

IEC

Language Arts

People in Crime

Activity A

Quiz

Try to answer as many of these questions as possible.

1. What is the name of the Great British detective who works with Dr. Watson?

2. What famous U.S. sportsman was tried for murdering his wife?

3. What is a serial killer?

4. Can you name any films about serial killers?

5. Who was the first murderer according to the Bible?

6. What are the national police in the U.S. called?

7. What is the name of the police HQ in London?

8. What are Japanese gangsters called?

9. What are Chinese gangsters called?

10. What is the name of the U.S. Italian crime organisation?

11. Name 5 ways of carrying out the death penalty.

12. What is a private-eye?

13. Give a 3-letter slang word for a policeman.

14. Roughly how many murders are there in Hong Kong every year?

15. Name some famous films (Hong Kong & Hollywood) about crime.

Activity B

Vocabulary Matching

Match these words with their meanings.

I.

- | | | |
|----------------|-----|------------------------------------|
| i. triads | ___ | a. illegal sex |
| ii. vice | ___ | b. professional killer |
| iii. assault | ___ | c. criminal helper |
| iv. hit man | ___ | d. Chinese criminal gangs |
| v. con | ___ | e. attack |
| vi. accomplice | ___ | f. a clever way of cheating people |

II.

- | | | |
|--------------|-----|--|
| i. execution | ___ | a. people who decide if someone is guilty or not |
| ii. accuse | ___ | b. putting to death |
| iii. victim | ___ | c. the decision of a court |
| iv. jury | ___ | d. someone who suffers from a crime |
| v. verdict | ___ | e. again and again |
| vi. serial | ___ | f. say someone committed a crime |

III.

- | | | |
|---------------|-----|--------------------------------------|
| i. draw | ___ | a. what the police accuse someone of |
| ii. stab | ___ | b. put a knife into someone |
| iii. kidnap | ___ | c. demand money to keep a secret |
| iv. blackmail | ___ | d. hold someone illegally for money |
| v. charge | ___ | e. pull out a gun |
| vi. sentence | ___ | f. punishment given by a judge |

IV.

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----|--|
| i. racket | ___ | a. someone who saw what happened |
| ii. trafficking | ___ | b. lawyer who tries to prove someone is guilty |
| iii. ransom | ___ | c. secret police work |
| iv. witness | ___ | d. criminal activity |
| v. prosecutor | ___ | e. money to release someone from criminals |
| vi. undercover | ___ | f. dealing in drugs |

Activity C

Word Search

There are thirty words connected with crime hidden in this word search. The words can be hidden horizontally, vertically, diagonally, right to left, left to right, up or down.

Find as many as you can.

C	H	O	P	P	E	R	H	I	P	L	T	O	O	H	S
R	E	C	A	E	T	A	J	E	P	A	R	Q	R	I	G
I	G	D	N	F	R	N	K	L	O	R	I	S	J	T	A
M	R	V	D	G	U	S	N	M	N	R	A	A	U	M	N
I	A	I	I	B	O	O	T	A	Z	E	D	R	R	A	G
N	H	J	K	C	C	M	X	A	S	S	S	M	Y	N	Y
A	C	I	D	H	E	A	K	C	B	T	H	E	F	T	N
L	W	I	T	N	E	S	S	B	L	M	E	D	N	O	O
B	L	A	C	K	M	A	I	L	T	R	I	A	L	P	S
E	W	R	E	R	E	D	R	U	M	G	K	I	L	L	I
V	U	T	F	G	S	H	O	L	D	U	P	D	Q	R	R
P	I	C	K	P	O	C	K	E	T	N	O	S	I	O	P

Activity D

Matching

This exercise is designed to see how well you can construct coherence in a story. The sentences in Column B can be paired with those in Column A so that the second sentence follows naturally from the first. Write the letters of the paired sentences from Column B in the spaces provided. Each letter should be used once only.

Criminal Activity

Column A

Column B

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. The kidnappers contacted the _____ boy's parents. | A. They went through the goods carefully, and took only exactly what they wanted. |
| 2. The burglars carefully put on _____ gloves before entering the building. | B. The line went dead. Ming went cold. He was being blackmailed. |
| 3. Pickpockets often work in pairs. _____ | C. Drop your guns. Put your hands up, and come out slowly. |
| 4. "Unless you want your wife to see _____ those photos, we'll be wanting \$50,000. Details later. Think about it." | D. They demanded a ransom of \$250,000. If anything went wrong, they would kill the child. |
| 5. The man lay in the middle of the _____ room. He was very dead. | E. One distracts the victim in some way, while the other carries out the theft. |
| 6. Right, this is a hold-up. I want you _____ all to get down onto the floor. | F. It must have been an inside job, someone who had a key. |
| 7. Once they'd got into the _____ warehouse, they had a couple of hours to do whatever they wanted. | G. If anyone tries any tricks, they'll be killed. |
| 8. There's no sign of a break-in. All _____ the doors and windows are O.K. So that tells us something. | H. I think we have a gang war on our hands. |
| 9. That's the fifth killing this month. _____ | I. They did not want to leave their finger-prints on anything inside. |
| 10. This is the police. We've got the _____ building surrounded. | J. A pool of blood had formed around his head. |

Activity E

Writing about crime I

Read the following.

A.

I open the door. Someone's got there before me. She's tall, blonde and very beautiful. She is wearing stylish jeans, and a green silk top, and she's holding a gun.

"Who are you?" She says in a voice that makes my toes curl.

