

## ***Live Lesson Notes***

# **Crime**

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What you will learn

**Useful Links**

**Essential Vocabulary**

**IELTS Speaking Part 3 Tips**

**Idioms**

## Some useful Links

Different **types of crime**

<https://open.lib.umn.edu/socialproblems/chapter/8-2-types-of-crime/>

How **technology** can help **tackle crime**

<https://www.bestvalueschools.com/lists/5-ways-technology-has-changed-our-ability-to-solve-crimes/>

**Crime rates today** compared to the **past**

<https://theconversation.com/hard-evidence-crime-rates-are-down-but-is-the-world-a-less-harmful-place-46654>

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<https://takeielts.net/the-path-to-success-in-the-ielts-test/>

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# IELTS Vocabulary Crime

*Here is some essential vocabulary you can start using to talk about this topic of crime.*

**crime** (n.) *countable and uncountable*

To commit a crime

The crime rate = *how much crime there is*

*There are many types of crime, here are some of the most common types with examples.*

## **Violent crimes**

- rape
- murder
- kidnapping
- car-jacking
- arson
- genocide
- mugging

## **Petty crimes**

- shoplifting = *stealing from a shop*
- trespassing = *going on private property*
- pick-pocketing = *stealing from someone's bag or pocket*

## **Property crimes**

- vandalism = *damaging public/private property*
- burglary = *stealing from a house*
- robbery
- car theft

smuggling = *(e.g. drugs - take illegally across a border)*

## **Cyber crimes**

- identity fraud = *pretending to be someone else*
- theft *(especially credit card information)*
- ransomware = *software that blocks your computer until you pay money*

## White collar crimes

- fraud
- embezzlement = *stealing money from a company you work for*

*Here is some more vocabulary about people who commit crimes and the punishment they can get*

a **criminal** (n.) (person)

- a wrongdoer
- a lawbreaker

**criminal** (adj)

To commit a **criminal act**

To have a **criminal record**

## Punishments

To go to jail / to prison

To serve a **prison sentence** (period of time)

*He served a 10 year sentence*

*She will serve a life sentence (in prison).*

To serve time

To do community service

A **deterrent** against crime = *a discouragement*

## IELTS Speaking Part 3 Tips

*The key to doing well in IELTS Speaking Part 3 is to develop your answers. Simple as that. The more you develop, the more chances the examiner has to evaluate your real level.*

*However, don't be surprised if the examiners interrupt you, that is normal. A good way to develop your answer is to give reasons, opinions, explanations and examples.*

### Debates and Discussions:

#### ***Should young criminals be sent to prison for committing crimes?***

*When talking about young criminals, we can also use these phrases to describe a young person who doesn't follow the rules, obey the law*

- A juvenile delinquent
- A young offender
- A minor (=young person)

*These phrases may be helpful when discussing this issue*

They may commit a crime **by accident**

Prison won't **act as a deterrent**

Community service **will deter** juvenile delinquents

Yes, because we need to **ensure the safety of** our citizens

They should be given an alternative sentence, such as community service

They need some punishment, so they realise that they have **slipped up** (=made a mistake), but maybe not prison, because that might turn them into a **hardened criminal**.

No, because they would **suffer huge mental stress**, and the chances are they will **reoffend** (=commit a crime again)

No, they will just learn how to be a better criminal in prison

**To put someone on probation** = to release from prison early (to try and lead a normal life)

Well it depends on the intention of the **minor**, because sometimes young ones are **not really aware of** what they are actually doing and they may have been **led astray** (=misled) by someone.

## ***How technology can help tackle crime***

The police can use technology to get **digital fingerprints**, and analyse them in a database, and so this helps them **identify criminals**

By using CCTV cameras we can **deter** people **from committing** crimes because they know they will be seen and probably caught

Police use **face recognition**, and **motion and sensor technology** to tackle certain crimes

**Algorithms** on social media can be used to **tackle cyber bullying**

Technology can help tackle crime by **assisting the authorities** to collect information about criminals effectively and efficiently to support their investigation of a crime

I read an article about that some police forces are using **AI technologies** to assess the **potential threat** of an arrested suspect to society and if they should be **kept in custody** (=kept in prison before their trial) or **released on bail** (released from prison before their trial happens by payment of a sum of money).

## ***The crime rate nowadays is lower than in the past***

*This is a difficult debate, so here are some phrases to express this idea*

- It's not black and white
- It's not easy to say
- It's hard to say
- It depends who you listen to
- I'm in two minds on this matter

Some crimes have been reduced but others, like **cybercrime** have **popped up** (=suddenly appeared) in recent years

It depends which crimes we are talking about. If we are talking about **violent crimes**, there doesn't seem to have been much change, but many **property crimes**, like **burglary** have certainly decreased because **home security** is much better than before.

**Crime rates** have fallen in many cities due to **increased CCTV coverage**, and because there are more policemen **patrolling the streets**.

Well, if you listen to the politicians, then yes, the **crime rate** appears to be lower, but I am not sure we can always believe what we hear.

I'd say the crime rate has increased in many places due to **widespread use of the Internet** which makes it easier for criminals to **reach their victims**. For instance, **child predators** can **stalk minors** via the Internet, and also some people may **commit identity fraud** without leaving any trace.

## Idioms to talk about Crime

*The following expressions can be used to talk about crime*

To **turn to a career of crime** = *to start a life of crime*

He **fell in** (=make friends in a negative way) **with** some bad boys, and **turned to a career of crime**

To **be caught red handed** = *to be caught in the act*

He was **caught red handed** stealing money from the cash till

To **do time** = *spend time in prison*

He's **doing time** after he was caught for drunk diving

To **go straight** = *obey the law*

After 2 years behind bars, he has decided to **go straight**

To **keep your nose clean** = *obey the law*

After 2 years behind bars, he has decided to **keep his nose clean**

To **blow the whistle on** someone = *to tell the police that someone is committing a crime*

She **blew the whistle on** her boss who was committing fraud