

# Language for ...

## crime

**Age:** Adult

**Level:** Intermediate

**Time:** 45–60 minutes

**Language Focus:** common crime vocabulary

**Skills:** reading, speaking

**Materials:** one copy of the worksheet per student

**Aims:** to provide students with language for talking about crime and how to prevent it



### What are red words?

Ninety per cent of the time, speakers of English use just 7,500 words in speech and writing. These words appear in the Macmillan Dictionary in red, and are graded with stars. One-star words are frequent, two-star words are more frequent and three-star words are the most frequent. 'Language for' lessons are based on red words and encourage students to improve their English through communicative tasks using collocation and commonly used phrases.

- 1 As preparation for the lesson, ask students to tell you all the words they know connected with crime. Give them a few minutes to think about the words and discuss them in pairs or small groups. Then elicit examples from the class and write them on the board. Divide the words into different word classes (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs).
- 2 Start the lesson by asking students to work in pairs and answer the three questions in the warmer (exercise 1). Then get them to report their partner's answers to the whole class.
- 3 Ask students to work individually and complete exercise 2a. Have them compare their answers in pairs, and then check the answers with the whole class. Point out that no single verb exists for *pickpocket* but that we can say *to pick someone's pocket*, as in *I had my pocket picked at the station*.
- 4 Tell students that they're going to read a text about how to avoid being a victim of crime, especially when travelling. Ask them to first read the sentences in exercise 2b and choose the best word in each case. Ask them to compare their answers in pairs. Then have them read the text to check their answers. They should be able to find all the correct answers in context but check briefly with the whole class that they all have the correct answers.
- 5 Before students begin exercise 2c, ask them to work in pairs and predict what vocabulary items might go in the gaps. Listen to their ideas as a class but do not correct them at this stage. Then ask them to read the text again to check their answers.
- 6 Ask students to read the sentences in exercise 3a carefully and then work in pairs to complete the exercise. Encourage them to complete first any answers they immediately know so that they can be eliminated. Check the answers as a class.
- 7 Exercise 3b uses words first encountered in the previous exercises and in the text. Ask students to work individually to complete the exercise and then compare their answers in pairs. Check answers with the whole class.
- 8 Divide students into pairs for exercise 4. Nominate one student as A and the other as B. A should give advice to B about the first four items mentioned and then they should swap roles.



**Teaching tip:** Encourage students to store related items of vocabulary together (as shown in Exercise 2a). This tabular form of storing gives them practice in word formation and enables them to notice typical endings of nouns and adjectives.

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- 9** Students could discuss the topic in exercise 5 in pairs or small groups. Then ask them to share their ideas with the whole class. Make a list of suggestions on the whiteboard.
- 10** As a wind-up activity, focus on the pronunciation and word stress of some of the multi-syllable vocabulary in the text, e.g. **valuables**, **jewellery**, **pickpocket**, **behaviour**, trouble-**free**.

### KEY:

**1** students' own answers

- 2a** 1. mugging; mugger  
2. thief  
3. pickpocket  
4. fraud; fraudster

- 2b** 1. distract  
2. resist  
3. denomination  
4. inside  
5. valuables; safe  
6. receipt  
7. target  
8. advance

- 2c** 1. jewellery; watch  
2. attractions  
3. back  
4. behaviour  
5. cash  
6. charges (zeros)  
7. button  
8. avoid

- 3a** 1. e  
2. h  
3. a  
4. d  
5. g  
6. c  
7. f  
8. b

- 3b** 1. e  
2. c  
3. f  
4. a  
5. b  
6. d

**4, 5** students' own answers

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### 1 Warmer

Ask and answer the following questions with a partner:

- Do you know anyone who has been the victim of a crime?
- What happened?
- What crimes are common in your town or city?

### 2 Reading

a Complete the table. Look in the text to find the missing words if necessary.

Verb	Noun (crime)	Noun (criminal)
1 mug	_____	_____
2 steal	theft	_____
3 XXXXXX	pickpocketing	_____
4 defraud	_____	_____

#### HOW TO AVOID BEING A VICTIM OF CRIME WHILE ON HOLIDAY

Most visits to other countries are trouble-free, but unfortunately some travellers may become victims of crime while on holiday or on a business trip abroad. Here are some simple tips to avoid being a victim of crime.

**1 Don't carry too much cash.** Only take with you sufficient cash for each day. Make sure you carry small denomination notes (e.g. €5, €10, €20) for small purchases such as coffee, ice-cream, bus tickets and so on. If you are visiting a city where mugging is a common crime, it is a good idea to have a small amount to give to a mugger if you are unlucky enough to be attacked.

**Tip - Never resist a mugger. They may be armed and you could be injured!**



**2 Use the hotel safe.** Many hotel rooms have a safe that is simple to operate and in which you can leave valuables such as passports, credit cards and jewellery. If your room does not have a safe, ask at the hotel reception. All good hotels will have a safe in which you can leave your valuables securely.

