Topics: Crime
by Adrian Tennant

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LEVEL: Pre-intermediate
AGE: Teenagers / Adults
TIME NEEDED: 90 minutes + project
LANGUAGE FOCUS: Linking words, understand vocabulary in context, topic words relating to people and crime

LEAD-IN

Put students in pairs and ask them to look at the pictures and talk about what they can see in each one. Elicit ideas from students as a whole class discussion.

READING 1: HEADLINES

Ask students to read the headlines and complete each one using the words in the box. Get them to check their answers in pairs before checking as a class.

Key
Man charged with <u>attempted</u> murder
Woman <u>jailed</u> for smuggling
<u>Detectives</u> puzzled by death
Police <u>arrest</u> 250 <u>thieves</u>
Burglar helps police stop <u>crime</u>

Next, ask the pairs to discuss what they think happened in each of the situations. Encourage pairs to share their ideas with the class.

READING 2: NEWS IN BRIEF

Ask students to read through the stories and match the headlines, from the Reading 1: Headlines exercise, to the correct one. Tell them they don't need to understand every word (you could give a short time limit, e.g. two minutes). Get students to check their answers in pairs before checking as a class.

Key a
1. Detectives puzzled by death
2. Man charged with attempted murder
3. Burglar helps police stop crime
4. Woman jailed for smuggling
5. Police arrest 250 thieves

Next, ask students to read the five sentences and decide if each one is true or false.

Key b
1. F; 2. T; 3. T; 4. F; 5. F

WORKING WITH THE LANGUAGE

Tell students to read the sentences in the boxes and ask if they remember them (they are taken from the reading text). Next, ask students to answer the four questions about the sentences. Put students in pairs and get them to check their answers together.

Key a
1. two contrasting ideas; 2. two events in time;
3. two events in time; 4. as

Ask students to look at the three sentences and complete each one using the correct connector word.

Key b
1. but; 2. after; 3. as

WORKING WITH VOCABULARY

Focus 1: Meaning

Ask students to look back at the texts and find words that match the definitions. Encourage them to work in pairs and discuss their ideas as they look at the texts.

Key
a. investigating; b. discovered; c. evidence; d. arrested;
e. witnesses; f. employing; g. potential; h. worth;
i. undercover

Focus 2: Topic-related words

Ask students to work together and put the words from the box in the correct column. Tell them that all the words are in the Reading 2: News in brief stories, so they can check the context / use there. Monitor, and help where necessary.

verb	noun (thing)
murder	burglar
smuggle	shoplifter
steal	thief
strangle	witness

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INTEGRATED SKILLS TEACHER'S NOTES

LISTENING

Tell students that they are going to listen to a short radio news report. Play the report, then ask students to read the second crime from the Reading 2: News in brief exercise again. Ask them to note the five differences between the newspaper and radio reports on their reporter's notepad. Put students in different pairs and ask them to discuss their answers together. Play the recording again, if necessary, and check answers as a class.

Transcript:

> A 45-year-old man appeared in court today after shooting a 22-year-old man outside a nightclub. The shooting happened on Christmas Eve. Last night, the young man was at home recovering from the attack.

Key
45 / 55 years old; man / woman attacked; appear in court today / tomorrow; Christmas Eve / New Year's Eve; recovering at home / in hospital

SPEAKING

Put students in small groups and ask them to discuss the questions together. Afterwards, ask a few groups to report back on their discussion. You might want to open this out to the whole class.

PROJECT

Ask students to carry out the project for homework and follow it up in the next lesson.

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INTEGRATED SKILLS WORKSHEET

LEAD-IN

Look at these pictures. What can you see in each one?

Image: Digital Vision

Image: Photoalto

Image: Macmillan

READING 1: HEADLINES

Complete the headlines with the words in the box.

arrest	attempted	crime
detectives	jailed	thieves

Man charged with _____ murder

WOMAN _____ FOR SMUGGLING

_____ PUZZLED BY DEATH

POLICE _____ 250 _____

BURGLAR HELPS POLICE STOP _____

What do you think happened in each story?

