

## Topics: Crime by Adrian Tennant

**LEVEL:** Intermediate +  
**AGE:** Teenagers / Adults  
**TIME NEEDED:** 90 minutes + project  
**LANGUAGE FOCUS:** Passive; understand vocabulary in context; topic words – verbs and nouns

### LEAD-IN

Ask students to look at the pictures and in pairs talk about what they can see in each one. Monitor and help where necessary, then elicit ideas from students as a whole class discussion.

### READING 1: HEADLINES

Ask students to read the headlines and circle all the words connected to crime. Put students in pairs and get them to check their answers together before checking as a class.

**Key** \_\_\_\_\_  
*charged; attempted murder; jailed; smuggling; detectives; police; arrest; thieves; burglar; prevent; crime*

Next, ask the pairs to discuss what they think happened in each of the situations before reporting back to the class.

### READING 2: NEWS IN BRIEF

Ask students to read through the stories and match the headlines from the previous exercise to the correct one. Tell them they don't need to understand every word (you could give a short time limit, e.g. two minutes). Get students to check their answers in pairs before checking as a class.

**Key a** \_\_\_\_\_  
 1. Detectives puzzled by death  
 2. Man charged with attempted murder  
 3. Former burglar helps police prevent crime  
 4. Woman jailed for smuggling  
 5. Police arrest 250 thieves

Next, ask students to read the five comprehension questions and answer each one. Again, encourage students to check their answers in pairs before checking as a class.

**Key b** \_\_\_\_\_  
 1. two days; 2. witnesses; 3. a former thief; 4. for smuggling (drugs); 5. fewer than 250

### WORKING WITH THE LANGUAGE

#### Focus 1: Understanding meaning

Do the first question as a whole class. Elicit a few ideas, write them up on the board and then tell students the correct answer. Check that they understand the answer and explain if necessary. Put students in pairs and ask them to help each other to answer the other four questions. Monitor, and help where necessary before checking as a class.

**Key** \_\_\_\_\_  
 1. *who the woman is, and how and when she died*  
 2. *no, the man **tried** to strangle the woman which means that he didn't succeed*  
 3. *recently; it happened 'lately' but we don't know exactly when*  
 4. *no, she was coming back from a holiday*  
 5. *no, there were more than 30*

#### Focus 2: Language use

Ask students to look at the sentences in the box, then ask them to answer the four questions about the sentences. Put students in pairs and get them to check their answers together before checking as a class.

**Key a** \_\_\_\_\_  
 1. *sentence 2*  
 2. *present perfect passive*  
 3. *sentences 1 and 3*  
 4. *because we know what the subject is (the police)*

Next, ask students to look at the three sentences and complete each one using the passive. Again, get students to check their answers in pairs before checking as a class.

**Key b** \_\_\_\_\_  
 1. *The crime scene is being examined (by the police) for clues.*  
 2. *Drugs worth nearly £100,000 were seized by officials.*  
 3. *Two hundred and fifty people in one UK town have been arrested for shoplifting.*

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### WORKING WITH VOCABULARY

#### Focus 1: Meaning

Ask students to look back at the texts and find words that match the definitions. Encourage them to work in pairs and discuss their ideas as they look at the texts. Check the answers as a class.

#### Key a

a. confirm; b. scene; c. clues; d. (remanded in) custody; e. appealing; f. admitted; g. potential; h. seized; i. crackdown; j. operation

#### Focus 2: Topic related words

Ask students to work together and complete the chart. Tell them that some of the words are in the texts, but for the others they will need to look in their dictionary. Monitor and help where necessary and then check the answers together as a class.

#### Key b

verb	noun (thing)	noun (person)
burgle	burglary	burglar
	crime	criminal
detect	detection	detective
investigate	investigation	investigator
murder	murder	murderer
shoplift	shoplifting	shoplifter
smuggle	smuggling	smuggler
strangle	strangulation	strangler
thieve	theft	thief
witness		witness

### LISTENING

Tell students that they are going to listen to a short radio news report. Play the report, then ask students to read the second newspaper report in the Reading 2: News in brief exercise. Ask them to circle/note any differences they can remember from the newspaper and radio reports. When they have completed their notes, put students in pairs and ask them to discuss their answers together. Play the recording again, if necessary, and check the answers as a class.

Transcript:

Police investigating the death of a woman outside a nightclub are now looking at CCTV evidence. The 22-year-old woman was stabbed to death in front of the premises on New Year's Day. A 45-year-old man is being held for questioning and is likely to be charged with murder.

#### Key

CCTV evidence; stabbed to death; New Year's Day; forty-five-year-old (man); held for questioning; murder

### SPEAKING

Put students in small groups and ask them to discuss the questions together.

