

8A Beat the robbers...and the burglars

HOW NOT TO GET ROBBED IN THE STREET

1

You dramatically increase your chances of being robbed if you look as if you might have a lot of money on you. You don't have to look like a tramp, but you should try to look as if you aren't carrying much of value. If you're a tourist, keep your expensive camera or phone hidden.



2

This is especially true in countries where there are big income differences, and particularly in urban areas. Children are sadly often the most dangerous people on the street because they have nothing to lose. If you see a group of children coming towards you, ignore them completely and walk quickly to an area where there are plenty of other people.

3

If you see that people are watching you in a suspicious way, look straight back at them and make eye contact. If they were thinking of robbing you, it will make them realize that you may not be an easy target.

4

If you are a tourist and somebody in the street tells you to put your phone away, do it. Sometimes the locals can be overprotective because they want you to see the best side of their town, but it's always a good idea to take their advice. If they say don't go somewhere, don't.

5

The safest thing to do is to phone a reputable company every time you need one (your hotel can normally help with this). If you do have to get a taxi in the street, make sure it looks like a regulated one (e.g. one which has an official number or company phone number on it) and never ever get into a cab that has another person in the front passenger seat.

6

What's the first thing tourists do when they come out of Westminster Tube station in London? They look up at Big Ben, and then they pose to have their photo taken. When they're looking up, or looking at the camera, that's the moment when a pickpocket steals their wallet. Thieves also love the posters you see that warn tourists: 'Watch out! Pickpockets about!' When men read that their natural reaction is to immediately put their hand on the pocket where their wallet is, to make sure it's still there. The pickpockets are watching and so they see exactly where the man is carrying his wallet.

1 READING & LISTENING

a Have you ever been robbed in the street? Where were you? What was stolen?

b Read the article *How not to get robbed*. Match the headings to the paragraphs.



A **Be careful when you're sightseeing**

B **Be smart about cabs**

C **Don't look too well off**

D **Keep an eye on the kids**

E **Listen to the locals**

F **Look confident**

c Read the article again. Then cover the text and look at A–F. Can you remember the advice? What advice would you give someone to avoid being robbed in your town?

d Look at the questions and predict the answers.

How to beat the burglars

1 How long do you think a burglar normally takes to search someone's house?

2 Which are the most common things that burglars steal, apart from money?

3 What one thing would be likely to stop a burglar coming into your house?

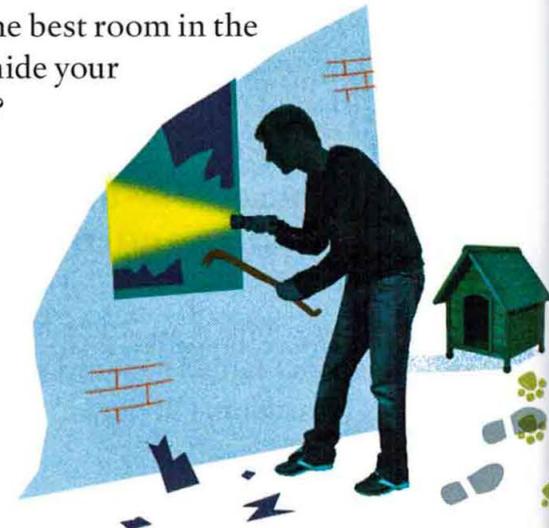
4 What factors influence a burglar to choose a house?

5 Why do some burglars prefer it if the owners are at home?

6 When are you most likely to be burgled, during the day or night?

7 How are burglars more likely to get into a house?

8 What is the best room in the house to hide your valuables?



- e (4 30))) Listen to an interview with an ex-burglar. Check your answers to d.
- f Listen again for more detail. What reasons does he give for each answer? What tips can you learn from what he says to protect yourself from being burgled?
- g Of all the tips for keeping safe at home and in the street, which one do you think is the most useful? Why?

2 VOCABULARY crime and punishment

- a Match the words for people who steal with the definitions in the list.

burglar mugger pickpocket robber shoplifter thief

- A _____ is someone who breaks in and steals from a private house.
- A _____ is someone who steals from a person or place, e.g. a bank, using or threatening violence.
- A _____ is someone who steals something from a shop.
- A _____ is someone who steals from you in the street, usually without you noticing.
- A _____ is someone who uses violence to steal from you in the street.
- A _____ is the general word for someone who steals from a person.

- b (4 31))) Listen and check. Underline the stressed syllables.