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INTEGRATED SKILLS WORKSHEET

READING: NEWS IN BRIEF

a. Read the newspaper stories below and match the headlines from the previous exercise to the correct story.

1.

Detectives investigating the murder of a woman are trying to find out exactly how and when she died. They also don't know her name. A man who was walking his dog discovered the body and called the police. The police are examining the crime scene but don't have any evidence yet.

2.

Police have arrested a 55-year-old man after he tried to strangle a woman on New Year's Eve. The 22-year-old woman is in hospital. The man will appear in court tomorrow. Police want any witnesses to contact them. The attack happened just after midnight outside Reveller's nightclub.

3.

The police are employing an ex-thief to help them fight crime. 'Bob', who is in his forties, has spent more than ten years in jail for various crimes including burgling around 500 houses. He now works with the police, helping them to give advice to homeowners on how to stop potential burglars.

4.

A 19-year-old woman has been caught smuggling drugs worth £100,000. She has been sentenced to six months in prison. Customs officers stopped the woman as she was walking through Gatwick Airport. She was on her way home from holiday.

5.

Police in one UK town have arrested more shoplifters in a week than they would usually arrest in a year. More than 30 undercover and uniformed officers caught people who were stealing from shops. The police arrested nearly 250 people.

b. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

Story 1: The police know how the woman was killed.
Story 2: The woman in the story isn't dead.
Story 3: Bob doesn't break into houses now.
Story 4: The woman was going on holiday when she was arrested.
Story 5: The police usually catch more than 250 shoplifters every week.

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INTEGRATED SKILLS WORKSHEET

WORKING WITH THE LANGUAGE

a. We often connect two pieces of information together in one sentence. Look at these sentences from the news stories and answer the questions below.

1.

> The police are examining the crime scene *but* don't have any evidence yet.

2.

> Police have arrested a 55-year-old man *after* he tried to strangle a woman ...

3.

> Customs officers stopped the woman *as* she was walking through Gatwick Airport.

1. Does *but* connect two contrasting ideas or two events in time?
2. Does *after* connect two contrasting ideas or two events in time?
3. Does *as* connect two contrasting ideas or two events in time?
4. Which word connects two events that happen at the same time?

b. Choose the correct connector word to complete these sentences.

1. Bob used to burgle houses _____ now he is helping the police catch other burglars.
2. A man called the police _____ he found a body in some woods.
3. The burglar was caught _____ he was climbing out of the window.

WORKING WITH VOCABULARY

Focus 1: Meaning

Find words in the newspaper stories, from Reading 2: News in brief, to match with these definitions.

a. trying to find out the facts about something to learn the truth about it (story 1)
b. to find something you didn't know before (story 1)
c. useful information that may help solve a crime (story 1)
d. (the police) took someone to a police station because it is believed that he/she committed a crime (story 2)
e. people who see a crime, accident, or other event happen (story 2)
f. giving work to someone (story 3)
g. possible or likely in the future (story 3)
h. with a value (usually in money) (story 4)
i. working secretly in order to catch criminals or get information (story 5)

Focus 2: Topic-related words

Put the words in the box in the correct column in the table.

| shoplifter | smuggle | steal |
| strangle | thief | witness |

verb (type of crime)	noun (person)
murder	burglar

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INTEGRATED SKILLS WORKSHEET

LISTENING

Listen to the radio news report and read the second newspaper story from the Reading 2: News in brief exercise. What are the five differences between them?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

SPEAKING

Discuss these questions in groups.

1. Which of these crimes is the worst? Why?
2. What sentences do you think the criminal in each crime should get?
3. Are any of these crimes common in your country?

PROJECT

Find a news report in English about a crime. Find all the words in the report connected to crime.

CRIME