Afterwards, ask a few groups to report back on their discussion. You might want to open this out into a whole class discussion.

### PROJECT

Ask students to carry out the project for homework and follow it up in the next lesson.

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LEAD-IN

Look at these pictures. What can you see in each one?



READING 1: HEADLINES

Read the headlines and circle all the words connected to crime.

Man charged with attempted murder

WOMAN JAILED FOR SMUGGLING

Detectives puzzled by death

POLICE ARREST 250 THIEVES

Former burglar helps police prevent crime

What do you think happened in each of the situations?



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### READING 2: NEWS IN BRIEF

a. Read the newspaper stories below and match the headlines from the previous exercise to the correct story.

1.

Detectives investigating the murder of a woman are trying to find out exactly how and when she died. They are also trying to confirm the identity of the body, which was found two days ago by a man walking his dogs. Police are examining the crime scene for clues, but as yet have no leads.

2.

A 55-year-old man has been charged after trying to strangle a 22-year-old woman on New Year's Eve. The man was remanded in custody and will appear in court tomorrow. Police are appealing for witnesses to the incident, which took place at just after midnight outside Reveller's nightclub.

3.

*A thief who has admitted to breaking into more than 500 homes is the latest weapon in the fight against crime. 'Bob', who is in his forties, has spent more than ten years in jail for various crimes. He now works with the police helping them to give advice to homeowners on how to stop potential burglars.*

4.

**A 19-year-old woman has been sentenced to six months in prison for smuggling. The woman was returning from holiday when she was stopped by customs officers as she walked through Gatwick Airport. The officials seized drugs worth nearly £100,000.**

5.

Police in one UK town have arrested more shoplifters in a week than they would usually arrest in a year. A recent crackdown has seen more than 250 people caught stealing from shops. The operation lasted six days and involved more than 30 undercover and uniformed officers.

b. Now answer these questions:

1. How long have the police been investigating the murder?
2. Who do the police want to talk to about the man who tried to strangle a young woman?
3. What kind of weapon are police using to stop burglars?
4. Why is a 19-year-old going to prison for six months?
5. How many people would police usually arrest for shoplifting in one year?

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WORKING WITH THE LANGUAGE

Focus 1: Understanding meaning

Answer the following questions:

1. In story 1, what don't the police know? What tells you this?
2. In story 2, did the woman die? How do you know?
3. In story 3, when did police start working with Bob? How do you know?
4. In story 4, was the woman going on holiday? How do you know?
5. In story 5, were only 30 police involved in the operation? How do you know?

Focus 2: Language use

**a. In news reports, the passive voice is often used. Look at these sentences from the news stories and answer the questions.**

1. ... the body ... was found two days ago by a man walking his dogs.
2. A fifty-five year old man has been charged after trying to strangle a twenty-two year old woman ...
3. **The woman was returning from holiday when she was stopped by customs officers ...**
  1. In which sentence is the passive form different?
  2. What is this form called?
  3. In which sentences is the subject mentioned?
  4. Why does the sentence without a subject not need one?

**b. Rewrite these three sentences in the passive.**

Police are examining the crime scene for clues.

*The crime scene*

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The officials seized drugs worth nearly £100,000.

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Police in one UK town have arrested 250 people for shoplifting.

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WORKING WITH VOCABULARY

Focus 1: Meaning

Find words in the newspaper stories, from Reading 2: News in brief, to match with these definitions.

- a. to show or say that something is true
- b. a place where something happens
- c. useful information that may help solve a crime
- d. a situation in which someone is kept in prison
- e. to make an urgent request for people to do or give something
- f. to agree that you have done something wrong
- g. possible or likely in the future
- h. to take something using official powers
- i. strong action that someone in authority takes to stop a particular activity
- j. a planned activity involving a lot of people

Focus 2: Topic related words

Complete the table. You can use a dictionary if you need to.

verb	noun (thing)	noun (person)
	burglary	
		criminal
detect		
	investigation	
murder		
		shoplifter
smuggle		
	strangulation	
	theft	
witness		

LISTENING

Listen to the radio news report and answer the questions below.

1. How many differences between the newspaper and radio reports did you hear?
2. What were they?

**Topics: Crime  
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Discuss these questions in small groups.

1. Which of these crimes is the worst? Why?
2. Do you think six months for smuggling drugs is a long enough sentence? Why? Why not?
3. What sentences do you think the criminal in each crime should get?
4. Are any of these crimes common in your country?
5. Are there any 'crimes' which you think shouldn't be regarded as crimes? What and why?

**PROJECT**

Find a news report in English about a crime. Find all the words in the report connected to crime and write them into the word wheel.

