

## LAW

### Vocabulary and phrases

#### **People:**

arsonist - podpalacz

burglar - włamywacz

drug dealer – handlarz narkotykami

judge - sędzia

jury – ława przysięgłych

lawyer - prawnik

murderer - morderca

pickpocket - kieszonkowiec

robber - rabuś

shoplifter – złodziej sklepowy

suspect - podejrzany

thief – złodziej

victim – ofiara przestępstwa

witness - świadek

Ex.1 Match a person with the description.

1. A person who sells illegal substances like heroin.
2. A person who kills a person intentionally.
3. A person who resides in court and gives sentences.
4. A person who steals from shops.
5. A person who watches the crime happen.
6. A person who sets buildings on fire intentionally.

#### **Nouns:**

alibi - alibi

arson - podpalenie

burglary – kradzież z włamaniem

court - sąd

drug dealing – handel narkotykami

evidence – dowód, dowody

murder - morderstwo

prison - więzienie

punishment - kara

robbery – rabunek, napad (np. na bank)

sentence - wyrok

shoplifting – kradzież sklepowa

theft - kradzież

trial - proces

Ex. 2 Is the definition correct (C) or incorrect (I)?

1. Burglary - the situation when someone breaks into another person's house to steal things.
2. Prison - the place where trials take place.
3. Evidence - something that proves the crime has been committed by some particular person.
4. Punishment - something you have to do to pay for your crimes.
5. Court - the place where you go to serve your sentence.
6. Theft - the act of stealing something.

**Verbs:**

arrest - aresztować

break in – włamać się

break the law – złamać prawo  
charge with – oskarżyć o  
commit (a crime) – popełnić (przestępstwo)  
deal drugs – handlować narkotykami  
escape - uciec  
investigate – prowadzić dochodzenie  
murder - zamordować  
prevent - zapobiegać  
protect - chronić  
prove - udowodnić  
question someone – przesłuchiwać kogoś  
rob – rabować, okradać (np.bank)  
shoplift – kraść w sklepie  
steal - ukraść

Ex. 3 Complete each sentence with the correct verb.

stole prove questioned investigating charged prevent escape

1. After the body was discovered, the police started .....the murder.
2. They .....the suspect for several hours until he admitted committing the crime.
3. Somebody .....my bike while it was parked outside my house.
4. What can governments do to .....crime or reduce it?
5. Several witnesses saw the robber leave the bank and .....in a white van.
6. After a thorough investigation they .....him with armed robbery.
7. Unfortunately it wasn't possible to .....he was guilty of the murder as the body was never found.
8. Tom quit school at the age of sixteen to join the gang and .....drugs.

## Unusual sentencing

When it comes to criminal punishments they tend to be rather predictable and follow a set pattern. Most sentences come down to some prison time, fines or community service. But every once in a while a judge shows his or her creativity by inventing a punishment which suits the specific crime.

Taxi drivers are still hard-working members of their community, and they deserve to be paid for their services. A teenager named Victoria Bascom decided she needed a cab, so she stopped one and rode 30 miles to her destination. Once there, however, she jumped out of the cab, without paying the fare. She was more or less immediately caught and brought before a judge. Together with paying back the fare, Bascom was given a choice: 60 days in prison, or walk for 30 miles. She chose the second option.

Some man had neglected to wish his wife a happy birthday, and their inevitable argument led to a marital disagreement that culminated in a domestic violence charge. Fortunately, nobody was hurt in any way. The wife was pushed onto the couch, but she was never actually hit. The judge sentenced the man to taking his wife on a nice date. Here's the actual sentence:

*"He's going to stop by somewhere and he's going to get some flowers. And then he's going to go home, pick up his wife, get dressed, take her to Red Lobster. And then after they have Red Lobster, they're going to go bowling."*

A judge in Colorado found another creative way of punishing teenagers for playing music too loud and disturbing the neighbours. The young offenders were taken to the room where they had to listen to the worst kind of music the judge could find. The *Chicago Tribune* followed up with a few kids who survived this cruel and unusual punishment and found, unsurprisingly, out of 50 kids who were subjected to this unusual punishment, there were zero repeat offenders.

