



Level: B2, C1

YOU'RE THE JUDGE

Teaching Point:
Speaking

Theme: Crime

Activity: Group
discussion

PROCEDURE

1. Write the word **judge** on the board. Ask the class to explain what a judge is and does. Elicit words relating to crime and courtrooms, e.g. court, lawyer, case, guilty, sentence, prison, murder...
2. Explain to the students that in today's lesson, they are going to be judges.
3. Put the students in groups of 3 or 4 and give out the worksheets. Ask the students to read the worksheet and help each other to understand the meanings. Here are some words they may have difficulty with.

badly hurt; case; court; dictator; false passport; guilty; homeless; missionary; murdered; overdose; pharmaceutical company; pirate; poison; prison; real identity; rescue; sentence; set fire to

4. Now tell the students to put the five cases in order – which person should receive the longest sentence, and which one should receive the shortest sentence. They should try to agree together. If they disagree, they should try to persuade each other or reach a compromise.
5. Change the groups, so that students are now sitting with students from other groups. Ask them to report the results of their discussions and see if there are any differences.
6. Finally, you could extend this to a whole class discussion:
 - Which cases seem to lead to the biggest differences of opinion?
 - Are there any similar real-life cases in the news at the moment?

This activity is based on an idea in *Challenge to Think* by Christine Frank, Mario Rinvoluti and Marge Berer (OUP 1982).

YOU'RE THE JUDGE

Put these cases in order – which person should receive the longest sentence and which person should receive the shortest? You may also decide to free the person, or give them a punishment other than prison.

Case 1

A doctor gave a morphine overdose to an old man and he died. The man had asked the doctor to do this. He wasn't able to move his arms and legs. He was alone in the world and didn't want to live – his wife had died the previous year.

Case 2

20 years ago a dictator from a country in Latin America ordered for some missionaries to be murdered. Five of the missionaries were from your country. The dictator arrived in your country with a false passport, but Interpol informed your police about his real identity.

Case 3

A mother gave her baby some medicine which contained poison, and the baby died. The pharmaceutical company had sold the medicine after a mistake in the production process. The mother was angry and set fire to the main offices of the company one night. A cleaner was badly hurt in the fire.

Case 4

Two teenage boys killed a homeless person who was sleeping on a park bench. They put petrol over him and set him on fire. The person who is in your court today is an adult who was in the park that night. He watched the teenage boys and didn't do anything to stop them.

Case 5

A group of pirates boarded a fishing ship from your country off the coast of Africa. They killed one of the sailors as they climbed onto the ship. The group kept the rest of the sailors locked in a cabin and asked for 50 million dollars for their release. A war ship was sent to Africa to rescue the sailors. One of the pirates was caught and is now in court.