"No one much," I say.

"Don't waste my time," she says, sounding like a snake that isn't too pleased.

"OK, I'll be going," I say.

"That's enough, funny boy." And she fires. I see a burst of light from the end of the gun. I feel a burning feeling, like someone's put a needle through my shoulder. I jump forward and grab her by the wrist. The gun falls. It's a small silver one, very pretty.

"Get your hands off me," she hisses.

This is called the hard-boiled style. Hard-boiled eggs are hard on the outside, but get a bit softer inside. Hard-boiled detectives (maybe in Hong Kong the characters Chow Yun Fat plays are the best example) are similar. The style consists of

- (a) 1st person story-telling [I...]
- (b) Very short simple sentences
- (c) Use of detail, especially what people are wearing
- (d) Strange similes [comparisons with 'as' or 'like']
- (e) Sometimes, the present tense
- (f) A lot of slang (This technique is not copied here)
- (g) Understatement-for example: B-see the last sentence

Activity E (cont...)**Writing about crime I****B.**

He kicked over my desk. Then he picked up my computer. He threw it down hard on the floor. It broke. The noise was like when they wash all the dishes in a Chinese restaurant. I watched the glass fly across the floor. I was beginning to feel angry.

Hard-boiled stories often contain the same sort of characters too:

1. the hard-boiled private detective (or private eye)
2. a very beautiful and dangerous woman
3. an unfriendly police officer (cop)
4. a weak good woman in trouble
5. some really cold-hearted gangsters
6. a very corrupt old rich man

The plot is not very important as long as every chapter has one shock, and ends with a mystery to make you read on.

C.

I moved slowly round the house to the back. The moon was shining. The light reflected in the windows. The door didn't look too strong. I took a step back, turned my shoulder toward it, and charged. There was a breaking sound. The door was open. I stepped into the kitchen. There on the floor lay a dead man.

Here's one more example of the style. Underline some of the typical features.

Activity E (cont...)

Writing about crime I

D.

I get home late. Very late. I pour myself a whisky. I close my eyes. Next minute someone slaps me. I open my eyes. There's a girl standing there. Her eyes are as blue as a Pocari can. She's wearing something very expensive. And that watch doesn't come for less than six figures.

“Wake up,” she growls like a tiger that’s lost its babies.

“Have a whisky?” I say.

“There’s no time,” she says. “We’ve got to go. Mike’s dead.”

“Oh,” I say. “Oh, and who are you?”

“Mike’s a killer,” she says.

Now try to write a piece in this style. You might want to choose the detective meeting his client, the detective being attacked, the detective discovering a dead body (corpse), the detective talking to the police, the detective confronting a bad guy, or an arrest.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Read your piece of ‘hard-boiled’ fiction to your partner, group or class.

Activity F

Multiple Choice

Decide which of the four choices given would best complete the passage if inserted in the blanks. Circle the correct answer A, B, C or D.

Con Men

If you regularly read the crime columns (1)_____ the newspaper you will find that con men are always (2)_____ cheating rather simple and greedy people (3)_____ their money. Here's one of the (4)_____ examples. A woman was taking (5)_____ her rubbish one morning recently (6)_____ Tsimshatsui, and a man came along and asked her (7)_____ she would help him by looking (8)_____ two bags of tablets while he went to do (9)_____. He offered to pay her \$400 for her (10)_____. She agreed and off he went. Then along came (11)_____ man, who explained to the woman that the tablets had (12)_____ powers. He suggested (13)_____ the tablets from the first man and then (14)_____ them at a huge profit. The woman was delighted and rushed to the bank and (15)_____ \$430,000. The first man then returned and after long (16)_____ agreed to sell. The woman handed (17)_____ her money, and off went the con men, promising (18)_____ soon with the woman's tablets. They never returned, and in (19)_____, the woman wouldn't have been 'any' better off if they (20)_____, as the tablets were worthless. Cons like this work every day, and it's usually the same (21)_____. It's just the "valuable" goods that (22)_____ -today tablets, tomorrow electric parts, next week-who knows? - birds nests or priceless antiques. People never seem to learn!

Activity F (cont...)**Multiple Choice**

Decide which of the four choices given would best complete the passage if inserted in the blanks. Circle the correct answer A, B, C or D

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1. a. by
b. at
c. in
d. on | 9. a. something
b. anything
c. them
d. work | 17. a. up
b. over
c. out
d. in |
| 2. a. busy
b. trying
c. planning
d. conscientiously | 10. a. job
b. rubbish
c. tablets
d. time | 18. a. return
b. returning
c. to return
d. a return |
| 3. a. from
b. away from
c. out of
d. from off | 11. a. another
b. the other
c. second
d. his | 19. a. this
b. deed
c. result
d. fact |
| 4. a. popular
b. interested
c. last
d. latest | 12. a. increased
b. medical
c. amazing
d. surprised | 20. a. were
b. did
c. had
d. might |
| 5. a. out
b. off
c. along
d. over | 13. a. to buy
b. buying of
c. they were buying
d. they buy | 21. a. words
b. set-up
c. items
d. men |
| 6. a. nearby
b. in
c. at
d. by | 14. a. resell
b. sale
c. purchase
d. advertise | 22. a. cheat
b. disappear
c. continue
d. change |
| 7. a. perhaps
b. nothing
c. if
d. politely | 15. a. withdraw
b. withdrawing
c. withdrew
d. withdrawn | |
| 8. a. for
b. after
c. to
d. into | 16. a. deals
b. negotiation
c. bargains
d. talking | |

Activity G

Oral Work

(1.5 — 2 minutes each)

Individual Presentation

Read and make notes on the following passage. You will use it as the basis for your presentation. You may add your own opinions or ideas.

