

CRIME: THE PRISON SYSTEM

Watch the [video](#) titled “How Norway designed a more humane prison” by Vox.

1 WARM UP

Read and discuss the following quote.

“Crime is a measure of the State’s failure. All crime in the end is a crime of the community.”
- H. G. Wells

2 CRIME VOCABULARY

Look at the newspaper headlines and match the crimes with their appropriate names. Then, answer the questions.

Headlines:

- “Arson charges made against firefighter.”
- “Burglary gone wrong - couple injured in crossfire.”
- “Former Vatican banker convicted of money laundering and embezzlement.”
- “Under investigation: Vandalism at Japanese Buddhist Temple.”
- “Lady Gaga’s bulldogs returned unharmed after kidnapping.”
- “South African President fights own party over corruption.”
- “Petty crime ruins holiday plans.”



Crimes:

1. The theft of funds from one’s employer. **Embezzlement**
2. The action of abducting someone and holding them captive. **Kidnapping**
3. Involving minor crimes such as shoplifting or theft. **Petty Crime**
4. Deliberately causing damage to private or public property. **Vandalism**
5. The act of deliberately setting fire to property. **Arson**
6. The illegal entry of a building to commit a crime, especially theft. **Burglary**
7. Dishonest or fraudulent behaviour of those in power, usually involving bribery. **Corruption**
8. The concealment of the origin of illegally obtained money. **Money Laundering**

Questions:

- Do you believe that all of these crimes deserve jail time?
- Which of these crimes do you think deserves the biggest punishment?
- Which of these crimes are most common in your country?
- Do you think it is easy to launder money?
- Do you think graffiti is vandalism?



3 MUST VS SHOULD

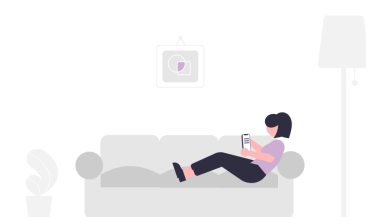
Study the difference between “must” and “should” and then complete the tasks.

Both ‘must’ and ‘should’ are modal verbs. They are similar in meaning, although there is a small difference.

Must / Mustn’t	Should / Shouldn’t
Used when talking about an obligation where you have no choice.	Used when talking about a strong suggestion.
<u>Example:</u> You must abide by the law. You mustn’t drink and drive - it’s illegal.	<u>Example:</u> You should stop smoking - it’s unhealthy. You should sleep more - you’re tired.

Task 1: Complete the sentence with should / must / shouldn’t or mustn’t.

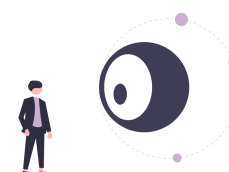
1. You **should** apply for that job.
2. You **must** fasten your seatbelt.
3. You **must** pay your taxes.
4. You **shouldn’t** eat sweets - it’s unhealthy.
5. You **mustn’t** commit crime.
6. You **should** exercise if you want to lose weight.
7. You **mustn’t** drink and drive, it’s illegal.



Task 2: Read the statement and say whether you agree with it or not.

1. Inmates mustn't be allowed any comfort in prison.
2. Criminals mustn't be allowed a second chance to enter society.
3. Inmates should receive medical treatment in prison.
4. Inmates should stay active and exercise to keep morale up.
5. People shouldn't isolate ex-convicts.

4 VIDEO: VOCABULARY & DISCUSSION



Watch the [video](#) again and then complete the tasks below.

Listening exercise: Answer the questions about the video.

1. What does the prison in Halden (Norway) resemble?

The prison looks like a hotel or a fancy dorm room.

2. What is the main motivation behind these well-designed prisons?

To make prisons more humane. The look and feel of a prison shouldn't be a punishment.

3. How many types of traditional prisons exist? What are their flaws?

There are three traditional prison designs. These layouts are good for moving prisoners around, but they restrict prisoners to identical indoor hallways. This usually leads to tension and conflicts among prisoners.

4. In what way does the humane prison mimic the outside world?

They have to commute from one side of the campus from housing to education and visitation. This mimics the commute in everyday life.

5. How can prisoners track the passage of time in this humane prison?

They have windows and views to the world outside of the prison. Therefore, they can see the sun and guess the time.

6. Why are the guards' rooms intentionally small?

So that they leave the room and interact with prisoners.

