

Barking dogs and CCTV best burglar deterrents

Level 1 • Pre-intermediate / Intermediate

1 Warmer

Put these ways of protecting your home from burglars in order from 1 (most effective) to 5 (least effective).

- | | |
|----------|-------------------|
| 1. _____ | a. TV switched on |
| 2. _____ | b. CCTV camera |
| 3. _____ | c. burglar alarm |
| 4. _____ | d. barking dogs |
| 5. _____ | e. locked windows |

2 Key words

Complete the sentences using these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers will help you.

jewellery

break in

burglar

drive

theft

- A _____ is someone who enters a building illegally to steal something. (para 1)
- If you _____ to a building, you enter it by force to steal something. (para 1)
- _____ is the crime of stealing something. (para 2)
- A _____ is a wide path for a car that joins someone's house to a street. (para 3)
- Necklaces, earrings and rings are all examples of _____. (para 3)

boast

security

shell suit

myth

no-no

- _____ is safety from attack, harm or damage. (para 4)
- If you _____ about something such as your achievements or possessions, you talk about them in a proud way that annoys other people. (para 6)
- A _____ is something that most people think you should not do. (para 6)
- A _____ is something that people wrongly believe to be true. (para 7)
- A _____ is a cheap tracksuit made of thin material and worn as ordinary clothes. (para 7)

3 Find the information

Find the following information as quickly as possible.

- According to the group of ex-burglars, what is the most effective way to prevent home burglaries?
- What are burglars most interested in stealing?
- How many people took part in the survey?
- What percentage of people in the survey left their doors unlocked while at home?
- How many Instagram followers does footballer John Terry have?
- How many robberies has Noel Smith carried out?

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Former burglars say barking dogs and CCTV are best deterrent

Rebecca Smithers

18 August, 2017

- 1 A group of ex-criminals have said that CCTV cameras and barking dogs are the best ways to stop burglars breaking into homes. Nearly half of the 12 ex-burglars questioned by Co-op Insurance said most thieves would avoid difficult break-ins that would probably attract attention.
- 2 The most effective ways to stop home burglaries and car theft were CCTV cameras, the ex-burglars said. They also said other things that would stop them breaking into a home are loud barking dogs, strong heavy doors, a TV being switched on and locked windows. But burglar alarms were only number 13 on their list of things that would stop them.
- 3 With cars, street lighting, a car alarm and a car parked on a drive would all probably stop thieves trying to steal them. In order of importance, burglars look for cash, jewellery, electrical equipment such as TVs, phones and tablets, laptops and car keys, the ex-burglars said.
- 4 Co-op Insurance also asked 2,000 people in the UK about their home and car security. It found that 28% of adults did nothing to protect their home. Fifty-five per cent of people in the survey slept with their windows open at night, 24% left their doors unlocked while at home and 12% left their garden gates open. A fifth of people said they posted photographs online showing they were on holiday, without realizing that this told burglars that their house was empty.
- 5 In July, 2017, a court in London heard how burglars stole £400,000 of jewellery and designer goods from former England footballer John Terry's home after he posted a photo of his skiing holiday on social media. He took pictures with his family in February, telling his 3.4 million Instagram followers that he was having a "great few days skiing with the family".
- 6 Former bank robber Noel Smith, who has carried out more than 200 robberies and spent a total of 32 years in prison, said: "Boasting about your holidays on social media is an absolute no-no. It's just saying 'come and burgle my house'. Organized gangs love this. Most burglars want to be in and out of a house in less than five minutes. But there are some very simple steps everyone can take to make their homes more secure and keep their stuff safe."
- 7 He said friendly neighbours could help by noticing any unusual behaviour by strangers. "It's a myth that burglars all wear shell suits and trainers," Smith said. "Today's burglars may be difficult to recognize – smartly dressed in suits, carrying briefcases or even wearing high-visibility jackets." Eleven of the 12 ex-burglars said they would not burgle a home protected by smart technology; eight said they would not try to break into cars protected by smart technology.
- 8 Only 5% of adults in the survey have bought smart technology for their homes and cars. The ex-burglars also said that security lights that turn on when somebody moves were very effective but just 24% of people in the survey had bought these lights.
- 9 Caroline Hunter, head of home insurance at Co-op, said: "It is a horrible experience when your home is burgled but there are some small things that people should do to help to stop burglaries." Lynn Farrar of Neighbourhood Watch added: "Of course, break-ins happen and this study shows the need for better home security."

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4 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings and endings to make statements about the text.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. It is not a good idea to post pictures of your holiday while you are on holiday ... | a. ... by noticing any unusual behaviour by strangers. |
| 2. Leaving your door unlocked while you are at home ... | b. ... that security lights were an effective way of protecting your home. |
| 3. Your neighbours can help you ... | c. ... these days, they may be smartly dressed. |
| 4. Many people think burglars wear shell suits and trainers but, ... | d. ... because burglars will know that you are not at home and your house is empty. |
| 5. The ex-burglars thought ... | e. ... barking dogs. |
| 6. Burglars do not like ... | f. ... is an invitation to thieves to burgle your house. |

5 Chunks

Rearrange the words to make phrases from the text.

- ins difficult avoid break-
- effective the ways most
- great a having days few
- five in less minutes than
- difficult recognize may to be
- order of importance in

6 Two-word phrases

Match the words in the left-hand column with those in the right-hand column to make expressions from the text.

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. designer | a. technology |
| 2. organized | b. insurance |
| 3. burglar | c. goods |
| 4. smart | d. gang |
| 5. street | e. alarm |
| 6. home | f. lighting |

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7 Word-building

Complete the table.

	crime	criminal	verb
1.	burglary		
2.	robbery		
3.		thief	steal

8 Discussion

- What do you do at home to stop burglars breaking in?
- Are you worried about burglars? Why? Why not?

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KEY

1 Warmer

Teacher's note: The answers can be found in the text. Students could check their answers by scanning the text.

1. b
2. d
3. a
4. e
5. c

2 Key words

1. burglar
2. break in
3. theft
4. drive
5. jewellery
6. security
7. boast
8. no-no
9. myth
10. shell suit

3 Find the information

1. CCTV cameras
2. cash
3. 2,000
4. 24%
5. 3.4 million
6. more than 200

4 Comprehension check

1. d
2. f
3. a
4. c
5. b
6. e

5 Chunks

1. avoid difficult break-ins
2. the most effective ways
3. having a great few days
4. in less than five minutes
5. may be difficult to recognize
6. in order of importance

6 Two-word phrases

1. c
2. d
3. e
4. a
5. f
6. b

7 Word-building

1. burglar; burgle
2. robber; rob
3. theft