

Is stealing right or wrong?

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Level: intermediate to advanced

Aims: Reading and speaking.

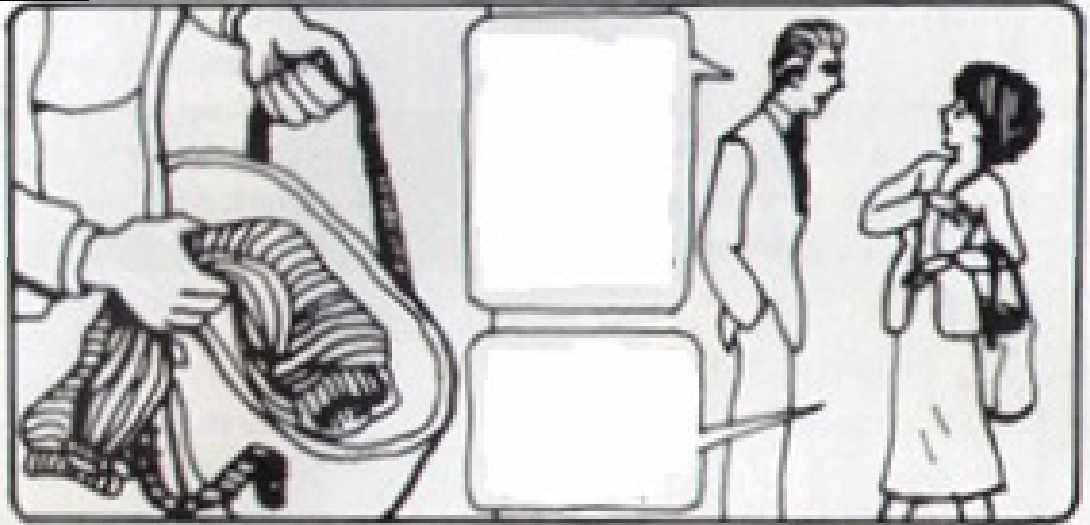
Materials: hand outs and white board

Time: 60 to 80 min

Procedure:

1. Explain what shoplifting is
2. Write these questions on the board and have students ask these questions to each other.
 - ***As a teenager, did you ever shoplift?***
 - ***Have you ever stolen anything?***
 - ***Have you ever seen anyone stealing anything from a department store?***
 - ***Do you know of someone who shoplifts often?***
 - ***Is it ever right to shoplift from department stores?***
3. Elicit what the consequences of shoplifting are.
4. Hand in a copy of appendix 1 and have students in pairs create their dialogs
5. Have students read aloud their dialogs in pairs. If necessary (or have time) read the real conversation Appendix 2
6. Elicit information about shoplifting who, what, where, why and what happens to shoplifters
7. Divide class in groups of three and number students, 1, 2, 3
8. Hand in a copy of reading in parts question 1 for person 1, question 2 for person 2 and 3 for person 3 (appendix 3)
9. Have students read and ask questions about new vocabulary
10. Have students explain in groups of 1, 2, 3 to each other what they read about.
11. Ask some comprehension questions.
12. Role play = Hand in role play cards (appendix 4) and have students interact in trios

**I'm
Going to
Have to
Report
This.**



I'm Going to Have to Report This.



Appendix 3

Shoplifting

1. Who Shoplifts?

There's no typical shoplifter — people who steal from stores can be any age, race, gender, and social and economic background. Shoplifters generally fall into two categories:

Professional shoplifters. These people usually take expensive items, like clothing and jewelry, that they can resell easily.

Amateur or casual shoplifters. Most shoplifters are in this group. Casual shoplifters don't usually go into a store with the intention of stealing — they simply see the opportunity to take something and do.

Many people assume that shoplifters have a mental disorder or that they must really need the items they are stealing in order to survive. But the truth is that's not why most people steal. Very few people have kleptomania (a compulsive urge to steal), and many people who steal have enough money to pay for the items.

Someone might shoplift for many reasons. But there's no way around the fact that shoplifting is stealing — and in most places there are heavy penalties for it, including being arrested and possibly charged with a crime.

Some people may not realize how serious shoplifting can be — what might seem like an innocent prank can actually affect a person's future, including the chances of getting a job. Lots of teens find out the hard way that stores take shoplifting very seriously.

2. Why Do Some Teens Shoplift?

Peer pressure is one reason why people shoplift. Some might do it to seem cool or daring. Some do it because their friends shoplift and they want to be part of the group. Some people shoplift because they want things their classmates have but can't afford them.

Some people shoplift to see what they can get away with. They may do it as a way to challenge authority or be nonconformist. Or they may get a rush out of doing something risky that has the potential to get them in serious trouble. Others do it as a way to get attention from parents or friends.

A few people shoplift because they see it as a way of getting back at a store they don't like or a company whose values they question. But shoplifting rarely affects the store as much as it affects the people who shop there. Some stores may add

the cost of shoplifting into their prices. So the people shopping there are the ones paying extra, not the stores.

3. *What Happens to Shoplifters?*

Getting caught shoplifting can be a lot more serious than people may think. Some of the things that can happen to shoplifters are:

They may be arrested and paraded through a store in handcuffs.

They may face charges for theft.

They may be banned from stores or malls.

People who have been arrested for shoplifting — especially if it's more than once — may end up with a criminal record. This can make it harder to get a job, get into college, or do the other things they want.

Even if people who shoplift aren't prosecuted, their names can end up on a national database that some companies look at when making hiring decisions.

People don't have to get caught for shoplifting to affect their lives. Some people may feel guilty or ashamed of what they've done. It can cost the person self-respect or the respect of others. Sometimes people lose friends who decide they don't want to be close to someone who doesn't have the same values.

Reviewed by: [D'Arcy Lyness, PhD](#)

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http://kidshealth.org/teen/school_jobs/good_friends/shoplifting.html

Appendix 4

Role play

1A

You are an old woman on a visit to the Prado museum in Madrid, and while no-one was looking you stuffed a small sketch by Picasso into your shopping bag. You are very scared.

1B

You are a security guard in the Prado museum in Madrid, and you suspect an old woman of stuffing a small sketch by Picasso into her shopping bag while you weren't looking.

1C

You are the chief security guard in the Prado museum in Madrid.

2A

You have gone to Wal-mart to steal a couple of CDs because you knew one of the checkout girls at school and you reckon she won't say anything even if she notices.

2B

You work on the checkout in Wal-mart and an old school friend has obviously got something stuffed under his jumper. You don't want to say anything, but you can see your boss coming your way...

2C

You are the manager of the local branch of Wal-mart. You can see that there is something suspicious going on at one of the checkouts and have gone over to see what it is.

3A

You are an alcoholic with no money and have just managed to get a bottle of whisky into your bag without anyone noticing in a liquor store.

3B

You work in a liquor store and you think you have just seen one of the local drunks hide something in their bag.

3C

You are the manager of a liquor store and have just seen your father, who has a severe drinking problem, come into the shop.