

## Crime

### Verbs

commit a crime When we entered the building, we didn't realise we were committing a crime.  
combat / fight / reduce crime They have introduced tough new measures to combat crime.  
investigate / solve a crime The crime has never been solved.  
charge somebody with a crime A local shopkeeper has been charged with the crime of murder.  
accuse somebody of a crime The teenager was accused of over eighty car crimes.  
convict somebody of a crime They convicted her of the crime of handling stolen goods.  
prosecute somebody for a crime Smith was prosecuted for the crime of breaking and entering.  
indict somebody for war crimes The Serbian leader has been indicted for war crimes.  
crime occurs Much of the crime that occurs in the area relates to drug use.  
crime increases / rises We need more police officers when crime is rising.  
be involved in a crime Tom was involved in several crimes when he was a teenager.  
confess to a crime He confessed to the crime when he was questioned by the police.

### Adjectives

an atrocious / brutal / heinous / hideous / horrible / horrific / terrible / unforgivable / unspeakable / violent crime The murder of a child is a hideous crime.  
greatest / major / serious crime The police are investigating a recent increase in serious crime.  
lesser / minor / petty There is a lot of petty crime in the town centre.  
guilty / innocent of a crime Jack swore that he was innocent of the crime.  
an alleged crime The papers cannot report on the alleged crime until it comes to trial.  
an unpunished / unsolved crime There is too high a number of unsolved crimes.  
nonviolent / victimless crime People think that fraud is a victimless crime.  
soft / tough on crime The Prime Minister says he wants to be tough on crime.  
a crime punishable by something Murder is a crime punishable by life imprisonment.

### Types

juvenile / youth crime We need to tackle the problem of juvenile crime.  
street crime Each police authority has a target for reducing street crime.  
organized crime Galliano was said to be connected to organized crime.  
federal / international crime Kidnapping is a federal crime.  
car / computer / electronic / hate / political / sex / war crime  
People can be prosecuted for hate crimes.  
drug-related / gun-related / sex-related crime Drug-related crime is our biggest problem.  
copycat crime Police are concerned that there could be copycat crimes.

### Nouns

crime detection / investigation / prevention Crime detection rates are up.  
crime figures / levels / rate The government will release the latest crime figures tomorrow.  
the fight against crime The fight against crime requires more resources.  
a crime lab / squad The regional crime squad are investigating a series of burglaries.  
a crime suspect Several more war crime suspects are being sent to the International Court of Justice in the Hague.  
crime bill A new crime bill is being debated in Parliament.  
a crime scene / victim Was there any forensic evidence found at the crime scene?  
a crime problem / wave A new crime wave has hit the town.  
perpetrators of crime The perpetrators of the crime have not been identified yet.  
a deterrent to crime Fear of being caught and imprisoned should be a good deterrent to crime.  
causes of crime The professor is researching into the causes of crime.  
an upsurge in crime The recent upsurge in crime has led to budget problems for the local police.

### Phrases

crimes against humanity The new International Court of Justice can try cases of crimes against humanity.  
a life of crime Officers believe that skipping school can lead to a life of crime.

### Prepositions

crime against something/somebody Violent crimes against tourists are on the increase.

## Punishment

### Verbs

deserve punishment I did wrong and I deserved punishment.  
avoid / escape punishment She escaped punishment by offering to pay for the damage.  
get / receive a punishment He received a very harsh punishment.  
recommend a punishment The committee has agreed on what punishment to recommend.

### Adjectives

cruel / harsh / serious / severe punishment  
If you fail to turn up, you can expect severe punishment.  
minimum / maximum punishment  
The maximum punishment for such crimes is three years in prison.  
an appropriate punishment  
What would you say is an appropriate punishment for refusing to tidy your bedroom?

### Types

capital punishment They would like to see the reintroduction of capital punishment.  
corporal / physical punishment I do not believe in corporal punishment for children.

### Prepositions

punishment for something She received punishment for vandalizing the school music room.  
do something as a punishment I had to clean the floor as a punishment for making a mess.

### Nouns

crime and punishment He has a harsh view of crime and punishment.  
a form / kind / method of punishment  
They are investigating non-custodial methods of punishment.

### Phrases

the punishment [doesn't/should, etc] fit the crime  
They felt that her punishment didn't fit the crime.