

## Activity Type

Reading, writing,  
listening and speaking  
activity

## Focus

Crime vocabulary

Past and present simple  
questions

## Aim

To practice making  
questions in the past and  
present simple.

## Preparation

Make one copy of the  
two-page worksheet for  
each student.

## Level

Intermediate (B1)

## Time

30 minutes

## Introduction

In this crime worksheet, students practice crime vocabulary and take on the role of detectives, making past and present simple questions relating to a crime.

## Procedure

Give each student a copy of the two-page worksheet.

Students begin with a gap-fill exercise where they complete questions about a robbery with words from a box. The students then indicate whether the questions are in the past or present simple.

Exercise A - Answer key

- |         |        |             |          |
|---------|--------|-------------|----------|
| 1. What | 3. was | 5. can      | 7. Where |
| 2. did  | 4. see | 6. How many |          |

Past simple: 2, 3    Present simple: 1, 4, 5, 6, 7

Next, students unscramble answers to the questions and match them to the questions from the first exercise.

Exercise B - Answer key

- a. I see tire tracks and footprints in the mud. (4)
- b. I see broken glass by the back window. (1)
- c. I see one set of footprints. (6)
- d. We should look for fingerprints around the window. (7)
- e. It was raining. (3)
- f. We use them to help identify the burglar. (5)
- g. The burglar broke the window at the back of the shop. (2)

Students then move on to complete witness questions with three words using the witness's answers to help them.

Exercise C - Answer key

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Where were you | 6. What did you    |
| 2. did you do     | 7. Where did the   |
| 3. do you know    | 8. What colour was |
| 4. did you see    | 9. Do you remember |
| 5. did the man    | 10. What was the   |

Afterwards, students write five past or present simple questions of their own to ask the thief they have caught. The students then practice their questions with a partner by taking it in turns to be the detective and the thief.

Finally, have the students role-play their questions and answers to the class and give feedback.

Note: This resource can be edited using a PDF editor.

A burglar broke into an electronics shop at 11 p.m. last night and stole many expensive items. You are teaching a new detective what to do.

**A. Complete the questions that you are going to ask the new detective with the words from the box. In the column on the right, indicate whether the questions are in the past or present simple.**

can	did	how many	see	was	what	where
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1. .... do you see on the floor by the back window? .....
2. How ..... the burglar break into the shop? .....
3. What ..... the weather like yesterday? .....
4. What do you ..... in the mud behind the shop? .....
5. What ..... we do with the tire tracks and footprints? .....
6. .... sets of footprints do you see? .....
7. .... should we look for fingerprints? .....

**B. Unscramble the answers below. Then, match the answers to the questions above.**

- | a. tire tracks / see / the mud / I / in / and footprints                | Which question? |
|---|-----------------|
| .....   | .....           |
| b. broken glass / by / I / back window / see / the                      |                 |
| .....   | .....           |
| c. of / see / one / I / footprints / set                                |                 |
| .....   | .....           |
| d. around / fingerprints / window / look for / we / should / the        |                 |
| .....   | .....           |
| e. was / raining / it   |                 |
| .....   | .....           |
| f. identify / burglar / help / we / the / them / to / use               |                 |
| .....   | .....           |
| g. the back of / burglar / window / shop / broke / the / the / at / the |                 |
| .....   | .....           |

**C. You are interviewing a witness. Complete each question with three words. Use the witness's answers to help you write the questions.**

1. Q: 1. .... last night?

A: I was in my living room at home.

2. Q: What ..... at 11 p.m.?

A: I looked out the window.

3. Q: How ..... that it was 11 p.m.?

A: The TV show that I was watching finished at 11 p.m. I looked out the window afterwards.

4. Q: What .....?

A: I saw a man carrying a TV and other electronics out of the shop.

5. Q: What ..... look like?

A: It was dark, but I could see that he was tall and slim.

6. Q: ..... do when you saw him?

A: I called the police, of course.

7. Q: ..... man put the stolen items?

A: He put them in a van.

8. Q: ..... the van?

A: It was white. I could see that even in the dark.

9. Q: ..... anything else?

A: Yes, I do. I remember that the van had a company name on the side.

10. Q: ..... name on the van?

A: It was the name of a flower shop. Brown's Flowers.



**D. You have caught the suspect! Write your own questions to ask the thief.**

1. ....?

2. ....?

3. ....?

4. ....?

5. ....?

**E. Now, practice your questions with a partner by taking it in turns to be the detective and the thief.**