that you understand what they all mean. Then divide them into three groups, in what seems to you to be the most logical way.

- member of a jury judge smuggling witness prison fine bribery
- detective hi-jacking community service probation traffic warden death penalty
- rape drunken driving lawyer

61.5 Look at all the crimes named in this unit. Look both at the left-hand page and at exercises 61.2 and 61.4. Which do you think are the three most serious and the three least serious?

61.6 Write a paragraph to fit this newspaper headline. Give some details about the crime and the court case, using as many words from this unit as is appropriate.

Local girl's evidence gets mugger two years prison

Follow-up: If possible look at an English language newspaper. List all the words connected with crime and the law which you can find in it.