



HELLO









**1 SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- 1 Do you shop in shopping centres? Why? / Why not?
- 2 Are there any problems with petty crime in your area?

A newspaper recently published an article about an increase in crime in the local shopping centre, suggesting that young people hanging out there are mostly to blame. Write a letter to the editor where you express your opinion of the article and suggest ways in which people / shops could prevent petty crime.



Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in response to the article about rising crime in our local shopping centre. It stated that there was an increase in theft, shoplifting and vandalism and claimed it was because of teenagers spending a lot of time there.




I'd like to say that I strongly disagree with the assumption that it is teenagers who are at fault here. I feel that it is always young people who are blamed without there being any actual evidence. It is true our local council's spending has been reduced. Therefore there have been cuts in youth activities, and teenagers do meet up more at the shopping centre. However, this does not mean that they are criminals. To my mind, there could be other reasons why petty crime has increased. It is undeniable that the country's economic situation has worsened and this must surely be a factor in the rise in crime.

I would like to suggest some ways of improving the situation. Firstly, the shopping centre should invest in more security cameras, which would help identify the actual criminals. Secondly, why aren't there more security guards in the shopping centre? If there were, it would really deter shoplifters from stealing things. Finally, if the council would prefer young people not to meet in the centre, they should find some money for alternative venues for them. Then teenagers can no longer be held responsible for petty crime.

I believe that the measures I am putting forward would go some way towards reducing crime in our shopping centre.

Yours faithfully,

Sophie Bennett



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2 Read the task above. How would you answer the question? Make notes on your ideas.

3 Read the letter and answer the questions.


1 How many paragraphs are there in the letter?

2 What is the topic of each paragraph?

3 How do the writer's ideas differ from yours in exercise 2?

#### Writing Strategy

Use synonyms and paraphrases to avoid repeating the same words too often, for example: *very angry* = *furious*.



4 Read the **Writing Strategy**. Match the highlighted words in the text with pairs of words below that have a similar meaning.

1 submit / put forward \_\_\_\_\_

2 cut / slashed \_\_\_\_\_

3 made clear / claimed \_\_\_\_\_

4 growth / rise \_\_\_\_\_

5 certain / undeniable \_\_\_\_\_

5 In the letter, find words from exercise 4 that the writer uses in order to avoid repeating each of the highlighted words.

➔➔ **Vocabulary Builder** Synonyms: page 121



WMA







**6 SPEAKING** Read and discuss the task below in pairs.  
Make notes on each element of the task.

A newspaper recently published an article about an increase in petty crime levels in cities, blaming a general obsession with consumerism. Write a letter to the editor where you express your opinion about this, suggesting ways to decrease the levels of petty crime.





**7** Use your notes in exercise 6 to write your letter to the newspaper.

#### **CHECK YOUR WORK**



Have you ...

- covered both elements of the task in your letter?
- started and finished your letter correctly?
- used synonyms to avoid repetition where possible?
- checked the spelling and grammar?