**Tip - Don't take expensive jewellery or an expensive watch with you on holiday. Leave really valuable items at home!**

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**3 Don't make it easy for pickpockets.** Busy places such as metro stations, fashionable shopping streets and popular tourist attractions are also favourite places for pickpockets. Be extra careful in busy places like these! Pickpockets usually operate in pairs or small groups and will distract their victim by saying they have dropped something or by asking them for directions. Never carry a wallet or credit cards in your back pocket. Don't put them in the pocket of your backpack, and never leave your handbag open.

**Tip – Keep cash and credit cards in an inside pocket with a zip or a button.**



**4 Don't attract attention.** Muggers, pickpockets and thieves target people who are obviously tourists. If you are looking at a map or carrying an expensive camera, you will be letting them know that you are a tourist. Similarly, don't wear expensive clothes that identify you as a rich tourist.

**Tip – Try to attract as little attention as possible with your appearance and your behaviour.**

**5 Check your bill.** Tourists are often victims of fraud. This can happen anywhere but particularly in busy cafes and restaurants. If you pay by credit card, make sure the server brings the card machine to your table. Never let them take your card away for payment as it is very easy for a fraudster to copy your card details. Check your bill and make sure no extra charges (or, even worse, zeros) have been added to it.

**Tip – If you pay by card, make sure you get a receipt.**

**6 Take a taxi.** There is more crime at night because it is easier for criminals to avoid being seen during the hours of darkness. Don't walk home alone late at night and avoid streets that are dark or poorly lit. If in doubt, take a taxi.

**Tip – If you are going out to a party or a restaurant, ask the hotel receptionist for the telephone number of a reliable taxi company or book your taxi home in advance.**

**b Choose the correct word. Then read the text and check your answers.**

1. Pickpockets often try to **attract** / **distract** their victims.
2. Never **resist** / **refuse** a mugger. They may be armed and could injure you.
3. Carry small **value** / **denomination** notes for small purchases.
4. Keep cash and credit cards in an **interior** / **inside** pocket.
5. Leave **valuables** / **possessions** in the hotel **safety** / **safe**.
6. If you pay by credit card, make sure you get a **recipe** / **receipt**.
7. Muggers, pickpockets and thieves **target** / **find** people who are obviously tourists.
8. Book your taxi home in **future** / **advance**.

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**c** Fill in the missing information without looking at the text. Then check your answers in the text.

1. Don't take expensive \_\_\_\_\_ or an expensive \_\_\_\_\_ with you on holiday.
2. Popular tourist \_\_\_\_\_ are favourite places for pickpockets.
3. Don't carry your wallet in your \_\_\_\_\_ pocket.
4. Don't attract attention with your appearance or your \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Only carry with you sufficient \_\_\_\_\_ to buy small things such as bus tickets.
6. Check your bill and make sure no extra \_\_\_\_\_ have been added to it.
7. Keep cash and credit cards in an inside pocket with a zip or a \_\_\_\_\_.
8. At night, always \_\_\_\_\_ streets that are dark or poorly lit.

### 3 Language in use

**a** Read the sentences. Look at the words in bold and match them with their meanings a-h.

1. Don't become a **victim** of crime while on holiday.
  2. Leave **valuables** in the hotel safe.
  3. Carry small **denomination** notes.
  4. **Pickpockets** often operate in pairs or small groups.
  5. **Muggers** and thieves often target people who are obviously tourists.
  6. A **fraudster** may try to copy your credit card details.
  7. Make sure you ask for a **receipt**.
  8. Pickpockets usually try to **distract** their victims.
- a. the value of a particular banknote  
 b. to get someone's attention and prevent them concentrating on something  
 c. someone who tries to get money from people by tricking them  
 d. people who steal money and other things from people's pockets or bags  
 e. someone who has been harmed or injured as the result of a crime  
 f. a document you get that shows you have paid for something  
 g. people who attack victims in public places and steal their money, jewellery or other possessions  
 h. small possessions that are worth a lot of money

**b** Match the words in the left-hand column with those in the right-hand column to make two-word phrases from the text.

- |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1. metro    | a. pocket     |
| 2. hotel    | b. attraction |
| 3. card     | c. reception  |
| 4. back     | d. items      |
| 5. tourist  | e. station    |
| 6. valuable | f. machine    |

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### 4 Communicate

Work with a partner.

a Your best friend is travelling abroad tomorrow. Give advice about the following things.



b Your best friend is travelling abroad tomorrow. Give advice about the following things.



### 5 Discuss

Cyber crime (crime through computers) is an increasing problem. Discuss the best ways of protecting yourself from this type of crime.

#### Red Words

hotel***	card***	back***	tourist***	valuable***	value***	pocket***	attraction**
attract***	distract*	reception**	items***	station***	machine***	safe*	safety***
injured*	fraud**	jewellery**	receipt**	victim***	future***	advance**	target***
recipe**	possessions**	interior**	inside***	resist***	refuse***		