

English Vocabulary: Crime & Criminals

People:

- A “**thief**” or a “**robber**” is a person who takes things from you, your car, your house, or your office without permission. It is a **crime**.
- A “**burglar**” is someone who enters your home and **steals** things.
- A “**mugger**” takes things from you in the **street**, sometimes using a **weapon**, like a **gun** or a **knife**.
- A “**pickpocket**” takes things from your **pocket** without you noticing.
- A “**kidnapper**” **kidnaps** people, usually for a “**ransom**”. The person is a “**hostage**”.
- A “**hijacker**” **takes control** of a plane without permission.
- A “**carjacker**” **steals** a car from the driver.
- A “**hacker**” **steals** computer data.
- A “**terrorist**” commits violent acts against many people.
- A “**shoplifter**” steals things from a shop.
- A “**vandal**” destroys property.



Verbs:

- **to steal** objects (*He **stole** my wallet*)(*He **stole** my car*)
- **to rob** people/places (*I was **robbed** in the restaurant / My office was **robbed***)
- **to burgle** houses and apartments (*Many houses are **burgled** every year*)
- **to mug** people in the street (*George was **mugged** yesterday while walking to work*)
- **to pickpocket** people in the street (*I was **pickpocketed** on the metro yesterday*)
- **to kidnap** somebody
- **to hijack** an airplane
- **to carjack** a car
- **to hack** a computer
- **to shoplift** things from a shop
- **to vandalize** property

Vocabulary:

Verb	Event	Person	Note(s)
to commit	crime	criminal	Illegal act
to rob	robbery	robber	Possible violence
to burgle	burglary	burglar cat burglar	No personal interaction Happens at night
to pickpocket	---	pickpocket	Invisible act
to steal	---	---	Take object, no violence
to thief	theft	thief	Take object, no violence
to mug	mugging	mugger	Violent act in street
to kidnap	kidnapping	kidnapper	Take a person forcefully
to hijack	hijacking	hijacker	Take over a plane forcefully
to carjack	carjacking	carjacker	Take a car from the driver
to hack	hacking	hacker	Computer crime
to smuggle	smuggling	smuggler	Take goods (contraband) between countries
to commit	fraud	fraudster	A "paper" crime
to carry out	terrorism	terrorist	Extreme violence
to murder	murder	murderer	To kill a person
to commit	murder	murderer	To kill a person
to assassinate	assassination	assassin	A political murder
to carry out	assassination	assassin	A political murder
to take out	---	---	A political murder
to assault	assault	---	A big robbery (ex. bank)
to shoplift	shoplifting	shoplifter	To steal things from a shop
to vandalize	---	vandal	To destroy or deface property