


























Crime and punishment

 <p>accuse verb [T] UK /ə'kyu:z/ US /ə'kyuz/ B2 to say that someone has done something morally wrong, illegal, or unkind. "I wasn't my fault." "Don't worry, I'm not accusing you." "He's been accused of robbery/murder." "Are you accusing me of lying?" "The surgeon was accused of negligence."</p>	 <p>accused noun [C] law UK /ə'kyu:zəd/ US /ə'kyuzəd/ US is 'kyuzəd' plural accused a person or people who may be guilty of a crime and who are being judged in a court of law</p>	 <p>accuser noun [C] UK /ə'kyu:zər/ US /ə'kyuzər/ a person who claims that someone has done something morally wrong, illegal, or unkind. "She was given the chance to face her accusers." "His accusers claim he has lied repeatedly."</p>	 <p>arrest verb [T] UK /ə'rest/ US /ə'rest/ arrest verb [T] (CATCH) B1 If the police arrest someone, they take them away to ask them about a crime that they might have committed. "He was arrested when customs officers found drugs in his bag." "The police arrested her for drinking and driving."</p>	 <p>arson noun [U] UK /ə'sɜ:n/ US /ə'sɔ:n/ (UK also fire-raising) the crime of intentionally starting a fire in order to damage or destroy something, especially a building. "A cinema was burned out in north London last night. Police suspect arson."</p>
 <p>Arsonist noun [C] UK /ə'sɜ:n.ɪst/ US /ə'sɔ:n.ɪst/ (UK also fire-raiser) a person who intentionally starts a fire in order to damage or destroy something, especially a building. "Police are blaming arsonists for the spate of fires in the Grenfellia housing estate." "Investigators believe an arsonist set the wildfires that burned 20,000 acres of land."</p>	 <p>blackmail noun [U] UK /'blæk.meɪl/ US /'blæk.meɪl/ C2 the act of getting money from people or forcing them to do something by threatening to tell a secret of theirs or to harm them. "If you are in a position of authority, any weakness leaves you open to blackmail."</p>	 <p>blackmail verb [T] UK /'blæk.meɪl/ US /'blæk.meɪl/ C2 to get money from someone by blackmail. "They used the photographs to blackmail her into paying for them." "Several men were questioned by police yesterday about the burglary." "Simpson, aged 59, was convicted on two charges of burglary."</p>	 <p>blackmailer noun [C] UK /'blæk.meɪ.lər/ US /'blæk.meɪ.lər/ someone who threatens to tell a harmful secret about another person in order to try to force them to do something. "Blackmailers threatened Helen with the video they secretly made." "They thought he would be easy prey for blackmailers."</p>	 <p>burglar noun [C] UK /'bɜ:glər/ US /'bɜ:glər/ B2 a person who illegally enters buildings and steals things Examples "I was chased by you to chase after the burglar." "No household security devices will protect you against the determined burglar."</p>
 <p>burglarize verb [T] US US /'bɜ:gləraɪz/ UK /'bɜ:gləraɪz/ (also mainly UK burgle, US /'bɜ:gl-/ UK /'bɜ:gl-/) to enter a building illegally and steal things. "When they got back from their vacation they found that their home had been burglarized."</p>	 <p>catch verb (STOP ESCAPING) noun [C or U] UK /'kætʃ/ US /'bɜ:glə- B1 to find and stop a person or animal that is trying to escape. "Great pressure was put on the police to catch the terrorists as soon as possible." "Two armed men were caught trying to cross the border at night." "They were happy because they had caught a lot of fish that day."</p>	 <p>convict noun [C] UK /'kɒn.vɪkt/ US /'kɒn.vɪkt/ someone who is in prison because they are guilty of a crime. an escaped convict "He has twice been convicted of robbery/murder."</p>	 <p>convict verb [T] usually passive UK /'kɒn.vɪkt/ US /'kɒn.vɪkt/ C2 to decide officially in a law court that someone is guilty of a crime. "He has twice been convicted of robbery/murder."</p>	
 <p>crime noun UK /kraɪm/ US /kraɪm/ B1 [U] illegal activities. "The rate of violent crime fell last month." B1 [C] an illegal act. "He was convicted committing several crimes, including fraud."</p>	 <p>fine noun [C] UK /faɪn/ US /faɪn/ B1 an amount of money that has to be paid as a punishment for not obeying a rule or law. "The maximum penalty for the offence is a \$1,000 fine." "If found guilty, he faces six months in jail and a heavy (= several) fine."</p>	 <p>fine verb [T] UK /faɪn/ US /faɪn/ B2 to charge someone an amount of money as a punishment for not obeying a rule or law. "Drivers who exceed the speed limit can expect to be fined heavily." "I = ing verb.] They fined him £100 for using threatening behaviour." / Synonyms: ticket</p>	 <p>hijacker noun [C] UK /'haɪ.dʒæk.ər/ US /'haɪ.dʒæk.ər/ someone who takes control of an aircraft or other vehicle during a journey by force. "Airline passengers tried to overpower the hijackers." "A hijacker entered her car while it was stopped at a traffic intersection."</p>	 <p>hijacking noun UK /'haɪ.dʒæk.ɪŋ/ US /'haɪ.dʒæk.ɪŋ/ [C or U] (also hijack) the crime of using force or threats to take control of an aircraft, ship, car, etc., or an occasion when this happens. "The attacks included the hijacking of four planes." "The government adopted new measures to prevent hijackings."</p>
 <p>jaywalk verb [I] mainly US UK /dʒeɪ.wɔ:k/ US /dʒeɪ.wɔ:k/ to walk across a street at a place where it is not allowed or without taking care to avoid the traffic.</p>	 <p>jaywalker noun [C] mainly US UK /dʒeɪ.wɔ:kər/ US /dʒeɪ.wɔ:kər/ someone who walks across a street at a place where it is not allowed or without taking care to avoid the traffic. "We nearly ran over a couple of jaywalkers who walked out in front of the car." "Jaywalkers have also been a problem in the area."</p>	 <p>jaywalking noun [U] UK /dʒeɪ.wɔ:kɪŋ/ US /dʒeɪ.wɔ:kɪŋ/ the action of walking across a street at a place where it is not allowed or without taking care to avoid the traffic. "Jaywalking is illegal in some countries." "People were being arrested for minor crimes such as jaywalking and littering."</p>	 <p>joyrider noun [C] UK UK /dʒɔɪ.raɪ.dər/ US /dʒɔɪ.raɪ.dər/ a person who drives fast and dangerously for pleasure, especially in a stolen vehicle. "He was hit by a car that was being driven by joyriders." "The police officers ordered the joyriders out of the car."</p>	 <p>joyriding noun [U] UK /dʒɔɪ.raɪ.dɪŋ/ US /dʒɔɪ.raɪ.dɪŋ/ driving fast and dangerously for pleasure, especially in a stolen vehicle</p>