Student, 18, stabs 'unpopular' classmate

CORTLAND, New York: Lured by the promise of a surprise, a high school senior walked into the woods with a friend, who told police he stabbed her to death because nobody liked her.

Police found Melissa Marshall's body on Friday after a caller reported seeing a man carrying a knife into the woods, accompanied by a woman.

Mathew Covington, 18, was charged with second-degree murder and criminal possession of a weapon - believed to be a Swiss army knife recovered by police. He was being held without bail.

In a police confession, Covington recounted how he enticed 18-year-old Melissa into the wooded area near Cortland High School, where both were due to graduate on 22 June.

Covington told her to keep

her eyes closed because he had something to give her. He said he killed the girl he dated at least once "because no one liked her and I did not like her".

"I was aiming for her heart... her blood was spurting out and she said 'What are you doing?'" he told police. "She was screaming and wouldn't shut up."

Covington said he later walked back to school, met his friends and changed from his blood-splattered clothes before heading to Cortland Nursing Home, where he worked.

He was arrested less than an hour later. A grand jury will consider whether he should be charged with first-degree murder, which carries the death penalty.

Marshall was stabbed more than five times, Police Chief Philip Cinquanti said.

—Associated Press

Hong Kong Standard

Help:

Lured-persuaded, tempted
without bail - must stay in police cells

In the States you can be charged with first, second or third degree murder. First is the most serious, planned, cold-blooded killing. Second might be a sudden act of passion; third more or less an accident.

Give a short introduction about murder.

Give a summary of this case.

Give your reaction.

Suggest why the boy might have acted as he did.

Does this tell us anything about society?

What do you think should happen next?

Activity G (cont...)**Oral Work****B.**

Drink-spiker's plea of 'caring' falls flat

CHARLOTTE PARSONS

A serial drink-spiker should have been rewarded for the compassion he showed one of his victims, the Appeal Court heard yesterday.

Former prison officer Kwok Yuk-ho, 37, took one of the women he drugged to Princess Margaret Hospital, left her in an emergency-room wheelchair and telephoned her parents.

"He obviously had some concern for her well-being," John Mullick, for Kwok, told the Appeal Court. "This should have been taken into account."

But the argument made little impression on Mr. Justice Benjamin Liu, and Kwok lost his bid to have his 14-year prison sentence reduced. He had admitted blackmail and spiking drinks, and was sentenced last December.

Mr. Justice Liu said 14 years was "no doubt severe, but nevertheless a proper sentence for which the applicant cannot complain".

He said drinks manufacturers had

suffered because of his crimes. And over the course of his seven-month spree, Kwok stole \$391,654, the court heard.

From July 19, 1994, to February 20 last year, Kwok injected 10 containers of Vita lemon or chrysanthemum tea with the sleeping drug Rohypnol.

He would then shadow his victims after they had bought the doctored drinks from 7-eleven or Circle-K stores, and when the drug began to take effect he would steal their wallets.

Mr. Mullick noted that Kwok was a model citizen until he turned to crime.

"He was a Correctional Services Department officer for 15 years before he fell from grace and committed these offences," he said.

On February 20 last year, he took one of his victims to his home and kept her there. He then contacted 25-year-old Lee Lai-see's family and demanded \$250,000 for her return.

But when they had paid him only \$70,000 by February 23, Kwok took her to hospital and called her parents.

S.C.M.P. June 96

Help:

compassion - sympathy, pity
made little impression on - had little effect on

bid - attempt

spiking - putting something in

shadow - follow

doctored - spiked, contaminated

Describe

- (1) Kwok's crime
- (2) his punishment
- (3) his appeal and the arguments for and against giving him a shorter time in prison
- (4) the Appeal Court judge's decision
- (5) your own feelings

Activity G (cont...)**Oral Work****C.**

Three officers charged with plot to rob shop

CHARLOTTE PARSONS

Three police officers hatched a plot to rob a fruit shop, the High Court heard yesterday.

But the officers ended up on the wrong side of the holding cell door after an undercover officer blew the whistle on them, prosecutor John McMaster said.

Detective constables Ng Chi-wai, 39, Woo Lai-wing, 39, and Ng Yuk, 40, have pleaded not guilty to conspiracy to rob.

“Theirs is a simple but rather sad tale given the occupations of these defendants,” Mr McMaster told the jury.

On September 29 last year undercover officer Yiu Sung-chi was said to have approached Ng Chi-wai at a Mongkok seafood restaurant and told him that he wanted to join his gang of robbers.

The Organised Crime and Triad Bureau sent Constable Yiu to penetrate the group after a tip-off, the court heard.

The next day there was a meeting in Ng Chi-wai’s office at Shamshuipo police station. Constable Yiu, Ng Chi-wai and Woo were there, the jury was told.

Constable Yiu told the court: “Ng said, ‘If the staff resist, just beat them, but not too bad because the

worse you beat them the more trouble they could be’.” The detective then displayed a knife and rolls of adhesive tape and wire for binding, gagging and blindfolding their victims, the undercover officer said.

He added that Ng Yuk showed up later and agreed to drive his police colleagues to the robbery, the prosecutor said.

They were said to have been equipped with a “convincing” toy pistol, knives, gloves and wire to bind their victims

But at the last minute, the gang decided to abort the plan.