(Adapted from <https://www.themodernrogue.com/articles/2018/8/6/5-stupidly-brilliant-sentences-handed-out-to-criminals>)

## Glossary

predictable – przewidywalny

a set pattern – ustalony wzorzec

come down to – sprowadzać się do

community service – prace społeczne

deserve – zasługiwać

neglect – zaniedbać

inevitable – nieunikniony

lead to – prowadzić do

marital disagreement – kłótnia małżeńska

domestic violence – przemoc domowa

go bowling – iść na kręgle

disturb – przeszkadzać

offender – sprawca, przestępca

cruel – okrutny

subjected to – poddany (czemuś)

repeat offender - recydywista

Ex.1 Read the text and decide if the statements are True or False.

1. The typical forms of punishment are: prison, frisking and community service.
2. It's very common for judges to give 'creative' punishments.
3. Victoria was forced by a taxi driver to leave a taxi.
4. The teenager was asked to choose between jail time and a long walk.
5. The man who forgot his wife birthday was charged with hitting his wife.
6. The man was sentenced to take his wife to "Red Oyster" for diner.
7. The teenagers disturbing the neighbours were sentenced to community service.
8. None of the teenagers never commit7ed this offence again.

### **PAST TENSES**

- past simple is used to talk about actions and events that happened and finished in the past, e.g.

When ***did you last see*** Jane?

We **went** to the cinema two days ago.

The judge **sentenced** him to 5 years in prison.

They **didn't manage** to prove his innocence.

- past continuous is used to talk about some action in progress at a specific time in the past, e.g.

I **was making** dinner when you called.

What **were you doing** at 4 p.m. yesterday?

She **wasn't doing** anything illegal when they caught her.

We **were looking** out of the window when she saw us. It **was snowing**.

- past perfect is used to talk about something that happened earlier than some specific event in the past, e.g.

The police **had captured** him before he managed to commit the crime.

When we arrived at the cinema, the film **had already finished**.

I had to come back home as I **had forgotten** to take my umbrella.

**Had you ever met** her before you saw her stealing your car?

Ex. 1 Choose the correct option.

1. Ann was waiting/waited for me when I arrived.
2. She went to the police because someone had stolen/was stealing her bag.
3. When I got home I saw that someone had broken into/has broken into my kitchen.
4. I ran into Lucy yesterday. Elegant as usual – she was wearing/had worn a Gucci dress.
5. He was studying/studied for the exam when they visited/had visited him.
6. When I phoned/had phoned her, she had already left home.
7. I had just started baking the cake when they arrived/were arriving much too early.
8. By the time I came to the club, the concert had finished/were finished and my friends had gone/went home.

9. He was reading/had read while I was working on my project.

10. When he left prison, his wife was waiting/waited outside.

Ex. 2 Are the sentence correct (C) or incorrect (I)?

1. I was waiting for my client, when my colleague called about her trial.

2. We hadn't been there for too long when our lawyer arrived with the documents.

3. I was driving to the airport when I had remember I was leaving my passport at home.

4. I didn't recognize him in the street as he had changed a lot over the years.

5. When I was running to the bus stop, I fell down and broke my leg.

6. We were having to come back home as we had left our umbrellas.

7. My friend refused to go on holiday with me as he was working on some important project at the time.

8. When I saw the pyramids, I realized I have never seen anything like that before.

9. The trial was already started when I entered the court.

10. I was sitting in the café when I remembered I had left my report at home.

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

1. What laws in your country do you hate?

2. What laws do you tend to ignore?

3. Have you ever broken any laws?

4. Are there any laws you would like to be introduced in your country?

5. Would you like to be a lawyer? Why? Why not?

6. Have you ever been to see a lawyer?

7. Is crime a problem where you live?

8. Have you ever been a victim of any crime?

9. Have you ever been a witness of a crime?

10. Is prison an effective punishment? Why? Why not?

11. Would you like to apply any 'creative' forms of punishment? What kind?
12. Have you ever thought of becoming a police officer?
13. Do you have any crime prevention tips?
14. How can governments reduce crime?
15. Do you think crime pays?