- c ► p.160 Vocabulary Bank Crime and punishment.

3 PRONUNCIATION & SPEAKING the letter u

accuse burglar caught court drugs fraud judge
jury mugger murderer punishment smuggling

- a Look at the words in the list, which all have the letter *u* in them. Put them in the correct column below according to how the vowel sound is pronounced.

			ju:	

- b (4 34))) Listen and check. Which two words are pronounced exactly the same?

- c Practise saying the sentences.

- Luke was accused of smuggling drugs.
- 'Murderers must be punished,' said the judge.
- The burglar is doing community service.
- The jury said he was guilty of fraud.
- The mugger was caught and taken to court.



- d Talk to a partner.

What are the most common crimes in your town or city?

What has been the biggest crime story in your country in the last few weeks?

Do you have trial by jury in your country?

Do you think it's a good system?

Do you have capital punishment in your country? If not, would you re-introduce it?

Do you know anyone...? What happened?

- who has been burgled
- who has been mugged
- whose car has been stolen
- who has been unfairly accused of shoplifting
- who has been stopped by the police while driving
- who has been robbed while on holiday
- who has been offered a bribe
- who has been kidnapped



4 MINI GRAMMAR

have something done

They look up at Big Ben, and then they pose to have their photo taken.

- Use *have (something) done* when you get another person to do something for you.

Compare:

I took a photo of Westminster Bridge = I took the photo myself.

I had my photo taken on Westminster Bridge = I asked someone to take my photo.

- *Have* is the main verb so it changes according to the tense.

I'm going to have my hair cut tomorrow. I had my car repaired after the accident.

- You can also use *get* instead of *have*, e.g. *I'm going to get my hair cut tomorrow.*

- a Complete the sentences with the right form of *have* + the past participle of a verb from the list.

cut install renew repair take

- How often do you _____ your hair _____?
- Have you ever had a problem with your laptop? Where did you _____ it _____?
- Do you usually _____ your passport or ID card _____ in plenty of time before it runs out?
- Have you _____ a burglar alarm _____ in your house or flat? What kind is it?
- Have you ever _____ your photo _____ in front of a famous monument? Where?

- b Ask and answer the questions with a partner.

5 GRAMMAR the passive (all forms);
it is said that..., he is thought to..., etc.

- a Read a true crime story. What does it advise us to be careful with? What happened to the woman?

Not her best buy

If a man approaches you outside a Best Buy store* with a complicated story about needing money to get home, and a surprisingly cheap iPad for sale, don't believe him!

A woman in Daytona Beach, Florida, ¹*learnt / was learnt* this the hard way after handing over \$400 for what turned out to be a square piece of wood with a piece of glass stuck to the front. When the man, 39-year-old Torrance Canady, who ²*had / was had* a long criminal record, ³*later caught / was later caught* by the police, several more fake Apple products ⁴*found / were found* in his car. There were two MacBooks which ⁵*had made / had been made* from wood and which were covered in silver tape. An Apple logo ⁶*had cut / had been cut* out in the middle, and a Best Buy price tag stuck on the back. Canady insisted that he ⁷*didn't know / wasn't known* the computers were fake and said he'd 'bought them in a nearby town for his girlfriend'. He ⁸*has charged / has been charged* with selling fake electrical equipment and ⁹*is holding / is being held* in Volusia County jail.

* Best Buy store = a US store selling electronic equipment

- b Read the story again. **Circle** the right form of the verb.

- c **4 35**) Now listen to another crime story. Answer the questions.

- 1 Where were the burglaries taking place?
- 2 What did he steal?
- 3 What did Cooper do apart from stealing?
- 4 What did he do if he found people at home?
- 5 How was he caught?
- 6 Where did the police find him?

- d Listen again and complete the extracts with the missing words. How is the structure different after *he is thought* and after *it is thought*?

- 1 ...he is thought _____ between 50 and 100 burglaries in the area.
- 2 It is believed _____ mainly interested in finding drugs...
- 3 Cooper is also said _____ himself at home in the houses.
- 4 ...it is thought _____ to know someone there.

- e **► p.146 Grammar Bank 8A.** Learn more about the passive, and practise it.

- f Use the notes below to complete a newspaper crime story.