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kidnap
verb [T]
UK /'kɪd.næp/ US /'kɪd.næp/
-pp-
to take a person away illegally by force, usually in order to demand money in exchange for releasing them.
The wife of a businessman was kidnapped from her home in London and kept in a room.
Synonyms
abduct (FORMAL & PERSONAL)
seize (FORMAL & QUOTE)



kidnapper
noun [C] (US also kidnaper)
UK /'kɪd.næp.ər/ US /'kɪd.næp.ər/
someone who takes a person away illegally by force, usually in order to demand money in exchange for releasing them.
His kidnappers released him without any conditions.
Her kidnappers demanded a \$150,000 ransom.



kidnapping
noun [C or U]
UK /'kɪd.næp.ɪŋ/ US /'kɪd.næp.ɪŋ/
an occasion when someone is kidnapped



mug
verb [T]
UK /mʌŋ/ US /mʌŋ/
-s-
to attack a person in a public place and steal their money.
He was mugged in broad daylight.



mugger
noun [C]
UK /mʌŋ.ər/ US /mʌŋ.ər/
a person who attacks people in order to steal their money



mugging
noun [C or U]
UK /'mʌŋ.ɪŋ/ US /'mʌŋ.ɪŋ/
an act of attacking someone and stealing their money.
Police are concerned that mugging is on the increase.




murder
noun [C or U]
UK /mɜː.dər/ US /mɜː.dər/
murder noun [C or U] (CRIME)
B1
the crime of intentionally killing a person.
Two sisters have been charged with, officially accused of murder.




murder
verb [T]
UK /mɜː.dər/ US /mɜː.dər/
B1
to commit the crime of intentionally killing a person.
Her husband was murdered by gunmen as she watched.
In his last year, feminists have murdered several local journalists.



