

Crime and Punishment



Below you see the story of an extraordinary case in British legal history. The affair started in 1949 and was finally closed in 1966.

At the moment, there are a number of gaps. Use the words below to complete it.

trial	confessed	court	custody	guilty
to be convicted	enquiry (x2)	sentenced	jury	execution
arrested	innocent	to plea	appeal	dropped
pardon	judges	to be executed	apprehended	hunt
suspect	tried		statements	denied
allege	to be charged with			

The story began when a man called Timothy Evans was _____ for the murder of his wife and a baby. He was _____ with double murder, but a short time later one of the charges was _____ and he was _____ for the murder of his daughter only. During the _____ Evans accused the man whose house he had been living in, John Christie, of the crimes, but no attention was paid to him. The _____ found Evans _____ and he was _____ to death. An _____ was turned down and he was _____ in 1950.

Some time later, more women's bodies were discovered in Christie's house: about six. John Christie was a police's key _____ and they started a nationwide _____ for him. He was soon _____. Alleged _____ by Christie while he was in _____ cast doubt on the Evans hanging. When he went to _____, Christie _____ that he murdered Mrs Evans, but in private it was said that he _____ to that crime. His _____ of insanity with regard to other murders was rejected and he was _____ of killing his wife. Soon afterwards there was an _____ into the _____ of Timothy Evans. The _____ decided that justice had been done and Evans had been rightly hanged. It was only in 1966 that another _____ was set up. This time it was decided that Evans had probably been _____ and he was given a free _____. Better later than never, as they say.

Answer at end of packet

Glossary of crimes

felony
homicide (by misadventure, with malice, calculated...)
manslaughter
smuggling = bootlegging
bigamy
baby- or wife-battering
assault
arson
embezzlement
fraud
forgery
counterfeit
piracy
accident fraud
swindling
perjury
abuse of power
disorderly conduct
terrorism
criminal attempt

speeding
mugging – robbery with violence
slander
treason
conspiracy
espionage – spying
drug peddling
larceny (gang larceny)
shoplifting
burglary
pick-pocketing
petty theft
hijacking
blackmail
kidnapping
sexual harassment
bribery and corruption
trespassing

Which of the above would or could involve the following?

1. counterfeit money
2. pornography
3. hostages
4. a ransom
5. heroin
6. betrayer
7. state secrets
8. contraband
9. a store detective
10. weapon

Match the names of different crimes:

1. taking a child away from his or her family
2. not paying taxes on goods from another country
3. getting money by promising not to tell the secret
4. selling cocaine
5. taking control of an airplane by force
6. taking goods from the shop without paying
7. going into a house and stealing
8. to be married more than one at the same time
9. take money and property from the company or state secretly
10. to get whatever from subordinates
11. shout and fight at nighttime
12. to put fake labels of famous brands on goods from China
13. to make documents look legal with the help of color printer and scanner
14. to set private buildings and premises on fire

15. to lie at the trial

PRACTICE

In the Court: defendant (offender), a witness, a jury, a judge, prosecutor, attorney

Quiz: Some points of law – English style.

Simply answer yes or no (the answers may be different in your country).

1. Is it a **crime** to try and kill yourself?
2. Is it **illegal** to help somebody to commit suicide?
3. Can you be **executed** for **murdering** a policeman?
4. If, after a murder, all the **victim's** relatives plead: "Please, don't **prosecute!**" can **charges** against the **suspected culprit** be dropped?
5. If two **armed thieves break into** a house, guns in hand, and one of them shoots and kills the house-owner is he **guilty of murder**?
6. If I catch an **intruder** in my house at night stealing my millions, do I have a **legal right** to **assault** him with a **weapon**?
7. If I **set a trap** – a fifty-kilo weight just above the front door – for any **burglars** who might try and enter the house, am I **breaking the law**?
8. After a **divorce** or **legal separation**, can a wife be required to pay **alimony** to her ex-husband?
9. If I promise to marry my girlfriend and then change my mind shortly before the wedding, can she **take me to the court** (can she **sue** my)?
10. Would I be in danger of **committing an offence** if I put an advertisement for my school in the paper saying: "Male white teacher is required"?
11. If as a **defendant (accused)**, I am not satisfied with the way my attorney has handled my defense, can I **sue** him?
12. Can a person **suspected of** and **charged with rape** be allowed **bail**?

Here is the story of a very unfortunate, irresponsible man called Mr. N.E. Body.

Imagine that he was stopped by the police at each and every point of the drama. Read about what happened and, after each piece of info you receive, decide what punishment he deserves. (death penalty, solitary confinement, put on probation, give community service, impose a fine or compensation, prison sentence, ban fro driving, dismiss the case, find him not guilty, acquit him, find the case not proved).

1. Mr. Body drank five pints of beer and five single whiskies in a pub, got into his car and drove away.
2. He didn't drive dangerously but exceeded the speed limit as he wanted to catch up with a friend who had left his wallet in the pub.
3. As he was driving along, a little girl ran into the road and he knocked her down.
4. There was no way he could have stopped: drunk or sober.
5. The little girl suffered only bruises and some light superficial injuries.
6. Mr.Body's wife had left him two days before.
7. Six months later, it was clear that the girl suffered from after-effects of the accident and would suffer for many years.
8. Mr. Body had never previously received any summons (привлечение к суду) for traffic offences.
9. The little girl admitted that it was all her fault.
10. The passenger in Mr.Body's car was killed outright as he went trough the windscreen.

What – in detail – would happen to you in your country if you were caught:

1. speeding in your car?
2. speeding hijacked car?
3. with a gun in your pocket?
4. breaking into the house?

Answers to THE KEY is below answers to the rest of the packet will be available next week (or possibly on the Criminal Justice Canvas Page)

THE KEY

The story began when a man called Timothy Evans was **arrested** for the murder of his wife and a baby. He was **charged with** double murder, but a short time later one of the charges was **dropped** and he was **tried for** the murder of his daughter only. During the **trial** Evans accused the man whose house he had been living in, John Christie, of the crimes, but no attention was paid to him. The **jury** found Evans **guilty** and he was **sentenced** to death. An **appeal** was turned down and he was **executed** in 1950.

Some time later, more women's bodies were discovered in Christie's house: about six. John Christie was a police's key **suspect** and they started a nationwide **hunt** for him. He was soon **apprehended**. Alleged **statements** by Christie while he was in **custody** cast doubt on the Evans hanging. When he went to **court**, Christie denied that he murdered Mrs Evans, but in private it was said that he **confessed** to that crime. His **plea** of insanity with regard to other murders was rejected and he was **convicted** of killing his wife.

Soon afterwards there was an **enquiry** into the **execution** of Timothy Evans. The **judges** decided that justice had been done and Evans had been rightly hanged. It was only in 1966 that another **enquiry** was set up. This time it was decided that Evans had probably been **innocent** and he was given a free **pardon**. Better later than never, as they say.