Unit 18  Long walk to freedom

Words and expressions related to crime and punishment

Learn the expressions

1. In this unit, we learned some vocabulary related to the life of a prisoner. Let’s now look at words and expressions related to the criminal justice system. Read the sentences, paying close attention to the boldfaced words and expressions. Choose the best completion for each sentence, a, b, or c. Check your answers in the answer key on the next page.

1. Someone who is **doing time** is _____.
   a. hiding from the police
   b. in prison
   c. breaking the law

2. After someone is **acquitted** of a crime, he or she _____.
   a. goes to prison
   b. goes free
   c. goes on trial

3. A **convict** is someone who is _____.
   a. in jail
   b. awaiting trial
   c. innocent

4. A **penitentiary** is a_____.
   a. courthouse
   b. jail
   c. police precinct

5. If someone is **convicted** of a serious crime, he or she will probably _____.
   a. go to prison
   b. go free
   c. go on trial

6. If you **bail someone out**, you _____.
   a. report the person to the police and collect a reward
   b. pay money so that the person can remain free while awaiting trial
   c. help the person escape from the police before a trial

7. A **suspect** is someone who _____.
   a. may be guilty of a crime
   b. committed a crime
   c. is going to break the law

8. When someone is **indicted**, he or she is _____.
   a. found innocent of a crime
   b. charged with a crime
   c. found guilty of a crime
9. When the defense loses its case, it can **appeal**, which means _____.
   a. speak to the judge in private
   b. change its argument
   c. ask a higher court to change the decision

10. If someone is **on parole**, he or she is _____.
    a. allowed to leave prison early under some conditions
    b. forgiven for his or her crime
    c. found innocent of a serious crime

**Answer Key**
1. b; 2. b; 3. a; 4. b; 5. a; 6. b; 7. a; 8. b; 9. c; 10. a
Use the expressions

2 Complete the conversations with the appropriate form of the words and expressions in the box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>penitentiary</th>
<th>indict</th>
<th>on parole</th>
<th>suspect</th>
<th>convict (verb)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

A: Somebody tried to rob the toy store on Eighth Avenue last night.
B: Really? Do the police have any (1) _____________ yet?
A: They do. In fact, they’ve (2) _____________ two individuals already.
B: That was fast. How did they get them?
A: It was easy. The thieves got into the store and started playing video games. The thing is, they were still playing when the store opened in the morning.
B: Real professionals, I see.
A: It wasn’t their first time, anyway. Two years ago, they were (3) _____________ of a crime—robbing a store—and given a three-year sentence at a federal (4) _____________. They had been released just last week.
B: Oh, so they were (5) _____________.
A: That’s right, but I guess that’s over now.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>bail her out</th>
<th>acquit</th>
<th>appeal</th>
<th>convict (noun)</th>
<th>do time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

A: Do you remember Sally Jenkins?
B: Yes. Wasn’t she traveling through Europe for a long time?
A: Traveling? No. She was (6) _____________ for shoplifting.
B: Sally a (7) _____________? I just can’t picture her in jail.
A: Neither could her family. They were so upset that they didn’t want to (8) _____________, so she had to spend some time in jail before the trial. She was found guilty, but her lawyer (9) _____________, and the case was tried again in another court. She was lucky this time because the jury found her not guilty and she was (10) _____________.
B: Wow! That’s not my idea of a European adventure.

Make the expressions your own

3 Think about the news in the past few months. Use the following expressions to describe real people in the news. Explain the situation.

1. _____________ was suspected of a crime.
2. _____________ was convicted of a crime.
3. _____________ was acquitted of a crime.