

55 Crime

A Make sure you know the difference between the verbs: **steal** and **rob**. The object of the verb 'steal' is the thing which is taken away, e.g. they stole my bike, whereas the object of the verb 'rob' is the person or place from which things are stolen, e.g. I was robbed last night. A masked man robbed the bank. 'Steal' is irregular: steal, stole, stolen.

B The table below gives the names of some other types of crimes together with their associated verbs and the name of the person who commits the crimes.

<i>crime</i>	<i>definition</i>	<i>criminal</i>	<i>verb</i>
murder	killing someone	murderer	murder
shoplifting	stealing something from a shop	shoplifter	shoplift
burglary	stealing from someone's home	burglar	burgle
smuggling	taking something illegally into another country	smuggler	smuggle
arson	setting fire to something in a criminal way	arsonist	to set fire to
kidnapping	taking a person hostage in exchange for money or other favours, etc.	kidnapper	kidnap

All the verbs in the table above on the right are regular apart from set (set, set, set).

C Here are some more useful verbs connected with crime and law. Note that many of them have particular prepositions associated with them.

- to **commit** a crime or an offence: to do something illegal
- to **accuse** someone **of** a crime: to say someone is guilty
- to **charge** someone **with** (murder): to bring someone to court
- to **plead guilty** or **not guilty**: to swear in court that one is guilty or otherwise.
- to **defend/prosecute** someone in court: to argue for or against someone in a trial
- to **pass verdict on** an accused person: to decide whether they are guilty or not
- to **sentence** someone **to** a punishment: what the judge does after a verdict of guilty
- to **acquit** an accused person **of** a charge: to decide in court that someone is not guilty (the opposite of to **convict** someone)
- to **fine** someone a sum of money: to punish someone by making them pay
- to **send** someone **to prison**: to punish someone by putting them in prison
- to **release** someone **from prison/jail**: to set someone free after a prison sentence
- to **be tried**: to have a case judged in court.

to convict s.o. of sth. : to prove in a court that s.o. is guilty

D Here are some useful nouns.

- trial**: the legal process in court whereby an accused person is investigated, or tried, and then found guilty or not guilty
- case**: a crime that is being investigated
- evidence**: information used in a court of law to decide whether the accused is guilty or not
- proof**: evidence that shows conclusively whether something is a fact or not
- verdict**: the decision: guilty or not guilty
- judge**: the person who leads a trial and decides on the sentence
- jury**: group of twelve citizens who decide whether the accused is guilty or not