“For some reason, maybe someone was suspicious, they decided not to do the robbery,” Mr McMaster said.

Instead, the officers returned to the Shamshuipo police station, where Ng Chi-wai was said to have stashed the ropes and weapons, the court heard.

Ng Chi-wai, who has been an officer for about 20 years, was arrested as he left the building.

The other detectives were picked up shortly afterwards, Mr. McMaster said.

The trial continues before Deputy Judge Verina Bokhary.

Help:

hatched - developed

the wrong side of the cell door, i.e. inside the cell.

blew the whistle on - reported

conspiracy - planning

tip-off - secret information

binding - tying hands and feet

gagging - covering mouth

Describe the plan

What happened in the end?

How were they caught?

Your reactions

Why do policemen get involved in such crimes?

What can be done about it?

What punishment is suitable?

Activity G (cont...)**Oral Work****D.**

Teenage robbers preyed on hostesses

JANE MOIR

Unsuspecting karaoke hostesses became easy prey for a gang of teenage robbers, a court heard yesterday.

The gang spirited women away as escorts only to later force them to reveal their secret cash card numbers.

The 13 hostesses acted as escorts to three teenagers who soon turned on them, stealing their cash, jewellery and bank cards.

Eight women were forced to reveal their personal identification numbers, and the robbers emptied their bank accounts, the District Court heard.

Chan Heung-man, 19, Cheung Hau-sang, 19, and So Ka-lung, 18, pleaded guilty to all the robbery charges yesterday.

The court heard of a 10-day spree, where on eight occasions the defendants either jointly or with other unidentified men, robbed their victims.

On November 25, 1995, Chan and So took Lee Mei-kyee and Choi Ching-man out for escort purposes from a karaoke nightclub in Tsim Sha Tsui.

They later met up with another hostess, Lam Sau-man.

Judge Clare Beeson heard that they took a taxi to Geranium House, Ma Tau Wai Estate, Kowloon, where five other men suddenly jumped out and grabbed

one of the hostesses.

The hostesses' handbags were snatched and they were tied up with plastic straps. Ms. Choi was punched in the chest.

More than \$8,000 in cash was taken from the victims before they were forced to disclose their PIN numbers. Lee's account was later emptied of \$1,300.

Unemployed Chan admitted one single charge and two joint charges of robbery.

So pleaded guilty to three joint robbery charges.

The court was told how they posed along with Cheung as customers in a karaoke lounge and lured two hostesses to the same Kowloon estate on November 19 last year.

After threatening the women with a knife, they took their wallets and cash.

One woman was forced to take off her skirt, while the other revealed her PIN number.

Nearly \$20,000 was taken from her account.

Cheung pleaded guilty to three joint charges as well as to two single charges of robbery.

Judge Beeson adjourned sentencing for three weeks pending training centre reports on the three defendants.

Help:

prey = victim

spirited = took

adjourned = delayed

pending = waiting for

Say what you know about karaoke and karaoke lounges.

Why do you think girls become escorts?

Would you like to become an escort?
Why or Why not?

Describe the crime

Why do you think they did this?

What sentence do you think is suitable?

Can society do anything to stop this sort of crime or will it always be part of life?

Activity G (cont...)

Group Discussion

When everyone has made a presentation and the group has given them some feedback on their strengths and weaknesses, the group should hold a discussion on one or both of these topics.

No.1.

A Parole Board has to decide if prisoners serving long sentences should be allowed out early. Discuss what criteria the board should use when choosing which prisoners to release. Decide which types of criminal you think should benefit from parole, and how you can be sure you are making the right choices. Should murderers ever benefit from parole? How long should a prisoner have been in prison before he can be considered for parole? What is the justification for the system?

No.2.

You and the other members of your group share a flat. You advertise for an extra person. You choose a pleasant young man. You don't know much about him, but feel he will fit in. A few days after he's moved in, you find him dead, and in his room a suitcase containing \$2,000,000. What will you do? Discuss the possibilities.

Activity H

Proof-reading

There are errors to be corrected in the following passage. No line has more than one error and some lines are correct. If you think there is no error in a line, put a tick (✓) in the space provided. Corrections should be done as follows:

extra word - draw a heavy line through any word you wish to cross out and write that word in the space provided;

missing word - mark the position of a missing word with a (/) sign and write the missing word in the space provided;

word needing to be changed - underline the wrong word and write the correct version in the space.

Strangers At Risk

The discussion based on the flat-partner	1. _____
who suddenly die comes from the film	2. _____
'Shallow Grave'. In the film the	3. _____
original flat-mates cut up the body	4. _____
and bury out in the countryside,	5. _____
and then keep the money. Gradually,	6. _____
though, one of the group going mad	7. _____
as a result of the horrible inexperience,	8. _____
and some drug-dealers, who's money	9. _____
it is, catch up with them, and they	10. _____
all end up with horribly dead. Certainly	11. _____
though, if you were going to take	12. _____
part in a crime it is good idea to	13. _____
making strangers far away from home	14. _____
your victims. It takes along time	15. _____
for anyone notice they are missing;	16. _____
no one is sure where exactly they	17. _____
went, and there is something to connect	18. _____
them to you. However, many serial killers	19. _____
who went on for year remained	20. _____
unsuspected because they only killed	21. _____
poor, drifting, at homeless strangers.	22. _____

Activity H (cont...)