Speaking exercise: Look at the topics in the box and talk about them related to prisons. Give your opinion on what prisoners must and mustn't be able to do. Use the grammar in exercise 3 to formulate your answers.

have access to a library	have nutritional meals	have time outside in nature
be able to have pets	be able to earn and save money	be able to study
have access to the internet	be able to leave prison in the day	play team sports

5 COMMON SAYINGS

Replace the phrases with words from the box and then answer the questions.

in jail (2)	put in jail (3)	commit fraud (1)	tell the authorities (4)
silent thief (6)	trick (7)	leave restaurants without paying (5)	

1. He is an accountant - so he can easily cook the books and make himself a fortune!
2. He is doing time for armed robbery and larceny.
3. Nearly 2000 people are put behind bars over driving penalties each year.
4. The minister tried to blow the whistle about corruption but failed.
5. They used to dine and dash when they were at university.
6. Last night they were robbed by a cat burglar - they only noticed this morning.
7. He is not being truthful - he is trying to pull a fast one on us.

Questions:

- Why do you think it is hard for people to blow the whistle?
- Are people put behind bars for speeding in your country?
- Have you ever dined and dashed?
- Have you ever been robbed by a cat burglar?
- Do you know anyone that has done some time?
- Do you think it is easy to cook the books for a company?



6 DEBATE

Pick a side and make your case!

Prisons should serve as a punishment, so it doesn't matter what the living conditions are.

or

Prisons should be used as a rehabilitation centre that helps people to integrate back into society.

The death penalty is immoral and doesn't act as a deterrent for any crime.

or

The death penalty is justified and causes people to reconsider before committing serious crimes.

7 CRIME RELATED IDIOMS

Complete the idioms by matching two halves and then complete the tasks.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Face the | a. red-handed (2) |
| 2. Get caught | b. leg to stand on (4) |
| 3. To do something | c. scot free (5) |
| 4. To not have a | d. by the book (3) |
| 5. Get off | e. music (1) |



Task 1: Guess the meanings for each of the idioms.

1. To catch someone while they are doing something wrong. **get caught red-handed**
2. To have no facts that support or justify one's actions or arguments. **to have no leg to stand on**
3. To do something following all the rules. **to do something by the book**
4. To avoid punishment for something that you do wrong. **to get off scot free**
5. To be confronted with the unpleasant consequences of one's actions. **to face the music**

Task 2: Answer the questions.

1. Have you ever been caught red-handed? (E.g. cheating on a test / game...)
2. In your country, do a lot of criminals get off scot free?
3. Do you like to do everything by the book or to take chances?
4. Do you think that all criminals eventually face the music?

8 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Discuss the questions together as a class.

1. Would you be willing to work with an ex-convict?
2. Do you think that the prison system in your country is efficient?
3. Do you think it is easy to find a job as an ex-convict? Should society help them?



HOMEWORK

1 WRITING TASK

Write answers for the following questions:

1. Do you think that all criminals can be integrated back into society?

2. Do you think the government should help ex-convicts get a job after they are released from prison?

3. Would this “campus” design - described in the video - work in your country?

4. Do you think there is a lot of corruption in your country’s prisons?



2 GRAMMAR PRACTICE: MUST VS SHOULD

Complete the sentences with **must** / **mustn't** / **should** / **shouldn't**.

1. You **should** apply sunscreen when you go to the beach.
2. We **must** fill our car with petrol before we leave tomorrow.
3. She **must** go to university if she wants to become a doctor.
4. She **shouldn't** travel alone, it could be dangerous.
5. He **shouldn't** drink beer if he is trying to lose weight.
6. You **must** be 21 years old to drink in the United States of America,



3 PHRASAL VERBS

Complete the phrasal verbs with either "**on**" or "**out**". Then complete the sentences with the correct phrasal verb (**Note**: The tense of the phrasal verb might change).

Phrasal Verbs:

Lawyer **up**: To obtain the services of a lawyer, especially when being investigated.

Bail **out**: To pay a large sum of money to get someone out of jail temporarily.

Rat **out**: To tell the authority about something illegal someone did.

Fess **up**: To admit to one's own wrongdoing.

Sentences:

1. As soon as he realised that he was being investigated for fraud - he **lawyered up**.
2. Although he pleaded innocent for months, the murderer finally **fessed up** and admitted to his crime.
3. In order to get a better deal from the FBI, the drug dealer is going to **rat out** his colleagues.
4. Although the thieves are awaiting trial, they were **bailed out** by their parents.

