

# Advice given to witnesses

## INSTRUCTIONS

First copy the words below into your book. Then match them up with the 10 numbers from the article.

999

spot

police

evidence

station

questions

photographs

upset

serious

catch

The government has issued the following advice to help people who see a crime take place.

## Witnessing a crime

People who witness a crime may feel 1)\_\_\_\_\_ or confused. The law does not state witnesses **must** contact the 2)\_\_\_\_\_ but their information could help to prevent more crimes.

All crimes can have a terrible effect on people living in neighbourhoods. Therefore witnesses who help the police to 3)\_\_\_\_\_ criminals are helping their community.

## Reporting a crime

If a crime is underway or has just occurred, it is best to call 4)\_\_\_\_\_. If it is not an emergency, witnesses should contact the local police 5)\_\_\_\_\_. The officer answering the call will normally ask:

- where the police should go to
- why the police are needed
- the name and address of the witness

## Giving a statement

The police may write down a statement from the witness. Sometimes they will record the statement on video. The statement may be used as evidence in court but normally witnesses will attend the trial to answer 6)\_\_\_\_\_.

If the offence has just happened, officers may ask a witness to tour the area with them to try to 7)\_\_\_\_\_ the person responsible. Or they may show the witness some 8)\_\_\_\_\_ to check if the crime suspect is a known criminal.

Giving 9)\_\_\_\_\_ in court can be frightening so there are organisations which can help witnesses, particularly in the case of 10)\_\_\_\_\_ crimes.



## QUESTIONS

- 1) How may people feel when they witness a crime?
- 2) When a witness calls to report a crime, what information will the officer ask for?
- 3) There are two ways in which a witness statement may be taken. What are they?
- 4) Why may the police a) ask the witness to tour the area? b) show the witness some photographs?
- 5) Imagine you have seen an older woman 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. upset
2. police
3. catch
4. 999
5. station
6. questions
7. spot
8. photographs
9. evidence
10. serious

### QUESTIONS

1. They may feel upset or confused.
3. Where the police should go to; why the police are needed; 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 spot the person responsible
  - b) may show photographs to check if the suspect is a known criminal
6. many possible answers