Proof-reading

There are a couple of famous English	23.	_____
story using the same basic	24.	_____
situation. In one, travellers in Spain	25.	_____
go to a remote inn (old hotel), will have	26.	_____
a nice dinner, go up to sleeping in the	27.	_____
lonely old four-poster bed, and are	28.	_____
found died in the morning. Of course,	29.	_____
the owner of the hotel keeps up all	30.	_____
their valuables and also quietly buries	31.	_____
them. How are they die? The top	32.	_____
of the bed is being attached to a big	33.	_____
screw that will goes up into the room	34.	_____
is above. The owner turns the screw,	35.	_____
down comes the top, suffocates the	36.	_____
sleeping guest, and is then again returned	37.	_____
to its properly position. If there is	38.	_____
any investigation, even there are no	39.	_____
signs of violent. The guest just	40.	_____
unfortunately died!	41.	_____
In a frightening Roald Dahl story,	42.	_____
a old lady keeps a small hotel	43.	_____
nearby a railway station. Young men	44.	_____
coming to look for work occasionally	45.	_____
come inquiring about a room. Although she questions	46.	_____
them and only allows few suitable	47.	_____
ones to stay. She then has poisons	48.	_____
them and stuffs their bodies, as talking	49.	_____
as nicely to them all the time.	50.	_____
Very unpleasant!	51.	_____

Activity I (cont...)**The Vanishing Lady****Problem to be solved:**

Dr. Page's suggestion:

Your solution: (who did what? why? how? where? when?)

Activity J

Writing II

Writing stories involves much more than a good plot. We can tell stories in many different ways using different styles and narrators.

Here are some crime story plots.

A.

A man goes to rob a bank. He writes down his demands on the back of an envelope. The bank clerk gives him the money, and he gets away. A few hours later the police come to get him. His name and address were on the envelope.

(true story)

B.

A man takes some fake silver to a pawn shop [a place which lends you money as long as you leave something behind as security]; they lend him money, and then discover they've been cheated. In order to catch the thief, they announce they have been robbed and offer to restore everyone's goods. The man comes to demand his silver, and is arrested.

[old Chinese story]

C.

A young woman committed suicide in the garden with her boy-friend's gun. As there was no note, the young man was arrested and tried for murder. Later a suicide note was found. A magpie (a bird that is attracted to bright objects) had taken the girl's necklace and note for its nest. The man was released.

(true story)

D.

A woman is married to a policeman. She discovers he is having an affair, and in her anger hits him on the head and kills him with a frozen leg of lamb she is about to cook. She goes out quickly and buys some potatoes. Then she calls the police and says her husband was killed while she was out. The police are known to her, so she cooks them dinner. As they eat the roast lamb, they wonder where the murder weapon is.

(Roald Dahl story)

Activity J (cont...)

Writing II

E.

A man met and married an older woman. He moved into her house and had a bath installed as there wasn't one. He and his wife made wills in each other's favour, and he took her to a doctor to get help for her fainting fits, which she had never noticed. A few days later the woman was found dead in her bath. The doctor came and said she had obviously fainted in the bath and drowned. The man inherited the house and the lady's money. Reading the case in the newspaper, two people contacted the police. Both had known of an exactly similar case in the past. It was eventually found that the man had used the technique at least five times before. He was hanged.

(a true British case)

F.

A man kidnapped a young woman working for a large property rental company. A note was received by the company demanding a ransom of £175,000. A tape-recorded message from the girl asking for help was played over the telephone. A man was chosen to hand over the money. He was led from telephone box to telephone box across hundreds of miles. He finally found some instructions by a roadside, and transferred the money into a new bag left there (this was clever of the kidnapper as the original bag contained an electronic bug). He then had to drop the bag over a bridge and the kidnapper caught it and escaped on a motorcycle. The girl was released. Her descriptions helped the police create a picture of the kidnapper. This was shown on TV while a recording of his voice from the telephone was played. A viewer called in, and the criminal was arrested. He was then connected to other cases and a murder, and received life imprisonment.

(a true British story; some of the details seem to have influenced the local police film, in the Heat of the Summer.)

Activity J (cont...)

Writing II

These stories all have a great deal of potential. They could be told in many different ways. You could write the story as a newspaper article, a statement/confession to the police, a series of diary entries (whose? the victim, a law officer or the criminal), a final letter from the criminal before execution, the memories of an old person, or a series of different documents.

Here are some examples:

I.

THE FORGETFUL ROBBER

Chan Ho Yin, 32, was sentenced to five years' imprisonment for a bank robbery in the High Court by Mr. Justice Hui.

On 4th September last year Chan entered the Taipo branch of the HK Bank and passed a note to a teller.

The note read, "I have a gun and am willing to use it. Put all the money in your drawer into this bag quickly."

The teller obeyed, and put \$90,000 into the bag. Chan grabbed it and ran

out of the bank.

When the police arrived it was discovered that the note had been written on the back of a used and addressed envelope. The police checked out the address and found Chan at home with the money.

The judge told Chan that he was obviously unsuited for a life of crime and should give up plans to get rich quickly.

Chan is single, and an unemployed noodle-maker.

II.

