



Law and Order

Table of Contents

Law and Order		Laws, Crimes, and Punishment		Vocabulary Review 3	
2	Discussion			13	Complete the Sentences
3	Vocabulary	8	Reading		
4	Complete the Sentences	9	Comprehension		Idioms from Law and Order
5	Sorting			14	Guess the Meanings
	Vocabulary Review 1		Areas of Law	15	Matching
6	What's the Crime?	10	Discussion	15	Complete the Sentences
6	Who's Talking?	10	Recommend a Lawyer		Class Activity
	Vocabulary Review 2		Pair Work	16	Find Someone Who
7	Matching	11	Student A		
7	Preposition Practice	12	Student B		

Law and Order

A. Discussion

Discuss the following questions in groups.

1. Do you think that there is a lot of **crime** in your city?
2. Do you always lock your doors and windows when you go out? Do you keep your doors locked when you are at home?
3. Have you ever been a **victim** of a crime?
4. Have you ever been a **witness** to a crime?
5. Have you ever served on a **jury**?
Would you like to be on a jury? Why or why not?
6. Do you know how people are selected for jury duty in your country?
7. Have you ever received a speeding ticket?
If so, how much was the **fine**?
8. Have you ever had any other **traffic violations**?
If so, what were they?
9. Have you ever had to ask a lawyer for advice?
10. What can a person do in your country if they cannot afford to hire a lawyer?
11. Does **capital punishment** exist in your state/country?
12. Do you think **criminals** should be required to serve their whole **sentences** or do you think that they should be allowed out of prison early for good behavior?
13. What is the purpose of jails and prisons?
Are they to **deter** crime or **rehabilitate** criminals?
14. Do you think that the violence shown on TV and in movies today increases the amount of violent crime in our society?
15. Do you think that people **charged with** a violent crime should be allowed out on **bail** while waiting for their court case?
16. Do you know the difference between criminal law and **civil law**? Can you give an example?
17. Have you ever **sued** anyone or been sued?
18. Are **judges** in your state/country appointed or elected?
19. How long can the police in your country hold a person in **custody** before charging him/her?
20. If you were charged with a crime, would you rather be **tried** by a judge or a jury?
21. What would you do if you heard someone breaking into your house?
22. What can we do to make our cities safer?

Law and Order cont.

B. Vocabulary

Word		Definition
crime	noun	a serious offense against the law; serious law breaking
victim	noun	a person who has been hurt or suffered from a crime, accident, war, etc.
witness	noun	a person who has seen an event and is able to describe it
jury	noun	a group of people chosen to make a decision in a court of law
fine	noun	money paid as a punishment for breaking the law
traffic violation	noun	a broken law related to driving
capital punishment	noun	the death penalty; punishment of death
criminal	noun	a person who commits a crime or breaks a serious law
sentence	noun	punishment given to a criminal by a judge
	verb	to say what the punishment is
deter	verb	to prevent something from happening
rehabilitate	verb	to bring back to good condition or better situation
charge (<i>with a crime</i>)	verb	officially state that a person has broken the law
bail	noun	money that is demanded by the court, paid by a person who has been charged with a crime, as a security that the person will return for his/her trial
civil law	noun	law dealing with the private rights of citizens, not with crime
sue	verb	to make a legal claim against, to take to court and ask for compensation for damages or suffering
judge	noun	the person in charge of a court of law
custody	noun	guarding, imprisonment
take into custody	verb	to seize by police, arrest
try	verb	to examine information in a court of law and make a decision
trial	noun	the whole process of examining information in court and making a decision

Law and Order cont.

C. Complete the Sentences

Choose the correct word or expression from the list on page 3 to complete the following sentences.

1. Frank has a perfect driving record. He has never had a _____ .
2. You saw the accident, so you may have to go to court as a _____ .
3. The _____ told the jurors to take their time making a decision.
4. The robber told his _____ to empty his pockets and give him all his money.
5. The thief received a ten-year _____ for his crime.
6. Mary had to pay a \$100 _____ for driving through the red light.
7. His _____ was not very serious, so the judge sentenced him to only three weeks in jail.
8. If he can't pay the \$50,000 _____ , he will have to remain in jail until his trial.
9. Last year, Robbie drove his father's car after getting drunk at a party.
As a punishment, his father would not allow him to drive the car for two months.
His father hopes that punishment will _____ Robbie
from drinking and driving in the future.
10. Many countries have decided to end _____ .
Instead, they sentence their very dangerous criminals to life in prison.
11. It only took the _____ five hours to decide that the man was guilty.
12. The police are going to _____ him with robbery.
They found the stolen money in his apartment.

