

Crime and Punishment



Which ones of these are crimes?

Jury	A group that makes legal decisions
Case	Legal situation
Manslaughter	Accidental killing
Death Penalty	Punishment by Death
Rape	Forced sex
Committed	Did it
Prison	Large Jail for major criminals
Assault	To attack someone, to hurt someone
Unemployed	To not have a job
Suffer	To feel pain

You are members of a jury.

Today you will discuss the case of 6 criminals.
All 6 of the criminals said that they committed the crimes.

You can punish a person with a warning, a fine, jail, the death penalty, or a combination of these.

The maximum punishments for the following crimes are:

Assault: 5 years

Rape: 7 years

Theft: 3 years

Breaking and entering: 3 years

Drunk driving: 6 months

Manslaughter: 4 years

Murder: life imprisonment or the death penalty.



Murder:

Charles Mercer, age 80, retired

Case description:

Mercer and his wife, Sara, had been married for 52 years. Sara got cancer in 2005 and was dying. She had been in the hospital for 8 months and was kept alive by a respirator. On February 3, Charles Mercer went to the hospital and shot his wife. He says: "I loved her so much I couldn't watch her suffer anymore."

Crime # 1



Verdict: guilty or not guilty

Punishment: _____

Your reason: _____

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Ruth Tipton, age 73,

Drunk driving:
manslaughter:

Case description:

Mrs. Tipton is an alcoholic. She was in the hospital a long time because of this. In the past 10 years police have arrested her four times for drunk driving. On July 10, Mrs. Tipton was driving home from an afternoon party: she was drunk. She hit a 3-year-old girl on a tricycle. The girl died.

Crime # 2



Mrs. Tipton says: "I'm sorry; I promise to pay the little girl's parents some money every month. I will never drink again!"

Verdict: guilty or not guilty

Punishment: _____

Your reason: _____

Theft: Shoplifting:

George Raveling, age 18, high school dropout

Case description:

On July 28, Raveling went to a grocery store with two of his friends. While there, he put 13 bars of chocolate in his pocket and tried to leave without paying. The manager caught him. He says: "I'm really sorry. I didn't know I had to pay for the chocolate."

Crime # 3



Verdict: guilty or not guilty

Punishment: _____

Your reason: _____

Paul Jones, age 35, unemployed, married, [two children]

Breaking and entering, theft:

Case description:

Mr. Jones lost his job at a wood factory two years ago. His wife is also unemployed. On the night of December 22, Mr. Jones stole two bicycles from the Ford Bicycle Shop. No one was in the store at the time of the robbery. Police caught him and found the bicycles the next day. Mr. Jones says

Crime # 4



: "I only wanted to give my kids something for Christmas."

Verdict: guilty or not guilty

Punishment: _____

Your reason: _____

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Assault, rape:

Jimmy Jackson, age 24, taxicab driver

Case description:

On the evening of January Mr. Jackson and his girlfriend had a big argument. Later on the way home, he went to a bar and got drunk. He saw two university girls [ages 18 and 19] alone in the bar, and he followed them out to their car at about 1am. There, he beat them both, and raped them

Crime # 5



Mr. Jackson says: "The fight with my girlfriend and the alcohol made me crazy. I am sorry. "

Verdict: guilty or not guilty

Punishment: _____

Your reason: _____

Susan Smith, age 43, secretary, widow [four children]

Murder:

Case description:

In the last 7 years, Mrs. Smith has called the police eight times. Each time, she told police her husband was hitting her. In fact, she went to hospital with serious injuries four times last year.

Crime # 6



They went to the Smith's house. They found Mrs. Smith with a gun in her hand. Mr. Smith was on the floor dead. Mrs. Smith says; "I'm not sorry I shot my husband. I thought he wanted to kill me."

Verdict: guilty or not guilty

Punishment: _____

Your reason: _____

Some of these cases are quite ugly.

What can we do to stop future crimes from happening?

What is the root of most crime?

Would you help stop a minor crime?

Have you ever witnessed a crime?



What is the monetary cost of Crime?

Punishment: Is it working?

Should we use prisons to hold and punish criminals or should we spend tax money to educate and release good citizens?

Should the death penalty ever be used in any situation?