KWOK'S PAWN SHOP

*This shop holds 20 BARS OF SILVER
for TO WAI YIP. To be returned on
payment of HK\$ 8,000.*

37892

1215/52 Kwok

Activity J (cont...)**Writing II**

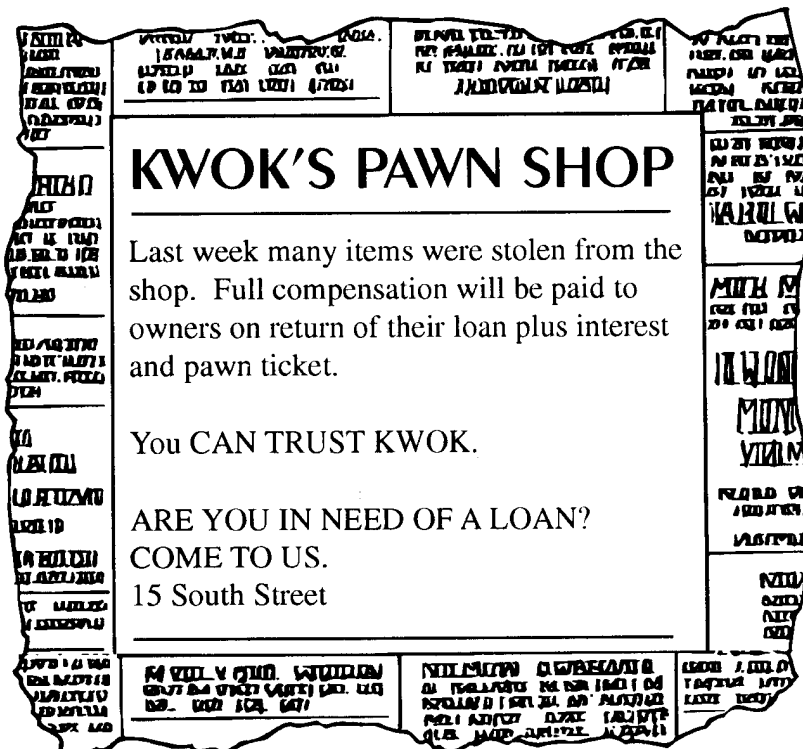
Daily Cash Book			12 May
ITEM	Estimated Value	Loan	Return
1. 2 gold rings	\$3,000	\$1,000	\$1,500
2. 3 silk dresses	\$200	\$100	\$130
3. 20 bars of silver	\$15,000	\$7,000	\$8,000
4. 5 books	\$50	\$20	\$25

Diary 17May

Not a good day. I checked on the bars of silver we took last week. The silver is only on the surface. The rest is lead. We have been cheated. This is a heavy loss. I must think of a plan to save the situation.

Activity J (cont...)

Writing II



Court Record

1/6

- A Lo Wing - Illegal hawking. 3rd offence.
Fined HK\$850
- B Ma Wai Ming (alias To Wai Yip) - attempted cheating of Kwok's Pawn Shop, and theft of HK\$8,000.
2 years' imprisonment
- C Lai Suet Yee - assault on neighbour.
Ordered to keep the peace and warned

Activity J (cont...)**Writing II****III.**

3 May

Dear Sarah,

The most amazing thing happened to me today, so I must write and tell you about it. I was sitting in the garden with my wife. It was very hot so I took off my watch and lay it on a table by my side. Just then a magpie swooped down and took my watch. It was obviously attracted by the silver shining in the sunlight. Luckily I saw where the bird went and soon found its nest up in a tree nearby. I got a ladder and climbed up and found quite a little treasure house of silver paper and items of jewellery - and also a letter. I brought everything down and imagine my surprise when I read the letter. I copy it here for you.

Dear Tom,

I am so sorry about what I am about to do. It isn't because of you, but because I have been very depressed recently, and in my past I have done some things that I don't want you to know about. Please forget me. I am much better off dead.

Mary.

I realised at once that this must be connected with the shooting a few houses away - and that it meant the young man on trial was innocent.

I rushed with the letter and jewellery to the police. They were very excited and assured me that it really did change everything about the case.

I'm so glad I found the letter. I may have saved a life!

Yours,

James

Activity J (cont...)

Writing II

Now see what you can do. Tell one of the stories in an interesting way, either singly or in pairs. Plot D might make a play, or a letter from one of the policemen wondering about the murder weapon, and not realising he has eaten it.

Plot E could be a series of documents.

- (i) a marriage announcement or licence
- (ii) an insurance policy and a will
- (iii) a doctor's file
- (iv) a newspaper cutting
- (v) a letter
- (vi) a final confession

Plot F might be

- (i) the kidnapper's diary
- (ii) the ransom note
- (iii) the taped message
- (iv) a statement or news article
- (v) a police memo
- (vi) the girl's statement/letter/diary
- (vii) a final confession

Use your imagination and try to make the documents look real. Look at each other's work when it is finished.

Activity K

Deductions

Sherlock Holmes is famous for his deductions, or ability to understand a lot from a few details. In one story all that they have is one hat. Holmes looks at it and says the owner is intelligent, was fairly rich, but has lost his money, used to be careful, but no longer is, and has lost the love of his wife. He is also middle-aged, doesn't go out much and has recently had a haircut. His house has recently had gas-light installed.

Holmes' partner, Watson, is amazed until he hears the explanation.

intelligent	-large-sized hat=big brain (!)
was well-off	-hat was expensive
no longer	-hat needs replacing
careful→careless	-he has put an elastic hat-securer inside, but now it is broken
middle-aged	-white hairs
hair cut	-small haircuts
lost the love of his wife	-hat not brushed
not active	-heavy sweat stain, unfit
gaslight	-some old wax stains, used candles before

In another story he meets a new client, and remarks that he obviously used to do heavy labour, has been to China and has recently been writing a lot. The man is amazed, but Holmes says the man's arms are muscular; he has a special tattoo, and the right sleeve of his jacket is very shiny.

