

Lesson 4

Crime and Punishment

All the words in this lesson may be associated with crime and punishment.

allege V. to accuse or assert before proving (To *allege* that I am guilty is easier than to convince a jury that I am guilty.)

citation N. a written summons to appear in court (Diana was annoyed by the *citation* she found on her illegally parked car.)

compulsory ADJ. required (Some governments make military service *compulsory* for all its citizens.)

confiscate V. to seize property by an authorized branch of government (A federal agent came to *confiscate* the farm to pay the back taxes.)

contempt N. angry disregard; haughty disgust (Some demonstrators showed their *contempt* for required military service by burning their draft cards.)

contraband N. illegally imported or exported goods (A tourist was arrested for attempting to smuggle *contraband* across the border.)

extortion N. the act of obtaining funds or property through force or intimidation (When practiced by public officials, *extortion* should be punished with particular severity.)

filch V. to steal (Each time Jerry passed the fruit stand he was tempted to *filch* an apple, but he never did.)

harass V. to irritate and annoy persistently (Leon believed the police were trying to *harass* him by giving him numerous tickets.)

impending ADJ. upcoming; about to occur (Because of his *impending* trial, the thief went into hiding.)

incarcerate V. to jail (The state will usually *incarcerate* people who commit violent crimes.)

indemnify V. to protect from harm, especially from financial loss (Insurance companies *indemnify* their customers against loss.)

larceny N. theft (One of our co-workers was arrested last week for *larceny*.)

malefaction N. a wrongful or evil deed (The suspect had a record of more than one *malefaction*, including burglary, arson, and robbery.)

matricide N. the killing of one's mother (Because Oedipus killed his father, Oedipus's crime was patricide, not *matricide*.)

pecuniary ADJ. having to do with money (Maria was given a *pecuniary* reward for returning the wallet she found.)

penal ADJ. concerning punishment for crime (Many prisoners study the *penal* codes to learn ways of lessening their sentences.)

perpetrate V. to carry out; to commit (The murderer never thought he would *perpetrate* so terrible a crime.)

restitution N. payment for damage done (The court orders many criminals to make *restitution* for the pain and suffering they inflict.)

waive V. to give up voluntarily (The defendant agreed to *waive* her right to a trial in exchange for her confession to a lesser charge.)