

Crimes and criminals

1 Complete the descriptions with the words below.

arsonist burglar looter mugger murderer shoplifter smuggler vandal

- 1 A person who kills another person is a(n) _____.
- **2** A person who steals something from a shop is a(n) _____.
- **3** A person who sets fire to a building is a(n) ______.
- **4** A person who breaks into your house and steals something is a(n) _____.
- **5** A person who secretly brings something into a country is a(n) ______.
- **6** A person who attacks another person in the street and steals something from them is a(n) ______.
- 7 A person who destroys someone else's property is a ______
- **8** A person who steals things from a shop after a fire or another disaster is a(n) ______.
- **2** Choose the correct words.

Wednesday 12 August

Redhampton Post Office Fire

Police are launching 'an investigation / a house today after a fire at Redhampton Post Office yesterday afternoon. 'We are studying ²CCTV footage / a suspect carefully,' announced Inspector Denton, 'and we would also like to appeal for ³culprits / witnesses to the crime.'

Friday 14 August

Redhampton Post Office Fire: latest news

After searching ⁴**a house / CCTV footage** in the Bradford area last night,
police today made ⁵**an investigation / an arrest**. 'We are interviewing

⁶**the area / a suspect** at the moment,'
said Inspector Denton.

Sunday 16 August

Redhampton Post Office Fire: action needed

Residents of Redhampton are demanding that more police officers patrol ⁷the area / a suspect after the post office fire last week. 'We know that police have now identified ⁸the culprit / the witnesses responsible for the fire,' said resident Paul Baker. 'However, we want to be sure that we will be safe in the future.'

SPEAKING Work in groups. Read the descriptions of three criminals and their crimes. You can release one of these criminals from prison. Which criminal will you release? Why?

I think we should release Sandra because she wanted to help her children.

I agree / disagree ...

I want to release Peter because ...

Peter Regan is sixteen. He started a fire in an old factory. Nobody was in the factory at the time. Peter has a lot of problems at home. His father worked at the factory many years ago, but then lost his job. It is Peter's first offence.

Sandra Burman is 25. She is a single mother with two children. She hasn't got a job. She stole a loaf of bread and some fruit from the supermarket for her children because they were hungry.

Richard Piper is 28. He broke into his neighbour's house and stole his television. Richard's neighbour watches TV for 18 hours a day and the volume is always very loud.

8A Crimes and criminals

Aims: To recycle nouns and phrases for crimes, criminals and police work and then to use this language in a discussion about different crimes.

Time: 10-15 minutes

Materials: 1 handout for each student

Exercise 1

• Give each student a handout and ask them to complete the exercise

KEY

1 murderer 2 shoplifter 3 arsonist 4 burglar 5 smuggler 6 mugger 7 vandal 8 looter

Exercise 2

- Ask students to look at the texts. Explain or elicit that these are all newspaper articles following the progress of a police investigation into a crime. Check that students have noticed the different dates on the articles. You could ask a few quick comprehension questions: What was the crime? (arson) When did it happen? (Tuesday 11 August); Where did it happen? (Redhampton Post Office in the Bradford area); Who is investigating the crime? (Inspector Denton); Who is Paul Baker? (a resident in the Redhampton area).
- Students then choose the correct options to complete the articles.

KEY

- 1 an investigation
- 2 CCTV footage
- 3 witnesses
- 4 a house
- 5 an arrest
- 6 a suspect
- 7 the area
- 8 the culprit

Exercise 3

 Students work in small groups. They read the three descriptions and then discuss which of the criminals they want to release from prison. Refer students back to Student's Book page 38 for supporting language to help them reach an agreement. Ask one or two groups to tell the rest of the class about their decision and the reasons for it.