Activity K (cont...)**Deductions**

How might you deduce someone

is a teacher

fisherman

kitchen-worker

baker

has recently been on holiday

has been to the beach

is left-handed

used to smoke

is married

is often late

What might you deduce from seeing someone

with two different coloured socks on

in very smart shoes but old clothes

with big thigh muscles

in a school blazer that looks old and is too big

refusing to show his arms

Make a list of your own on how you can deduce something about someone, and see if the other members of the class can work it out.

Activity L

Listen to the tape twice. You may take any notes you wish.

Characters: Mr. and Mrs. Hume
old lady
police
beggar (Gunn)

Events:

Problem:

Solution:

Activity L (cont...)

Characters: Susan
William

Events:

How to check:

Prepare a short description of a crime puzzle for next week's class.

Read it out and see if anyone can solve it.

Activity M

The sentences in this story are printed in the wrong order.

Reassemble them into the correct order.

Can you trust your eyes.

- A. The killing had been noisy, and it had woken old Mrs. Tse from the flat across the way. She had been peeping out of her door when the murderer came out.
- B. His face was dark and cruel, and she would not forget it.
- C. Mrs. So's murder had been rather unpleasant.
- D. She had seen him very clearly for a moment.
- E. This made Mrs. Tse very valuable to the police.
- F. She had been beaten to death with a hammer.
- G. He was a big, muscular man.

1.____ 2.____ 3.____ 4.____ 5.____ 6.____ 7.____

- H. The day of the trial came.
- I. Mrs. Tse went up on the stand and gave her evidence.
- J. "Yes, it was that man," she said, pointing at the accused.
- K. She looked.
- L. It was her description that led them to the murderer, and she was definitely the prosecution's star-witness.
- M. "Now, Mrs Tse," asked the lawyer, "Can you identify the man you saw leaving the flat that night?"
- N. "Are you sure?" asked the defence lawyer, pointing to another man in the seats for the public.
- O. Without her there would be little chance of a jury finding him guilty.

8.____ 9.____ 10.____ 11.____ 12.____ 13.____ 14.____ 15.____

Activity M (cont...)

The sentences in this story are printed in the wrong order.

- P. And that was the end of the case.
- Q. So you don't know which one you saw, do you?"
- R. She prayed not.
- S. She couldn't believe her eyes: there was the same man!
- T. Mrs. Tse was just left wondering if one day one of those brothers would come to visit her again.
- U. "Yes, Mrs. Tse, they are identical twin brothers.
- V. In truth, she didn't.

16.____ 17.____ 18.____ 19.____ 20.____ 21.____ 22.____

Activity N

News briefs

Very short stories in newspapers are referred to as news briefs. Their interest lies mainly in what they don't say. Make a collection of news briefs. They are easy to read and may encourage you to look at sentence structures.

Examples:

<p>A young woman managed to get a handgun off a man when he attempted to rob her at her flat in Wanchai. She got the gun, ran into her flat and called the police. The 30 year-old suspect was arrested, still outside the flat, begging the woman to return the gun.</p>	<p>An 18 year-old youth was found unconscious last night. He had been chopped by two other youths. He is said to be in a satisfactory condition.</p>
<p>A man tried to rob a bank in Causeway Bay with a toy gun. When challenged he ran away.</p>	<p>Two robbers on a motorcycle snatched a briefcase containing US\$250,000 in cash from two men as they were taking the cash to the bank in Shatin.</p>

What is the full story? There may be mistakes, tragedies and dramas of love, hate and revenge behind some of these items of news. Read a news brief to your group, and then talk for a few minutes about it. Discuss possible motives, feelings, consequences and significant details. Try to be creative and interesting.

Activity O

The story below has been produced in two versions. The second version has some missing words. Fill in the gaps in such a way that the meaning of the first version is preserved. You may have to fill in more than word in some of the blanks.

Some clues have been given to help you.

Version 1.

A second look at cons

One of the greatest of con men was Victor Lustig, known to many as “the man who sold the Eiffel Tower.” One of his cleverest cons was the basis for the magnificent film “The Sting”. Lustig met a wealthy banker, and decided he would like to get his hands on the man’s money. He moved slowly and carefully. He first of all befriended the man. He then arranged for him to be pickpocketed, and took pleasure in returning the wallet to the man himself, refusing any reward. The two men became ever more friendly, until one day the banker asked Lustig how he earned his living.

‘I’m a very successful gambler,’ replied Lustig.

This interested the banker and he kept on asking questions, refusing to believe that anyone could regularly be successful at gambling. Eventually Lustig agreed to take him to the gambling centre where he made his money, betting on horses and so on. There he kept on winning, until the banker begged to be allowed to gamble with him. Lustig agreed to one big bet for his friend. The next day the banker brought \$100,000 dollars and bet it. He lost. Lustig was furious, and said he had not followed his instructions properly. They parted in anger. Later the banker returned and found the gambling centre had disappeared. It had been completely faked. For an outlay of a couple of thousand dollars Lustig had cheated the banker out of a hundred thousand.

Activity O (cont...)

Version 2.

The passage (1)_____ us about the best (2)_____ performed by Victor Lustig, sometimes (3)_____ to as “the man who sold (4)_____”

Lustig wanted to con a wealthy banker. He knew this (5)_____ be done easily, so he planned carefully and (6)_____ slowly. He (7)_____ friends with the man, and helped him to recover his (8)_____ after an arranged (9)_____. Eventually, the banker trusted Lustig, and everything was (10)_____ for the con.

