

Activity Type

Reading and Vocabulary Exercises: identifying, matching, dictionary work, gap-fill

Focus

Crime and punishment vocabulary

Aim

To learn and practice crime and punishment related vocabulary.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two-page worksheet for each student.

Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

This crime and punishment vocabulary worksheet helps students to learn and practice words related to crime and criminal trials.

This worksheet can be used in conjunction with the mock criminal trial role-play.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the two-page worksheet.

Students begin by reading a passage about a crime and underlining all the crime and punishment vocabulary. The students then use the context clues from the text to match words to their definitions.

Exercise A - Answer key

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. j | 6. i | 11. b |
| 2. f | 7. k | 12. d |
| 3. l | 8. a | 13. e |
| 4. h | 9. m | 14. g |
| 5. n | 10. c | |

Next, students use a dictionary to write definitions of the noun forms 'convict' and 'suspect'. Students also write an example sentence for each one.

Exercise B - Possible answers

Convict: a person found guilty of a criminal offense and serving a sentence of imprisonment.

Example: The prison was built to house 1000 convicts.

Suspect: a person thought to be guilty of a crime or offense.

Example: There were multiple suspects in the famous murder case.

After that, students read sentences and complete gaps with the crime and punishment vocabulary. Each word can be used once.

Exercise C - Answer key

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. witness | 7. verdict |
| 2. victim | 8. suspect |
| 3. innocent, guilty | 9. prosecute |
| 4. trial | 10. convict |
| 5. judge, sentence | 11. testify |
| 6. arrested | 12. charged |

As an extension, students may do the mock criminal trial role-play.

A. Read the passage and underline all the crime and punishment vocabulary. Then, match the words below to their definitions.

Cyril L. Keeler was arrested last night for the suspected killing of his neighbour. It is believed that Keeler suspected the victim of having an affair with his wife. He is expected to be formally charged this afternoon. If found guilty of the crime, he will be convicted of murder and then sentenced to at least 15 years in prison. During the trial, prosecutors will call on witnesses to testify against Keeler in order to prove he is guilty and not innocent. Ultimately, the judge will weigh up the evidence to reach a final verdict.



- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. arrested | a. punishment that a judge gives for committing a crime. |
| 2. charge | b. a legal process to decide if someone is guilty of a crime. |
| 3. convict | c. to say what you know or believe is true in a law court. |
| 4. guilty | d. a decision in a court of law saying if someone is guilty or not. |
| 5. innocent | e. someone who has suffered the effects of violence or a crime. |
| 6. judge | f. a police statement saying that someone is accused of a crime. |
| 7. prosecute | g. someone who sees an accident or crime. |
| 8. sentence | h. having committed a crime. |
| 9. suspect | i. someone who controls a trial in court. |
| 10. testify | j. when the police take someone away to ask them about a crime. |
| 11. trial | k. to accuse someone of a crime in a law court. |
| 12. verdict | l. to decide officially in a court of law that someone is guilty. |
| 13. victim | m. to think that someone may have committed a crime. |
| 14. witness | n. not guilty of committing a crime. |

B. Many words in English have more than one meaning, e.g. the two verbs above, 'convict' and 'suspect', both have a noun form with the same spelling. Use a dictionary to write a definition for each noun form and give an example sentence for each one.

Convict:

Example sentence:

Suspect:

Example sentence:

C. Read the sentences and complete the gaps with the crime and punishment vocabulary from the box. Each word can be used once.

arrested	charged	convict	guilty	innocent	judge	prosecute
sentence	suspect	testify	trial	verdict	victim	witness

- The said that he saw the red car hit the blue car and then drive away from the accident.
- Police are looking for a young man who attacked a person on the subway yesterday. The was released from hospital this morning.
- Sergey said that he was However, in court, they decided that he was and so they sent him to jail.
- It took a long time to send the killer to prison. In fact, the took more than five years!
- The gave the killer a 35-year
- A young woman was caught stealing cigarettes from a shop last night. The police came and her a short time later.
- We're all very nervous to see whether Jim has to go to prison. We're waiting to hear the tomorrow.
- You see that tall man over there, wearing the black suit. He's the the police have brought in for questioning.
- The authorities have decided not to the suspect because there isn't enough evidence.
- Pamela is finding it hard to get a job. Probably, it's because she's an ex.....
- If you go to court to it's very important to tell the truth. Lying in court is a serious offence.
- Mikhail has been with drunk driving. His trial is next week.