murderer
noun [C]
UK /mɜː.dər.ər/ US /mɜː.dər.ər/
(old-fashioned female murderess)
B1
someone who illegally and intentionally kills another person.
A convicted murderer was executed in North Carolina yesterday.



penalty
noun [C]
UK /'pen.əl.ti/ US /'pen.əl.ti/
penalty noun [C] (PUNISHMENT)
B2
a punishment, or the usual punishment, for doing something that is against a law.
The area carries a penalty of up to three years in prison.



probation
noun [U]
UK /'prɒ.bə'neɪ.ʃən/ US /'proʊ.bə'neɪ.ʃən/
a period of time when a criminal must behave well and not commit any more crimes in order to avoid being sent to prison.
He was fined and given two years' probation.
The judge put him on probation for two years.
He served a year in prison and was then let out on probation.



punish
verb [T]
UK /'pʌn.ɪʃ/ US /'pʌn.ɪʃ/
punish verb [T] (CRIME)
B1
to cause someone who has done something wrong or committed a crime to suffer, by hurting them, forcing them to pay money, sending them to prison, etc.
Those responsible for these crimes must be brought to court and punished.
He punished the class by giving them extra work.
The company was found guilty on ten counts of pollution, and was punished with a \$250 million fine.



punishment
noun
UK /'pʌn.ɪʃ.mənt/ US /'pʌn.ɪʃ.mənt/
punishment noun (CRIME)
B2 [C or U]
the act of punishing someone.
Many people think that the death penalty is too severe a punishment for any crime.
formal It was always our father who administered/metted out punishments.




rob
verb [T]
UK /rɒb/ US /rɒb/
-bb-
B1
to take money or property illegally from a place, organization, or person, often using violence.
The terrorists threatened to robby banks.
My wallet's gone / I've been robbed!
formal It was always our father who administered/metted out punishments.



robber
noun [C]
UK /rɒb.ər/ US /rɒb.ər/
someone who steals.
The robbers shot a policeman before making their getaway.



robbery
noun [C or U]
UK /rɒb.ər.i/ US /rɒb.ər.i/
B2
the crime of stealing from somewhere or someone.
The gang admitted they had committed four recent bank robberies.
He was charged with robbery and assault.



sentence
verb [T] LAW specialized
UK /'sent.əns/ US /'sent.əns/
B2
to decide and say officially what a punishment will be.
He was sentenced to life imprisonment.



shoplift
verb [T or U]
UK /'ʃɒp.lɪft/ US /'ʃɒp.lɪft/
to take goods illegally from a shop without paying for them.
He was caught shoplifting by a store detective.
We need to shoplift all the latest designer gear.



shoplifter
noun [C]
UK /'ʃɒp.lɪft.ər/ US /'ʃɒp.lɪft.ər/
a person who takes goods illegally from a shop without paying for them.
Shoplifters will be prosecuted.
He spent thousands on security cameras and alarms to deter shoplifters.



shoplifting
noun [U]
UK /'ʃɒp.lɪftɪŋ/ US /'ʃɒp.lɪftɪŋ/
the illegal act of taking goods from a shop without paying for them.
He was charged with shoplifting.



steal
verb [I or T]
UK /steɪ/ US /steɪ/
steals /steɪlɪz/
steal verb [I or T] (TAKE)
A2
to take something without the permission or knowledge of the owner and keep it.
She admitted stealing the money from her employers.
The number of cars which are stolen every year has risen.
They were so poor they had to steal in order to eat.



thief
noun [C or U]
UK /θiːf/ US /θiːf/
B2
(the act of) dishonestly taking something that belongs to someone else and keeping it.
Unfortunately, we have had several thefts in the building recently.
Shoplifting is theft.



thief
noun [C]
UK /θiːf/ US /θiːf/
plural thieves
B1
a person who steals.
The art gallery was broken into last night, and the thieves got away with two valuable paintings.



vandal
noun [C]
UK /'væn.dəl/ US /'væn.dəl/
a person who intentionally damages property belonging to other people.
Vandals smashed windows and overturned cars in the downtown shopping district.



vandalism
noun [U]
UK /'væn.dəl.ɪ.zəm/ US /'væn.dəl.ɪ.zəm/
C2 LAW
the crime of intentionally damaging property belonging to other people.
Affected by violence and vandalism, this is one of the most unpleasant areas in the city.
These schools are known to be vulnerable to vandalism.