Law and Order cont.

D. Sorting

Work with a partner or in small groups to place each of the words at the bottom of the page in the proper category. Some words may fall into more than one category, but be prepared to explain your reason for your choice. You may need to use your dictionary. Add as many other words to each category that you can think of and explain the meanings to your partners.

Police	Punishment	Type of Offense	In the Court

Word List:

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| • sentence | • vandalism | • prosecutor | • forgery |
| • jaywalking | • kidnapping | • uniform | • death penalty |
| • sheriff | • manslaughter | • witness stand | • breaking and entering |
| • judge | • lethal injection | • shoplifting | • evidence |
| • jail | • DUI (driving under the influence) | • parole | • theft |
| • handcuff | • fingerprint | • detective | • fine |
| • assault | • execution | • transcript | • badge |
| • lawyer | • defense attorney | • arson | • gavel |
| • arrest | • murder | • deputy | • jury |
| • lieutenant | | • rape | • chief |

Vocabulary Review 1

A. What's the Crime?

Choose the correct word from the list to the right to complete the following sentences.

1. Nora Roberts stuffed three sweaters into her large handbag and left the store without paying for the items. She was charged with _____.
2. Frankie broke three windows of his neighbor's house and threw eggs at the garage door. He was charged with _____.
3. Albert signed someone else's name on several checks and then cashed them at the bank. He was charged with _____.
4. The old man hit his wife so hard she ended up in the hospital. He was charged with _____.
5. When Bart punched the man in the face, the man fell down and hit his head on the sidewalk and died. Bart was charged with _____.
6. The men deliberately started the fire by pouring gasoline all over the boxes and then lighting a match. The men were charged with _____.
7. The two men used guns and knives to force the pilot to land the plane. They were charged with _____.

Word List

- forgery
- hijacking
- vandalism
- arson
- shoplifting
- manslaughter
- domestic abuse

B. Who's Talking?

Read the following quotations and decide who is speaking. Choose from the list to the right.

1. _____ "I plead not guilty."
2. _____ "Bail is set at \$10,000."
3. _____ "All rise."
4. _____ "We find the defendant not guilty."
5. _____ "You were driving 30 miles an hour over the speed limit."
6. _____ "Call 911! I just saw someone running out of the bank with a gun."
7. _____ "I'm going to prove to you that the defendant is guilty of this crime."
8. _____ "This is a stick-up! Empty the cash register and put all the money in this bag."

Word List

- jury foreman
- highway patrol officer
- clerk of the court
- prosecutor
- witness
- defendant
- judge
- thief

Vocabulary Review 2

A. Matching

Complete the sentences by matching the correct beginnings and endings.

- | | |
|--|--|
| _____ 1. The policeman... | a) testified to what he had seen. |
| _____ 2. The criminal was taken to jail... | b) transcribed the proceedings. |
| _____ 3. The witness was able to pick the man... | c) the government's case. |
| _____ 4. Everyone stood when... | d) to all the evidence. |
| _____ 5. The defendant... | e) sentenced the robber to five years. |
| _____ 6. The prosecutor presented the... | f) handcuffed the robber. |
| _____ 7. The defense attorney... | g) represented the accused. |
| _____ 8. The witness... | h) out of the line-up. |
| _____ 9. The jury listened carefully... | i) and fingerprinted. |
| _____ 10. The court reporter... | j) pleaded not-guilty. |
| _____ 11. The jury foreman... | k) the judge entered the room. |
| _____ 12. The judge... | l) delivered the verdict. |

B. Preposition Practice

Choose the correct preposition from the list to the right to complete the following sentences. You may use the same preposition more than once.

