

THROUGH THEIR EYES

Theft

POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

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Stealing, What does this mean?

Theft is taking someone's property, without the use of force
Burglary is illegally entering a property to steal something from it
Robbery is stealing from a person using force or threatening to use force

The Theft Act 1968

A person is guilty of theft, if he dishonestly appropriates property belonging to another with the intention of permanently depriving the other of it.

What are the key words in this definition?

"dishonestly": the taking of property that you know is not yours and you can't have.

"appropriates": having taken the property, you say and act as if it is yours.

"property": includes items, money, land, and other intangible property, like time.

"belonging to another": items bought by, owned by inheritance, controlled by another.

"with the intention of permanently depriving the other of it:": if the intention is to treat the property item as one's own.

What are other words for theft? What do these words mean?

Pilfer: This refers to stealing something in very small amounts, over and over again, in the hope nobody notices what is missing.

Swipe: tends to be used when something is quickly grabbed, with a sweeping motion of the hand, and without premeditation, it is often said about opportunistic stealing.

Filce: This is less used now, it means to steal secretly or casually, snatching something quickly.

Appropriate: Appropriate usually means the right thing for the occasion, such as appropriate footwear or clothes or behaviour. When it is used about stealing, it is used as a verb, to appropriate is using or borrowing something belonging to another.

Commandeer: Tends to be used about seizing control of something. When you commandeer something you take it, may be forcibly, even though it is not yours.

Purloin: This is often used about taking something that is hidden but not guarded, whereby it is not noticed it has gone.

Heist: It comes from the word hoist which is to lift up or raise. This is a much loved word in action films about armed robbery, remember Ocean's Eleven. It is used when what is taken is valuable and requires a lot of effort to take it.

Embezzle: This is a specialist word. It refers to the fraudulent taking of funds of money/shares that had been entrusted to that person's care and management.

Hijack: This used to refer to taking any items in transit by car, train, boat, plane, by threat or force. It is now also used to refer to forcing a pilot of a plane to fly to an unintended destination, skyjacking, or taking a vehicle that is not yours, carjacking.

Plagiarise: This refers to taking the intellectual work of another person, and saying that the ideas and words are your own and not crediting the person or the source they came from.

Can you think of another word?

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The pressure builds on Evie

She talks about:

"There is no way I could ever get that stuff"

"I feel like everyday, there is a new 'brand or product'....it never ends"

"I wish I had more.. I would feel better about myself if I had more"

What might your fears be for Evie? Ideas such as:

She continues to feel out of it and becomes more miserable.

She avoids her friends because she can't keep up with them.

She feels she is unlovely and her self esteem sinks.

She considers self-harming.

She falls out with her mum and her sister.

She thinks about stealing money or makeup to get what she wants.

What could Evie do to feel better?

She could try to listen less to Lara.

She could talk to Holly away from Lara, about how she is feeling.

She could try sometimes to change the subject of their talk.

She could use some of her time, to spend time with other people, make more friends.

She could avoid going shopping with Lara, so there is less pressure to spend.

She could tell her mum or a trusted adult at school, how she is feeling.

Is Lara a good friend to have?

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Evie steals and makes excuses. She says it is not like stealing. Is she right?

"I got to thinking....there was loads of stuff there"

"there is no-one watching you"

"you can just pick up the stuff you want"

"what's to stop me"

"I can buy one thing,but pick up more and pocket it"

"It's not like they would miss the stuff"

"The stuff doesn't belong to anyone, they are just selling it"

She admits that she felt bad after she took stuff

"It's not like you've hurt someone, what does it matter"

**What do you think about how likely she is to do it again?
Why do you say that?**

She feels better about herself, after Holly said that her eye makeup looked fab.

She has started to think about what else she wants to have.

She has done it once, that was the biggest step.

She thinks she can get away with this, that she won't be seen.

She thinks that it is an easy thing to do in a large shop where people chose the items they want and take them to the till/checkout.

If she doesn't see this as stealing, as illegal whereby she is committing a crime, she may not feel it matters.

What do you think about whether Evie will do it again and why?

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How does the Manager of the shop view Evie's stealing?

He refers to shoplifting/ pilfering...
"she is taking items and not paying for them."

He refers to it happening a few times.

He is very clear *"this is stealing. It can't go on."*

He is concerned for Evie, *"It will be better for her that she does not develop a habit"*

How does PC Tennant, the School's Liaison Officer view Evie's stealing?

The Headteacher tells the Police Officer that Evie has admitted taking items from the shop.

The Manager told the Police that it is the policy of the firm that shop-lifters are prosecuted.

The Police Officer tells Evie and her mum that she is well over the age at which she is responsible in law for what she has done.

She has admitted stealing and been caught on CCTV committing theft.

Will Evie be charged with the offence of theft? What do you think? What will the Police do?

Young people between 10 years and 17 years can be arrested and taken to court if they commit a crime.

It is not likely that this will happen to Evie:

- She has admitted what she did.
- She has her mother supporting her to speak to the Police.
- This is the first time she has been caught, albeit that she has done it a few times.
- She is clearly sorry.

If the shop insists on there being a consequence, the Police would suggest a Community Resolution Order. This would depend on an admission of the offence. The Police must also consider the incident to be an isolated one. This means it is not seen by the Police as part of a pattern of behaviour. There must be an agreement between the Police and the young person which may involve: making an apology to the shop manager; returning the items to the shop; not offending again. This would then be on a person's record for 12 months, after which it would disappear. If you have had a Community Resolution Order once, you can't have another within 12 months.

Why do the Police prefer not to charge young people?