



THE POLICE

“We sleep safely in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do us harm.”

George Orwell (1903 – 1950), English author, journalist and essayist

1. The Police Discussion

1. What are some of your favourite cop dramas or police movies? How realistic do you think they are?
2. What is your opinion of the police in your country? Are they respected and trusted by people?
3. What is the role of the police? What are their main functions? Do they do a good job?
4. What are the different ways the police help people? Have you ever needed help from the police?
5. Do you think being a police officer would be a difficult job? What personal qualities should a good police officer have? Do they get paid well in your country? Would you like to be a police officer?
6. Which countries do you think have the best police forces? What makes them good? How do they compare to the police in your country?
7. If you were in charge of the police in your country, what changes would you make?
8. Why do we need the police? What would society be like if there were no police?

2. The Police Vocabulary

- **(to) stop and search** (verb, noun) – *powers given to the police to stop people in the street and search them if they suspect criminal activity.*
- **community policing** (noun), **bobby on the beat** (BrE) (noun) – *police that patrol neighbourhoods by foot and interact with the local community ("bobby" is British slang for a police officer, named after Sir Robert Peel, the founder of the Metropolitan Police Service in London).*
- **detective** (noun) – *a police officer responsible for investigating and solving crimes.*
- **public order** (noun), **riot police** (noun) – *a security situation caused by large crowds of people, such as at sporting events or protests; a special unit of the police to deal with public order situations.*
- **undercover** (adjective, adverb) – *used to describe secret or disguised work in a community or organisation in order to investigate or collect information.*
- **bodycam** (noun) – *a camera worn on a person's body to record what they do.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun)

1. After becoming a **detective**, Mark now investigates serious criminal offences such as murder and organised crime.
2. During the two years he spent **undercover** posing as a gang member, Detective Halliday collected vital evidence that led to the downfall of the gang.
3. Over the weekend, more than 100 people were **stopped and searched** in a crime hotspot in a suburb of London during which, 27 knives and other weapons were found.
4. The local authority decided that more **community policing/bobbies on the beat** could help win back the trust of local residents.
5. When the protesters and counter-protesters began fighting with each other, **riot police** were sent in to keep the two groups apart.
6. Whenever the police use their firearms, their **bodycam** footage is viewed to ensure that the use of force was justified.

The Police vocabulary comprehension questions

1. Have you ever been stopped and searched by the police? Are there any particular groups that are more likely to be stopped and searched in your country? Is this an effective strategy to combat crime?
2. How often do you see bobbies on the beat patrolling your neighbourhood? Do they interact with the local community?
3. Do you think you would make a good detective? Would you be good at finding evidence or solving cases?
4. Does your country have riot police? When are they deployed? Are they effective?
5. Do you think it would be exciting to go undercover and infiltrate a criminal gang?
6. Should all police officers have to wear bodycams at all times? Why or why not?

3. Video: Intelligence-Led Policing

You are going to watch a video by Today called "Once-Violent Camden, New Jersey, Now Seen As Model For Community Policing."

Watch the video here: <https://youenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-police/>

Multiple choice

1. When was Camden considered the most dangerous city in the US?
a) 10 years ago b) 20 years ago c) 30 years ago
2. When was the Camden Police Department disbanded?
a) 2013 b) 2014 c) 2015
3. How many murders had there been in 2012?
a) 65 b) 66 **c) 67**
4. What was Captain Zack James handing out to people?
a) free ice cream b) barbeque **c) masks**

Sentence completion

5. The Camden Police Department re-evaluated its **use of force** guidelines with an emphasis on de-escalation.
6. Under previous guidelines, the Camden Police Department would have **shot and killed** the man carrying a knife.
7. Since 2014, excessive force complaints had dropped by **95%**.
8. A police officer who repeatedly punched a man on the ground was **fired**.

Short answer

9. The former police chief said that by focusing on the use of force and de-escalation, the police could become what, as opposed to enforcers? **Guardians**
10. What ethnicity are more than 90% of the police force? **White**
11. What does every police officer in the Camden Police Department wear? **A bodycam**
12. Whenever there is a use of force incident, who reviews the video? **The commanding officer**

4. The Police Conversation Questions

1. Have you ever had a problem with the police? Why do some people criticise the police?
2. Why might some people be scared of the police? Is police violence a problem in your country? Should police officers carry guns? Why or why not?
3. Would you always call the police if you were a victim of, or witness to, a crime? When wouldn't you call the police?
4. How might the police become involved in corruption? Who watches the watchmen? Who are the police accountable to?
5. How do some governments use the police to further their own interests or the interests of their friends? How do some governments use the police to control people?
6. Do you think the police has a problem with racism in your country? In the United States, some people are calling for the police to be "defunded" in response to the problem of racism. Do you think this would be a good idea? Would it solve the problem of racism?
7. How will policing be different in the future? What kind of technology will help the police do their jobs? Does this cause you any concern?
8. Who has the most responsibility for tackling crime: the police or the government? Why?

5. The Police Writing Task

Write about your opinion of the police in your country. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, include the following topics:

- How difficult it is for the police to do their job.
- Any problems associated with the police in your country.
- What you would change about policing in your country.

Alternative exam essay question

Many people in the United States have called for the police to be "defunded" in order to solve the problem of racism. Do you agree with this as a way to reduce racism in the police?