

## **Strong and weak opinions on crime and punishment with crime and punishment collocations**

*Make opinions on law (crime, punishment, etc) with the sentence stems below and see if your partner agrees.*

### **Useful phrases to discussing strong and weak opinions**

“That’s exactly what I would say.”

“I would go further and say that...” – “I wouldn’t go that far. I’d say that...”

“I have (almost/ exactly) the opposite opinion. I would say that...”

*Share one opinion that you agreed on with the class and see if other people have the same opinion.*

*Ask about any sentence stems that you couldn’t use, any options that you don’t understand the differences between, etc, working together to make suitable statements about law, crime, punishment, etc each time.*

*If possible without looking at the sentence stems, give similar strong and weak opinions on topics from the list on the following pages and see if your partner agrees:*

*Share one opinion that you agreed on with the class and see if other people have the same opinion.*

*Ask about any vocabulary that you couldn’t use, etc, working together to make suitable statements about law, crime, punishment, etc each time.*

### **Strong and weak opinions language speaking**

Everybody/ Virtually everybody/ Almost everybody/ The vast majority of people/ The majority of people/ Many people/ A substantial number of people/ Some people/ Few people/ Almost nobody/ Nobody + is/ are worried about/ concerned about...

I totally agree with/ I agree with/ I mostly agree with + punishing... by...

The authorities + really must/ must/ really should/ should/ should think about/ could consider/ shouldn't/ really shouldn't/ mustn't/ really mustn't + focus (a lot/ more) on...

The problem of... + would definitely be/ would almost certainly be/ would probably be/ may well be/ may be/ could possibly be/ could conceivably be + solved by/ improved by...

I fully support/ I strongly support/ I support/ I have mixed feelings about/ I oppose/ I totally oppose...

I strongly recommend/ I recommend/ I would probably recommend/ I wouldn't necessarily recommend/ I wouldn't recommend/ I can't recommend + that prisons...

Crimes (like.../ related to...)/ The crimes of... and... + are + accelerating/ rocketing/ going up dramatically/ increasing rapidly/ rising steadily/ climbing slowly/ plateauing/ remaining stable/ slowly dropping/ falling considerably/ falling quickly/ plummeting (due to...)

The main cause of/ A major cause of/ One cause of + people committing... is...

There are far more pros than cons to.../ There are more pros than cons to.../ There are slightly more pros than cons to...

Legalising/ Decriminalising/ Allowing... would be + extremely controversial/ very controversial/ fairly controversial/ slightly controversial/ uncontroversial/ totally uncontroversial (because...)

Banning... is + absolutely crucial/ incredibly important/ very important/ fairly important/ not so important/ totally unimportant.

In order to reduce... + there is no option but to/ by far the best option is to/ the best option is to/ one of the best options is to/ one option is to...

... in this country is + completely different to/ almost completely different to/ very different to/ fairly similar to/ very similar to/ almost the same as/ virtually the same as/ totally the same as + in...

The issue of... (in...) gets + far too much attention/ more than enough attention/ enough attention/ not quite enough attention/ too little attention/ much too little attention.

I expect/ predict/ forecast + that... will... in the very near future/ in the near future/ in the medium term/ in the medium to long term/ in the long term/ one day.

### **Strong and weak opinions language presentation**

*Without any help, write phrases which are similar to those below but are stronger and/ or are weaker, e.g. adding or changing words to make a phrase which is just a little stronger or only a little weaker. Versions not above may also be possible.*

- Almost everybody...
- The majority of people...
- I agree with...
- The authorities must...
- The authorities shouldn't...
- The problem of... may be...
- The problem of... could possibly be...
- I support...
- I oppose...
- I recommend...
- I wouldn't recommend...
- Crimes like... are increasing rapidly.
- A major cause of... is...
- There are more pros than cons to...
- Legalising... would be very controversial.
- Decriminalising... would be uncontroversial (because...)
- Banning... is incredibly important.
- In order to reduce... the best option is to...
- ... in this country is almost the same as...
- The issue of... (in...) gets enough attention.
- The issue of... (in...) gets too little attention.
- I expect that... will... in the near future.

Use these mixed words to help with the stronger and weaker opinions task above.

absolutely	by	conceivably	crucial	dramatically
extremely	far	main	more than	necessarily
really	strongly	totally	vast	very
virtually	well			

Check above. Other phrases are possible, so check if you wrote something different.

### Freer speaking with crime and punishment vocabulary

Give similar strong and weak opinions on topics from here and see if your partner agrees:

- affirmative action/ positive discrimination
- (car/ personal attack/ burglar) alarms
- alternative punishments/ non-prison sentences (community service, curfew, home arrest, electronic tagging, corporal punishment, etc)
- antisocial behaviour (noise offenses, drunk and disorderly, ASBOs, etc)
- appeals (to a higher court/ to the supreme court)
- bail
- bankruptcy
- banning...
- capital punishment/ the death penalty/ executions (death row, hanging, electric chair)
- *causes of crime/ reasons for crime*
- (excessive/ who decides) compensation payments
- (false/ forced/ signed/ taking into account) confessions
- corruption (bribery, collusion, nepotism, etc)
- *crime and punishment in different countries*
- crimes against humanity/ human rights violations (war crimes, ethnic cleansing, etc)
- crimes against property (vandalism, graffiti, arson, etc)
- (permanent/ accessing) criminal records
- criminology
- (workplace/ cyber-)bullying/ harassment
- dangerous driving/ reckless driving (drunk driving/ DUI, speeding, etc)
- data protection/ personal data/ privacy (fingerprints, DNA, etc)
- decriminalisation of/ legalising...
- (allowing/ controlling/ banning) demos/ riots (riot police, teargas, watercannon, etc)
- deterring crime/ crime prevention (CCTV, doorbell cameras, dashcams, speed cameras, etc)
- discrimination (racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ageism, ableism, etc)
- (no fault) divorce (alimony payments, parental rights, etc)
- domestic violence/ coercive behaviour
- (abuse of/ addiction to/ dealing in) (soft/ hard/ prescription) drugs
- *economics and crime (poverty and crime, inequality and crime, etc)*
- (use by criminals of/ authorities overriding) encryption
- (jobs for/ monitoring/ rights of/ reoffending by = recidivism by) ex-prisoners
- (political/ religious) extremism (terrorism, etc)
- *families of criminals (upbringing of criminals, punishing parents, etc)*
- family law (marriage equality/ gay marriage, pre-nuptial agreements, child protection)
- (on the spot/ speeding/ traffic) fines
- first offences

- free speech/ freedom of expression/ hate speech
- freedom of information
- (illegal) gambling (addiction) (mahjong, etc)
- guns/ firearms (for self-defence, gun licenses, concealed carrying permits, mass shootings, etc)
- (white hat) hacking
- hard labour
- immigration law (legal immigration, illegal immigration, becoming a citizen, refugees, asylum, etc)
- international law
- (length of/ recording of) interrogation/ questioning (by police)
- IP (copyright infringement, deep fakes, forgery, etc)
- (high court/ supreme court) judges
- juries (vs judges, jury duty, jury selection, etc)
- labour law (wrongful dismissal, industrial tribunals, etc)
- law firms
- (prosecution/ defence) lawyers/ attorneys/ solicitors/ barristers
- legal immunity (for politicians, diplomatic immunity, etc)
- libel/ slander
- miscarriages of justice/ mistrials/ false convictions
- (police) no-go areas
- (prosecuting/ suing) offshore companies
- organised crime (street gangs, gangsters, mafia, bike gangs, etc)
- persistent offenders
- petty crimes/ minor offences/ misdemeanours (littering, jaywalking, etc)
- piracy/ hijacking
- police brutality
- (armed/ training of/ recruitment of/ diversity of) police officers
- (open/ high security/ women's) prisons/ jails/ gaols
- private detectives/ private investigators/ PIs
- psychopaths/ serial killers
- *punishing criminals*
- rehabilitation (of drug addicts/ of prisoners)
- restorative justice (apologising to victims, etc)
- self-defence (pepper spray, Taser, etc)
- (lengths of/ shortening/ lengthening/ life/ suspended) sentences
- serious crimes (kidnapping, etc)
- (drug/ human) smuggling/ trafficking
- *solutions to crime/ reducing crime/ eliminating crime*
- (supervision of) spies/ espionage/ the secret service
- (treatment of/ press coverage of) suspects (who haven't been charged)/ the accused
- theft (bag snatching, shoplifting, mugging, pickpocketing, burglary, kleptomaniacs, etc)
- (long/ public/ televised) trials/ court cases
- violent crime (assault, manslaughter, murder, etc)
- (treatment of/ protection of) whistle-blowers
- white collar crime (fraud, tax evasion, internet scams, conmen, identity theft, etc)
- young offenders

## Crime and punishment collocations

*Without looking above, join words on the left and right of the same section below to make vocabulary related to crime and punishment.*

community  
home  
electronic  
car/ personal attack/ burglar  
corporal/ capital  
anti-  
death  
compensation  
false/ forced/ signed  
human  
(permanent/ accessing) criminal  
workplace/ cyber-  
dangerous/ reckless/ drunk  
finger-

alarms  
arrest  
bullying  
confessions  
driving  
payments  
prints  
punishment  
records  
rights violations  
penalty/ row  
service  
social behaviour  
tagging

riot  
tear  
water  
crime  
speed/ doorbell/ dashboard  
family/ international/ labour  
no fault  
alimony  
domestic  
soft/ hard/ prescription  
political/ religious  
on the spot/ speeding/ traffic  
free/ hate  
freedom of  
fire  
hard

arms  
cameras  
cannon  
divorce  
drugs  
expression/ information  
extremism  
fines  
gas  
labour  
law  
payments  
police  
prevention  
speech  
violence



copy  
high/ supreme  
jury  
wrongful  
industrial  
law  
prosecution/ defence  
legal/ diplomatic  
mis-  
(police) no-  
off-  
organised/ petty/ serious/ violent  
street/ bike  
persistent/ young  
police

brutality/ officers  
carriages of justice/ trials  
court (judges)  
crime(s)  
dismissal  
duty/ selection  
firms  
gangs  
go areas  
immunity  
lawyers/ attorneys  
offenders  
-right infringement  
shore companies  
tribunals

open/ high security/ women's  
private  
serial  
restorative  
self-  
pepper  
life/ suspended/ non-prison  
drug/ human  
bag  
shop  
pick  
(protection of) whistle  
white  
tax  
internet  
con

-blowers  
collar crime  
defence  
detectives/ investigators  
evasion  
justice  
killers  
lifting  
-men  
pocketing  
prisons/ jails/ gaols  
scams  
sentences  
smuggling/ trafficking  
snatching  
spray