1. The two men were charged _____ robbery and assault.
2. Frank was driving 20 miles per hour _____ the speed limit.
Then he went _____ a red light.
3. Mr. Jones was accused _____ forgery.
4. The jury found him guilty _____ the crime.
5. The judge sentenced him _____ five years in prison.
6. The jury is responsible _____ deciding innocence or guilt.
7. The judge is responsible _____ giving the sentence.
8. The witness swears _____ a Bible to tell the truth.
9. The court reporter listens _____ the whole trial and records everything that is said.
10. The defendant was released _____ \$5000 bail.
11. The robber was released _____ prison after serving a three-year sentence.
12. You are a witness _____ the crime, so you will have to go to court to testify.

Word List

- of
- to
- for
- with
- on
- over
- through
- from

Laws, Crimes, and Punishment

A. Reading

1. Citizens of most countries believe strongly in the rule of **law**. **Laws** are written rules that are intended to **guide** people in their day-to-day lives. Every country has its own set of laws and these laws may be quite different in different places. For example, in the United States, Canada, and many European countries, the law states that people drive on the right side of the road. In England, Japan, New Zealand and other countries, people must drive on the left side of the road. When people break the law, **punishments** may also differ from place to place. For instance, some countries **impose the death penalty** for very serious crimes, whereas other countries do not believe in **capital punishment**.
2. In free and democratic countries, laws are made by elected government representatives. Laws can be made by different levels of government. Laws that everybody in the country must **obey** are made by the **national** or **federal government**. These kinds of laws may relate to serious criminal offenses, federal taxes, passport regulations, immigration, etc. Laws that apply only to the individual state or province are made by the government of that region. These laws may involve highway traffic regulations, provincial or state taxes, rules about education, minimum wages paid by employers, etc. City or **municipal laws**, often called **by-laws**, are made by city officials and are relevant only to the local area. Rules that relate to speeding limits within a city, property taxes, parking restrictions, building codes, etc. are included in municipal by-laws.
3. While laws are made by the elected representatives, the **police** and **courts** exist to **enforce** the laws. Not all law breaking is considered a crime. Courts deal with both **criminal** and **civil cases**. In criminal cases, the community accuses an individual of committing an offense. The community is represented in court by the government which presents the case against the accused person in court. An example of a **criminal offense** is theft. In **civil cases**, private individuals or companies who cannot solve a problem themselves ask the courts to decide. Breaking a contract is an example of a civil offense. It is sometimes possible for both a criminal and a civil case to result from the same incident. Suppose a person is injured in a car accident and the person who caused the accident had been drunk. The driver could be charged with drunk driving and that case would go to **criminal court**. But the **victim** could also **sue** the driver for his/her pain and suffering and that case would go to **civil court**.
4. Criminal offenses are those offenses that **violate** public law. In most countries, these **crimes** are divided into two categories: less serious offenses and more serious offenses. In the United States, these offenses are referred to as **misdemeanors** and **felonies**. Leaving a restaurant without paying the bill, disturbing the peace by making loud noises, and stealing a chocolate bar are examples of misdemeanors. Kidnapping, assault, and murder are examples of felonies. Individuals **convicted of a crime** may be sentenced to different kinds of punishments such as **fines**, **community service**, **imprisonment**, etc. Felonies are more serious crimes and therefore have much **harsher sentences**.

Laws, Crimes, and Punishment cont.

B. Comprehension

Read the article in Part A, then answer the following questions in your notebook.

1. Give an example of how laws differ from country to country.
2. What is the purpose of laws?
3. What is another term for the death penalty?
4. What is a by-law?
5. Give an example of a by-law.
6. Who makes the laws that apply to the whole country?
7. If you want to sue somebody, what kind of court would try the case?
8. Who enforces the laws that are made by elected government representatives?
9. Is breaking a contract considered to be a crime?
10. What level of government would probably make a law that regulates the minimum wage an employer must pay an employee?
11. What level of government would make a law regarding the speed limit on highways?
12. Explain the difference between misdemeanors and felonies.
13. Give an example of your own, explaining how an incident might be tried in both a criminal and a civil court.

Areas of Law

A. Discussion

There are many different areas of law and some lawyers choose to specialize in one or more of these. Read the list of different types of law specialties to the right. Work with a partner or small group. Discuss the different specialties and think of examples of problems that each specialty might cover. When you have finished, share your ideas with the rest of your classmates.

