

# Crime and punishment

- list of topics
- introduction
  - Our society has a set of rules.
  - some unspoken and informal, others very formal and strictly enforced by law
  - Usually, laws are not hard to follow.
  - They help our society to work without injustice.
  - However, people sometimes decide to break the rules – if they have the desire, the skills and the opportunity to do so.
  - That's when crime happens.
- motives
  - Let me outline why people commit crimes.
  - raise their social status, earn money without having to go to work
  - low self-esteem, influence of drugs
  - the circumstances – poverty
  - emotions, kill time, seek attention
- types of crimes, people who commit them (social classes)
  - poor people – shop-lifting
  - vandalism (graffiti), pickpocketing, mugging – young gangsters
  - bribery – politicians
  - criminal behaviour is more common among destitute people which are often socially excluded
  - crime = a form of revolt against the system
  - frequent crimes in the Czech Republic – fraud, domestic violence
- process of investigation
  - describe the process of investigation, trial and punishment
  - Firstly, if there are any witnesses of the crime or some people notice the crime has happened, they notify the police.
  - The police arrive and investigate the crime.
  - They examine the crime scene and collect evidence.
  - They question the witnesses and try to find and catch the criminal.
  - if arrested, they are often taken into custody and police interrogate them
  - they have to prove that the person is really guilty
  - if they fail, they often have to drop the case
- trial + judiciary
  - Afterwards, the accused is brought to trial. (2:15)
  - in the Czech Republic, central figure – judge (no jury)
  - the state is represented by public prosecutor
  - the defendant is often pleaded by an advocate
  - can be found guilty or innocent
  - can also plead guilty – this can be considered as a mitigating circumstance
  - if defendant is found innocent, they are acquitted
  - if they are found guilty, they can appeal against the verdict
  - the case then proceeds to the court of higher instance
  - we have four tiers of courts in the Czech Republic – district, regional, high and supreme courts

- forms of punishment
  - as for the punishment, there are several different forms
  - minor offences – fine
  - community service, imprisonment, house arrest, suspended sentence, life sentence, capital punishment
  - releasing on parole
  - capital punishment?
- prevention and protection
  - there are some forms of prevention
  - education, rising the standard of living
  - motivate people to follow the rules
  - exemplary punishments may help decrease criminality
  - reoffending prevention is important
  - everyone can protect themselves – locking the doors, closing windows; alarm system
  - be cautious when walking at night in the street
- my experience
  - luckily, I haven't ever been a victim of any crime
  - but a few years ago, someone stole my mum's smartphone – I think she didn't even report it to the police
- a society without crime?
  - I think this is not possible as in every society there will be some individuals revolting against it
  - breaking the rules is quite typical for people
- effectivity of legal system
  - as I see it, our legal system is quite effective
  - however, sometimes it is too slow – and the cases take long years
  - there are some crimes that are, in my opinion, punished very poorly – for example rape, child abuse or domestic violence
- crime and media
  - media can easily distort public perception of reality
  - it seems that violent crimes happen very often – they are every day on TV
  - I think that some programmes of particular TV channels spoil the image of law enforcement authorities such as police and courts
- house arrest
  - underused in the Czech Republic
  - cheaper than regular prisons
  - it should be used more as it is beneficial for the criminals and the society as a whole – they are not completely excluded from the society and the reoffending rate is lower
- cyber crime
  - as internet expanded, it became a mean of communication so it allows a variety of different crimes to happen there
  - cybersecurity is quite individual thing, everyone has to be careful
  - (personal privacy, sharing private information)

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