Britain's most polite robber

Police in Stockport in the UK are looking for a man who ¹_____. (**believe / be Britain's most polite armed robber**)

The robber, who always says 'please' and 'thank you' when he orders shop staff to give him the money in the till, ²_____. (**say / be a tall man in his early forties**)

He wears a mask and washing-up gloves during robberies. It ³_____ at least four shops in Stockport in recent weeks. (**think / he / rob**)

A police officer said, 'He ⁴_____ (**report / be polite to his victims**), but there is nothing polite about armed robbery. Last week this man used a knife to threaten shop staff. They were terrified. Saying "please" and "thank you" cannot change that.'

6 READING

- a Look at the title of the article. What kind of crime(s) do you think it will be about?

- b Read the article once. Choose the best summary of the writer's opinion.

- A Illegal downloading of music is not necessarily bad for the music industry. In some ways it benefits it.
- B There is no way of stopping illegal downloading. We will just have to learn to live with it.
- C Illegally downloading music is the same as stealing it from a shop and it will ultimately harm the people who are committing the crime.

- c Read the article again. Answer the questions with a partner.

- 1 According to the writer, in what way do people have a different attitude to the online world?
- 2 In what way is people's attitude to online music illogical?
- 3 What did the government want to do? Who opposed this, and why?
- 4 What is the writer's view about illegal downloading?
- 5 Why does she compare fans who illegally download their idols' music to 'lovers' who 'watch you as you drown'?
- 6 Why does she think that the people who download will be the losers in the long run?

- d Look at the **highlighted** words and phrases related to crime. In pairs, work out their meaning.



Crime online

What is the world online? Is it real? Are we safe there? How should we behave there?

The answer is: it's just the internet. Our internet. The internet we made. It's exactly like the real world – just a place with shops, and information, where people chat – but on a computer. But for some reason, we won't accept so simple an answer. We think that, as soon as something is on the internet, it turns into something else, that it's not quite real.

Take for instance a song. When is a song not a song? When it's on the internet. If a song is on a CD, in a shop, we would not hesitate to pay for it. But if you put the same song on the internet, millions of people think that you can take the same song without paying for it. It's still the same song, written by the same people, who spent the same hours and same money recording it, but press a button and it's yours.

There are plenty of **justifications** for taking things for free on the internet. In fact, when the government proposed punishing illegal downloaders with internet disconnection, a lobby group of artists and musicians actually **campaigned** against it saying that 'it would reduce the **civil liberties** of every one of us in this country.'

But how can this be true? How is being **banned** from using the internet because you have committed a crime any different to being banned from a library because you stole some books from there? The internet isn't a necessity. It's thrilling and brilliant and useful most of the time, but it's not a right to be able to use it. We don't **have a right to** listen to the music we want, or watch the films we like, for free. These things are treats, pleasures, luxuries. Why is it considered a right? Because it's the internet. And why is the internet different from the rest of the world, where luxuries have to be paid for? Because...it's the internet.

There is also the argument that it's good for artists to be heard and seen. But what use are 9 million people who love your work, but not enough to want to pay you for your song or your film? Fans who don't pay their idols are like lovers who promise everlasting love but then sit and watch you as you drown.

Do you know who will end up suffering the most from all this? Young people, the ones who themselves are doing it. The music industry has shrunk 40% since 2000. Famous music magazines, like *Melody Maker* and *The Face*, have now closed. And young people who try to get jobs in the music industry complain about the low salaries, while they download hundreds of pounds worth of albums for free.

By The Times journalist Caitlin Moran

7 SPEAKING

a In groups, discuss the questions below:

Are these activities against the law in your country? Do you think they should be illegal? Why (not)? How do you think they should be punished?

Online world

- Downloading music, books, and films
- Hacking into somebody else's computer
- Posting aggressive or threatening 'tweets' or messages
- Photographing someone and posting the photo on the internet without their permission
- Using a false identity online
- Creating a computer virus

Real world

- Owning an aggressive breed of dog
- Squatting in an unoccupied house (living there without paying rent)
- Going on strike without having previously agreed / announced it
- Ill-treating an animal in any way
- Painting attractive graffiti on a wall or fence



Useful language: saying what you think (1)

When we are giving our opinion about the right way to punish someone, we often use *should + passive infinitive*.

I think | *it should be* | *illegal /*
I don't think | | *against the law.*

I think people who | *finned.*
do this should be | *sent to prison.*
| *banned from using*
| *the internet.*
| *made to...*

b Compare your ideas with other groups. Do you agree?

8 WRITING

► **p.118 Writing** *Expressing your opinion.* Write an article for a magazine saying what you think about either downloading music and films, or about squatting.