

Advice issued to witnesses

INSTRUCTIONS

First copy the words below into your book. Then match them up with the 15 numbers from the article.

999

identify

fight

written

police

evidence

convicted

station

questions

effect

photographs

location

upset

serious

catch

Police figures show the overall crime rate in the UK fell in 2009. One reason may be that many criminals were 1)_____ due to evidence provided by witnesses.

Witnesses are vital in the 2)_____ against crime. Therefore the government recently issued the following advice:

Witnessing a crime

People who witness a crime may feel 3)_____ or confused and have doubts about who to speak to. The law does not state witnesses **must** contact the 4)_____ but their information could help to prevent others becoming victims.

All crimes, even less serious ones, can have a terrible 5)_____ on people living in neighbourhoods. Therefore witnesses who help the police to 6)_____ criminals are helping their community.

Reporting a crime

If a crime is underway or has just occurred, it is best to call 7)_____. If it is not an emergency, witnesses should contact the local police 8)_____. The officer answering the call will normally ask:

- the exact 9)_____ where the police are needed
- why they are needed
- the name and address of the witness although he or she is not required to give it

Giving a statement

The police may ask witnesses to give a statement. This may be a 10)_____ statement or a video-recorded account of what happened. It may be used as evidence in court but normally witnesses will attend the trial in person to answer 11)_____.

If the offence has just happened, officers may ask a witness to tour the area with them to try to 12)_____ the person responsible, or they may show the witness some 13)_____ to check if the crime suspect is a known criminal.

Giving 14)_____ in court can be frightening, so witnesses should prepare by learning a little about the process before the trial. There are also organisations which can help witnesses, particularly in the case of 15)_____ crimes.



QUESTIONS

- 1) What do police figures suggest happened in 2009?
- 2) How may people who witness a crime feel?
- 3) When a witness calls to report a crime, what information will the officer ask for?
- 4) There are two ways in which a witness statement may be taken. What are they?
- 5) Why may the police a) ask the witness to tour the area? b) show the witness some photographs?
- 6) Imagine you have seen an older women knocked to the ground and her bag stolen by two young men who run by you as they make their escape. Make a list of all the things you would do.

No.15 - Answers

NEWS ARTICLE

1. convicted 2. fight 3. upset 4. police 5. effect 6. catch 7. 999 8. station 9. location
10. written 11. questions 12. identify 13. photographs 14. evidence 15. serious

QUESTIONS

1. Police figures suggest the crime rate in the UK fell in 2009.
2. They may feel upset or confused and have doubts about who to speak to.
3. The exact location where the police are needed, why they are needed and the name and address of the witness, although he or she is not required to give it.
4. a written statement or a video-recorded account of what happened.
5. a) may tour the area to try to identify the person responsible
b) may show photographs to check if the suspect is a known criminal
6. many possible answers