

NEWS ENGLISH LESSONS.com

Shoplifting increases in British recession

MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:

<http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1001/100106-shoplifting.html>

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

6th January, 2009

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1001/100106-shoplifting.html>

Latest crime figures in Britain show shoplifting jumped 30 per cent in the past year. Researchers believe this large increase is because of Britain's economic recession. Shop owners believe this figure is much higher. Stephen Robertson, head of a stores association, said: "A fifth of retailers...don't report crime because they have no confidence in the police, and two-thirds of shop thefts go unreported." Professor Martin Gill, a security expert, said: "What drives people to keep shoplifting is the belief that it's easy and they can get away with it."

Shoplifting is a big crime in many countries around the world. It is very difficult to stop. Stealing from stores is perhaps one of the easiest crimes to commit. Many shoplifters never get caught. There are many reasons why shoplifting is increasing in Britain. Rising unemployment and a squeeze on credit are two causes. Shoplifting affects everyone. We all have to pay higher prices because stores pass on the costs of stolen goods. We also spend longer at checkouts when staff remove security tags. The saddest cost is when shoplifters attack sales staff.

PHRASE MATCH

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1001/100106-shoplifting.html>

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Latest crime | a. thirds of shop thefts |
| 2. economic | b. a stores association |
| 3. head of | c. with it |
| 4. report | d. figures in Britain |
| 5. two- | e. crime |
| 6. get away | f. recession |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. very difficult | a. sales staff |
| 2. the easiest crimes to | b. of stolen goods |
| 3. Many shoplifters | c. commit |
| 4. rising | d. to stop |
| 5. pass on the costs | e. never get caught |
| 6. shoplifters attack | f. unemployment |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1001/100106-shoplifting.html>

_____ in Britain show shoplifting jumped 30 per cent in the past year. Researchers believe this large increase is because of Britain's economic recession. Shop _____ figure is much higher. Stephen Robertson, head of a stores association, said: "_____ ...don't report crime because they have no confidence in the police, and _____ thefts go unreported." Professor Martin Gill, a security expert, said: "What drives people to keep shoplifting is _____ easy and they can _____."

Shoplifting is _____ countries around the world. It is very difficult to stop. Stealing from stores is perhaps one of the easiest _____. Many shoplifters never get caught. There are many reasons why shoplifting is increasing in Britain. Rising unemployment and a _____ are two causes. Shoplifting affects everyone. We all have to pay higher prices because stores _____ of stolen goods. We also _____ checkouts when staff remove security tags. The _____ when shoplifters attack sales staff.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1001/100106-shoplifting.html>

Latest crime (1) _____ in Britain show shoplifting jumped 30 per cent in the past year. Researchers (2) _____ this large increase is because of Britain's economic recession. Shop owners believe this figure is much higher. Stephen Robertson, head of a stores association, said: "A (3) _____ of retailers...don't report crime because they have no confidence in the police, and two-thirds of shop thefts (4) _____ unreported." Professor Martin Gill, a security expert, said: "What drives people to keep shoplifting is the belief that it's easy and they can get (5) _____ with it."

Shoplifting is a big (6) _____ in many countries around the world. It is very difficult to stop. Stealing from stores is perhaps one of the easiest crimes to commit. Many shoplifters never get (7) _____. There are many reasons why shoplifting is increasing in Britain. Rising unemployment and a squeeze (8) _____ credit are two causes. Shoplifting affects everyone. We all have to pay higher prices because stores (9) _____ on the costs of stolen goods. We also spend longer at checkouts when staff remove security tags. The saddest cost is when shoplifters attack (10) _____ staff.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. | (a) figure | (b) figured | (c) figures |
| 2. | (a) believe | (b) believes | (c) belief |
| 3. | (a) five | (b) fifth | (c) fifths |
| 4. | (a) go | (b) come | (c) be |
| 5. | (a) around | (b) about | (c) away |
| 6. | (a) crime | (b) criminal | (c) crimes |
| 7. | (a) catch | (b) catching | (c) caught |
| 8. | (a) in | (b) on | (c) an |
| 9. | (a) past | (b) pass | (c) passed |
| 10. | (a) selling | (b) sold | (c) sales |

SPELLING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1001/100106-shoplifting.html>

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. crime sfuegir
2. large cseaeinr
3. have no fdnceinceo
4. two-tsdhri of shop thefts
5. a security reextp
6. get yawa with it

Paragraph 2

7. many costeinru
8. shoplifters never get uhtagc
9. a euezqes on credit
10. pay hhgrei prices
11. remove security satg
12. lesas staff

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1001/100106-shoplifting.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () higher. Stephen Robertson, head of a stores association, said: "A fifth of retailers...don't report crime because they
- (**1**) Latest crime figures in Britain show shoplifting jumped 30 per cent in the past year. Researchers believe this large
- () expert, said: "What drives people to keep shoplifting is the belief that it's easy and they can get away with it."
- () perhaps one of the easiest crimes to commit. Many shoplifters never get caught. There are many reasons why
- () increase is because of Britain's economic recession. Shop owners believe this figure is much
- () spend longer at checkouts when staff remove security tags. The saddest cost is when shoplifters attack sales staff.
- () affects everyone. We all have to pay higher prices because stores pass on the costs of stolen goods. We also
- () have no confidence in the police, and two-thirds of shop thefts go unreported." Professor Martin Gill, a security
- () Shoplifting is a big crime in many countries around the world. It is very difficult to stop. Stealing from stores is
- () shoplifting is increasing in Britain. Rising unemployment and a squeeze on credit are two causes. Shoplifting

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. figures crime Latest Britain in.

2. owners much believe higher this figure Shop is.

3. report don't retailers of fifth A crime.

4. thirds unreported of shop Two thefts - go.

5. people keep drives to shoplifting What.

6. crime Shoplifting in is many a countries big.

7. commit crimes the One to easiest of.

8. shoplifters get Many never caught.

9. have all We prices higher pay to.

10. spend We checkouts longer also at.

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about shoplifting. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about shoplifting. Include imaginary interviews with a shoplifter who is really poor and a very rich shopping mall owner. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to a shoplifter. Ask him/her three questions about shoplifting. Give him/her three of your opinions on shoplifting. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.