Lustig let the banker know that he made (11)_____ by (12)_____ very (13)_____. The banker refused to believe him. He thought gamblers usually (14)_____ money. Lustig finally (15)_____ him to a gambling centre to show him how he did (16)_____. The banker was amazed at how much money Lustig (17)_____, and asked (18)_____ he could gamble with him. Lustig said (19)_____. The next day the banker brought \$100,000, bet, and (20)_. The two men had (21)_____ words. When the banker returned (22)_____, the gambling centre (23)_____. It had all (24)_____ created by Lustig so that he could cheat the banker out of his (25)_____.

Clues:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. verb. Be sure it agrees. | 14. verb. Not successful |
| 2. see version 1 | 15. past tense |
| 3. can't be 'known' with 'to'.
Find a similar phrase. | 16. pronoun |
| 4. see version 1 | 17. past tense |
| 5. negative | 18. How do you start an indirect question? |
| 6. see version 1 | 19. agree = say _____? |
| 7. What verb is used with 'friends'? | 20. see version 1 |
| 8. see version 1 | 21. adjective |
| 9. Be careful. Use a gerund. | 22. see version 1 |
| 10. adjective | 23. see version 1 |
| 11. see version 1 | 24. passive verb |
| 12. 'by' and gerund | 25. one word |
| 13. adverb | |

Activity P

Matching

The sentences in Column B can be paired with those in Column A so that the second sentence follows naturally from the first. Write the letters of the paired sentences from Column B in the spaces provided in Column A. Each letter should be used only once.

Law and Order

Column A	Column B
1. You are one of the most unpleasant criminals I have ever come across. _____	A. After much discussion they decided the woman was not guilty.
2. Undercover work can be very dangerous. _____	B. What you did was wrong, but at least your motives were honourable.
3. This man stands here today accused of murder. _____	C. "Not much, though we did find some blue material at the scene of the crime."
4. "Have we got any evidence to go on?" _____	D. Mrs. Kung hated prawns and would never have ordered that dish.
5. The jury took three hours to reach a verdict. _____	E. I take great pleasure in sentencing you to 25 years' imprisonment.
6. "So how do you explain your finger prints being found on the cup?" _____	F. You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say may be taken down and used against you.
7. I charge you with the murder of Chris Wong. _____	G. "Anyone could have taken one I'd used during lunch and put it there."
8. Her plot was almost perfect, but she overlooked one crucial detail. _____	H. "Yes, it is the accused."
9. "And is the man who attacked you here today in this court?" _____	I. If the gangsters find out who you are, they'll probably kill you.
10. You were driven to this crime by the desire to protect your children. _____	J. There can be no doubt as to his guilt, and we will offer convincing evidence to that effect.

Activity Q

Now that you know so much about crime, try to put together an alphabet of crime. You may wish to look back at some of the earlier activities for help.

For example: A is for Alcatraz, a famous U.S. prison, or Attorney, a lawyer.

Think of crimes, famous criminals, films, film stars, directors, writers, weapons, punishments, famous criminals etc.

A is for _____

N is for _____

B is for _____

O is for _____

C is for _____

P is for _____

D is for _____

Q is for _____

E is for _____

R is for _____

F is for _____

S is for _____

G is for _____

T is for _____

H is for _____

U is for _____

I is for _____

V is for _____

J is for _____

W is for _____

K is for _____

X is for _____

L is for _____

Y is for _____

M is for _____

Z is for _____

Final Word

It is hoped you have enjoyed this unit. It can be interesting to look at a subject in depth, and it can be useful for language learning to have a special interest that you follow up, then you will have a reason to develop your vocabulary and ideas. If crime is not your cup of tea, there are, of course, many other areas of interest you can explore.

The ideas for this unit have come from many places. Here are some suggestions for follow-up work.

Great fictional detectives:

Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes

Van Gulik's Judge Dee

Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple

Judge Pao

Chesterton's Father Brown

Simenon's Maigret

Here are some films about crime. Some are only suitable for older students.

The Accused — true story of how a girl was raped, but no one helped.

Better Tomorrow — HK classic. Two brothers -one a policeman and one a triad member.

Blue Steel — a New York police woman fights a clever serial killer.

Bonnie and Clyde — two down-and-outs become famous bank-robbers.

Chinatown — corruption at every level in old San Francisco.

The Client — boy gets involved in gangland killings, and finds a good-hearted lawyer to help him.

Death on the Nile — clever Christie whodunnit.

Demolition Man — law and order in the future.

E1 Mariachi — innocent musician gets mistaken for a killer.

French Connection — clever attempt to import drugs.

The Great Train Robbery — a cleverly planned 19th century crime.

In the Heat of the Night — racism mixed with murder.

The Lady Vanishes — spies and kidnapping on a train.

Lethal Weapon I, II and III — police buddies fight some big criminals.

Murder in the First — exposure of Alcatraz brutality.

Murder on the Orient Express — Agatha Christie classic.

My Cousin Vinny — crazy lawyer just saves his cousin.

Robocop — police of the future.

Shawshank Redemption — prison life and corruption.

Silence of the Lamb — serial killers.

The Sting — con men triumph.

10, Rillington Place — Christie, the London serial killer.

Witness — innocent young boy sees a murder.

Young Poisoner's Notebook — mad boy poisons all around him.

You should also keep your eye on the newspaper, visit the Supreme Court, and the Police Museum.
Good Luck.