Types of Law Specialties

- Business or Corporate Law
- Bankruptcy Law
- Civil Rights Law
- Consumer Law
- Criminal Law
- Employment Law
- Family Law
- Immigration Law
- Insurance Law
- Intellectual Property Law
- Personal Injury Law
- Real Estate and Property Law
- Tax Law
- Wills and Estate Planning
- Workers Compensation Law

B. Recommend a Lawyer

Read the situations below and decide which type of lawyer you would recommend for each problem.

1. May Sanji has been looking for an apartment. Recently, she found one that she would like to rent. However, when the landlord found out that she was a recent immigrant, he told her that the apartment had already been rented. She knows for a fact that the apartment is still available and feels that the landlord does not want to rent to her because of the color of her skin.

2. Larry Michaels is a writer. He has published several books in the education field. Last week he found a website that has copied material from his books without his permission and is selling it on the Internet.

3. Anita Flores is worried about her elderly mother who lives in Mexico. She wants to sponsor her to come live in this country.

4. Roberta Anderson was divorced three years ago and received custody of her children. Her husband was ordered by the court to pay her \$1000 per month, but he stopped making the payments six months ago.

5. Write your own situation here and then ask your classmates to discuss the type of lawyer they think the situation requires.

Vocabulary Review 3

Choose the correct word from the list to the right to complete the following sentences.

1. The whole process of examining evidence and making a decision is called the _____.
2. After a person is arrested and charged with a crime, he/she is called the _____.
3. The judge asked the defendant, "How do you _____? Guilty or not guilty?"
4. The lawyer for the government is called the _____.
The lawyer for the accused is called the _____.
5. Before a witness can _____, he/she has to swear to tell the truth.
6. In the American judicial system and many others, a person accused of a crime is considered to be _____ until proven _____.
7. They don't think the accused will be released on _____ before his trial because he is considered very dangerous.
8. Before a trial takes place, the police and lawyers for the government collect _____ or proof about the case.
9. The decision reached by the jury is called the _____.
10. If the jury finds the defendant guilty of murder, the judge will _____ him to life in prison.
11. If a person is found guilty of a crime by a court of law, he/she has the right to _____ the verdict to a higher court.
12. After serving a certain length of time in prison, a person can apply for _____. This allows the prisoner to be released early, but he/she is still under supervision.
13. If the jury decides to _____ the defendant, he will be released immediately. If they decide to _____ him, he will be taken to prison.

Word List

- bail
- evidence
- parole
- verdict
- trial
- testify
- plead
- prosecutor
- convict
- appeal
- acquit
- accused
- guilty
- sentence
- defense attorney
- innocent

Idioms from Law and Order

A. Guess the Meanings

Many idioms come from words related to law and order.
In your groups, try to guess the meanings of the following idioms.
Use your imagination!

#	Idiom	Meaning
1	behind bars	
2	take the stand	
3	under oath	
4	press charges / lay charges / charge	
5	drop the charges	
6	throw the book at	
7	bail someone out	
8	on death row	
9	crack the case	
10	get off easy	

Idioms from Law and Order cont.

B. Matching

Now try to match the idioms on the left with the correct definitions on the right.

- | | |
|---|--|
| _____ 1. behind bars | a) officially accuse someone of a crime |
| _____ 2. take the stand | b) in prison and waiting to be put to death |
| _____ 3. under oath | c) to pay to get someone out of jail or help someone out of a difficult situation or problem |
| _____ 4. press charges / lay charges / charge | d) in jail or prison |
| _____ 5. drop the charges | e) to give a hard punishment to someone or get very angry at someone |
| _____ 6. throw the book at | f) to solve the crime |
| _____ 7. bail someone out | g) to not get the punishment one deserves |
| _____ 8. on death row | h) to enter the witness box to give testimony or evidence in a courtroom |
| _____ 9. crack the case | i) to withdraw the formal accusation that someone has committed a crime |
| _____ 10. get off easy | j) having promised to tell the truth in court |

C. Who Did What?

Choose the correct word from the list to the right to complete each sentence.

1. The _____ took the stand and testified to what he had seen.
2. The _____ threw the book at the criminal.
3. The _____ waited on death row.
4. The _____ cracked the case.
5. The _____ hopes the defendant doesn't get off easy.
6. The _____ will spend two years behind bars.

Word List

- judge
- victim
- witness
- thief
- detective
- murderer