

EPISODE 68
LEVEL B2

READING COMPREHENSION



CRIME AND PUNISHMENT



How to make a punishment fit the crime? Taking a look at a legal system one might think that there is only one type of penalty regardless of the crime you commit. No matter if it is a **petty crime** (= not serious crime) or a serious crime, the most common punishment is a prison sentence. There are, however, alternative punishments which are becoming more and more popular all around the world.

One example is **community service** (= work without payment, done as a punishment). It is usually used as a penalty for fairly minor crimes such as theft or shoplifting. Criminals getting such sentence not only help their local communities but also set an example for others and **deter** other criminals from breaking the law (= make them decide not to do it). Another quite interesting penalty is **electronic tagging** (= using a small electronic device attached to your body so that you always know where the person is) or being put on **probation** (= not going to prison but being controlled by a police officer who checks the behaviour of the criminal). In such cases the police are able to control the criminal and his/ her whereabouts without the necessity of sending the person to prison. Using such punishments would not, however, be effective in the case of **hardened criminals** (= experienced criminals). Such people deserve a **severe punishment** (= harsh, strict) and need to be isolated from the rest of the society. However, considering the problem of overcrowding in prisons, perhaps we should be aware of other options.

More contexts for the new words:

- In some states of the USA **capital punishment** (= killing someone as a punishment for a crime) is still the most common punishment for crimes such as murder or terrorism.
- Killing these animals is a criminal **offence** (= crime, illegal act)



EXERCISE 1

Decide if the sentences are true or false.

1. Capital punishment is the same as death penalty.
2. Petty crime is the same as serious crime.
3. A hardened criminal is a person who has committed a crime before.
4. If your punishment is probation you will not go to prison.
5. If you deter a person from doing something they will probably decide not to do it.
6. You are usually paid a lot for doing community service.

EXERCISE 2

Match the question halves. Then answer the questions.

1. Do you consider electronic
 2. Do you think severe
 3. Are you in favour of capital
- a. tagging an effective punishment?
 - b. punishment?
 - c. punishments deter criminals from breaking the law again?



ENGLISH IN USE



In this lesson we are going to discuss adverbs of degree: *fairly*, *quite* and *rather*. They are used with adjectives or adverbs to indicate certain degree – more than *slightly* but not as much as *very*.

They mean almost the same, but *fairly* and *quite* suggest a positive idea, while *rather* suggests a negative idea.

*He enjoys **fairly** good health.*

*I realized that I'd been **rather** stupid and selfish.*

Only *rather* can be used with comparatives where the idea can be positive or negative.

*The problem is **rather** more complicated than we had expected.*

IDIOM CLOSE-UP



He was **CAUGHT RED-HANDED** with the money in his bag.

If you are **caught red-handed** you are caught doing something wrong.

PHRASAL VERBS CLOSE-UP



1. When you **LOCK SOMEONE UP** you put the person in prison.

*The prince was **locked up** in the Tower of London.*

2. When you **TURN SOMEONE IN** you tell the police about someone or take them to the police because they have committed a crime.

*His own brother **turned him in**.*



EXERCISE 3

1. He was up for 12 years for armed robbery.
2. Many car thieves are red-handed.
3. Tell me the truth about the robbery or I will you in.

NEWS



DEATH PENALTY

A United Nations committee has voted for an immediate worldwide freeze on the use of the death penalty. A total of 99 countries voted in favor of a **suspension** of capital punishment, while 52 opposed the proposal and the remaining 33 nations did not vote. Those who campaigned against the death penalty said the **abolition** would "contribute to the **enhancement** and progressive development of human rights." They said capital punishment has not been a **deterrent** to crimes and many innocent people are still put to death by mistake. The vote followed two days of heated discussions. Singapore, the USA, China, Syria and Libya were among those wanting to keep the death penalty. The representatives of those countries accused the EU of improperly linking the death penalty with human rights and said it was **imposing** its "values" on the rest of the world. They argued that countries have a right to determine the legal measures and penalties which are appropriate for their societies, including the death penalty for the most serious crimes.

GLOSSARY

- **suspension** – the act of officially stopping something for a period of time
- **abolition** – the official end to a law, system etc.
- **enhancement** – the process of improving something
- **deterrent** – something that makes people decide not to do something by making them realise the unpleasant consequences
- **to impose sth** – to introduce something, such as a new law, and force people to accept it

KEY TO EXERCISES

Ex. 1

1. True
2. False –it is the opposite
3. True
4. True

5. True
6. False – you are not paid for it

Ex. 2

1. a
2. c
3. b

Ex. 3

1. locked
2. caught
3. turn