


## From Prisoner to PhD


 Speaking: prisons

1 Discuss these questions in pairs.

- Look at the picture. How does it make you feel? Why?
- What do you think the main role of prisons should be? Why?
- What image do the words 'prisoner', 'PhD', 'drug dealer' and 'father' conjure up\*?
- Can somebody who has been to prison ever lose the label of a 'prisoner'? Why/why not?

\* To conjure up = to make something appear as a picture in your mind.



 Listening: from prisoner to PhD

2 You are going to watch a short video called 'I went from prisoner to PhD'. Watch the first 35 seconds and listen for the answers to questions a-c.

- What does Stephen Akpabio-Klementowski lecture at the Open University?
- Who does he work with?
- Why is his job personal to him?

3 Before watching the rest of the video, write down 8-12 key words you think you might hear in the video.

4 Watch the video and tick any words from your box that you hear. The person who ticks off the most words is the winner. Add any new words that you hear.

5 Read statements a-f. Watch the video again and write down if these statements are true (T) or false (F). If they are false, rewrite the sentence so it is true.

*Example: Stephen didn't speak to anyone in prison for the first three weeks he was there. F – Stephen didn't speak to anyone in prison for the first three months he was there.*

- Other prisoners and guards encouraged Stephen.
- Stephen served his whole sentence.
- Stephen was welcomed back to prison as a lecturer.
- Half of all prisoners have left school without any formal qualification.
- Research suggests that education does reduce people from committing offenses again.
- According to Stephen, the word 'prisoner' is more than a label.



Speaking: over to you

6 Discuss these questions in pairs:

- What's your reaction to the video?
- Stephen Akpabio-Klementowski told us that 'life was tough' for him growing up and he had to 'grab what [he] could'. What can schools and governments do to help young people who are struggling?
- Should all prisoners be given the opportunity to study or learn a trade e.g. to be a mechanic while in prison? Why/why not?



Vocab: crimes

7 You're now going to be looking at and discussing various crimes and punishments. First, fill the gaps with the crimes below. Then, write down what you call the person who commits each crime (perpetrator) and the verb you use for each crime. Number one has been done as an example.

**murder / arson / manslaughter / vandalism / drug dealing / shoplifting**

Crime	Perpetrator	Verb
1 If somebody kills somebody intentionally, it is called _____.	<i>a murderer</i>	<i>to murder sb</i>
2 If somebody kills somebody unintentionally, it is called _____.	/	
3 If somebody deliberately sets fire to something e.g. a building, it is called _____.		
4 If somebody destroys or damages something, especially public property, it is called _____.		
5 If somebody takes something from a shop without paying for it, it is called _____.		
6 If somebody buys and sells illegal substances, it is called _____.		



Speaking: which crime is worse?

8 Put the six crimes above into three categories: extremely serious, serious, petty\*. Compare your list with your partner's. Together, make a new, joint list. Use the phrase boxes to help you.

\*a petty crime = a type of crime that is not considered serious when compared with some other crimes.

Extremely serious	Serious	Petty
Joint list		

**Agreeing and disagreeing**

I wholeheartedly agree.  
I agree to a certain extent.  
I see/understand your point, but...  
I'd have to disagree because...

**Making suggestions**

Why don't we...?  
How about we...?  
We could...?  
What if we...?

**Giving your opinion**

(Honestly), I think that...  
The way I see it is...  
I'd (definitely) say that...  
In my (humble) opinion...



## Vocab: punishments

9 Below are five punishments given in a British court. Put the verbs *do / be (x2) / go / pay* in the correct gap. Then match the punishment (1-5) with its definition (a-e).

### Punishment

1. To be banned from somewhere: c

2. To \_\_\_\_ a fine:

3. To \_\_\_\_ on probation:

4. To \_\_\_\_ to prison:

5. To \_\_\_\_ community service:

### Definition

a. A criminal has to behave well and not commit any more crimes in order to avoid being sent to prison.

b. A criminal has to live in a building as a form of punishment.

c. ~~A criminal is not allowed to go to a certain place.~~

d. A criminal has to give an amount of money e.g. to the state.

e. A criminal has to do unpaid work e.g. litter picking.



## Speaking: You Be the Judge

10 Look at the crimes below (1-5). In pairs, decide what punishment you would give each person and why. Use the phrase boxes on the previous page and the vocab box on this page to help you.

**Example crime:** Suzanne is caught shoplifting from a supermarket. She is a single parent who earns the minimum wage and has problems because of the rising cost of living. This is the first time she has broken the law.



**Example punishment:** I think shoplifting is quite a petty crime so I would give Suzanne 100 hours of community service and maybe ban her from the shop for one year. I think community service is better than a fine because she has financial difficulties. A temporary ban from the shop shows that they take such crime seriously but are willing to give her another chance.

- Sophie, 42, is caught busking without a licence in the city centre. This is the third time she has been caught doing this in the last two years.
- Daniel, 18, is caught vandalising a train window. He is also travelling without a ticket.
- Gabriel, 20, is caught with 20 grams of cannabis on him at a nightclub. He says it is for personal use.
- Two drunken people get into a fight outside a bar. One pushes the other to the floor and they bang their head, suffering fatal injuries.
- A teenager sets light to a bin at their local park on a hot, dry day.

### Vocab box

**To busk (v.):** to perform music in a public place and ask for money from people walking past.

**Fatal (adj.):** A fatal accident or illness causes death.

11 Find a new partner. Take it in turns to tell each other what punishments you gave and why.