

REFERENCE E-BOOK

***Present-day English constructions
for speaking / writing***

Thematic section

CRIME-CONSTRUCTIONS

Immediate constructions (in bold-type) are word combinations with the dependent units on the left and on the right.

Extended constructions (underlined in the examples) include the immediate constructions into an utterance or text.

CONSTRUCTIONS FOR SPEAKING / WRITING ABOUT CRIME

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SPEAKING / WRITING ABOUT A CRIME AND ITS PARTIES

* **commit-constructions**

Harold Shipman, a bearded and bespectacled small-town doctor with a charming bedside manner, made at least two mistakes when he **committed** his last murder.

<http://www.newsweek.com/britains-dr-death-162521>

Aren't you supposed to **commit** a crime to go to jail?

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-40182123>

There will always be those who think they can **commit** the perfect murder.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0214px7>

Michelle Carter, 20, a Massachusetts woman, was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter after she encouraged her boyfriend to **commit** suicide by text message and phone call.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-us-canada-40307211/how-text-messages-led-to-a-suicide>

With unique access to Nathon, his family and the police who attended the crime scene, "I Shot My Parents" unpicks what happened on the night of the shootings and asks what led a boy from a seemingly normal middle-class family to attempt to **commit** such an unimaginable crime.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04yj4x6>

* **perpetrator-constructions**

If a **suspect** is convicted in court, a victim statement can be read out before sentencing – as well as later at a parole hearing.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-38667992>

Police did launch an inquiry six months before Shipman's arrest, but the case was dropped for lack of evidence even before the **suspect** was questioned.

After a 59-day trial that ended last week, Shipman has emerged as one of Britain's most prolific **serial killers**.

<http://www.newsweek.com/britains-dr-death-162521>

Many advocates say laws in California and elsewhere offer outdated definitions of rape that are too lenient on **perpetrators** if they or their victims have been drinking.

<http://europe.newsweek.com/stanford-rape-brock-turner-tough-laws-proposals-jerry-brown-california-495168?rm=eu>

She added: "There are laws in place to protect the rights of offenders – but nothing to protect the rights of victims."

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-38667992>

It was not long before someone from the village spotted the culprit at the market in the nearby town of Hoima, and dragged him back to account for the missing money.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35106294>

* **victim-constructions**

The charge sheet against him listed 15 middle-aged or elderly victims – all women, few seriously ill.

<http://www.newsweek.com/britains-dr-death-162521>

All crime victims 'should get court statement opportunity'

All victims of crime should be given the chance to make a statement in court about the impact the offence has had on their lives.

Baroness Newlove said 15% of victims had been given the opportunity to make a victim statement in 2015/16.

The Ministry of Justice said it will spend £70m helping victims this year.

As part of an official code of practice, every victim who reports a crime is entitled to write a statement about how the offence has affected their life.

If a suspect is convicted in court, a victim statement can be read out before sentencing – as well as later at a parole hearing.

However, in a report about the situation in England and Wales, Baroness Newlove said victims had been given the chance of making statements in only 15% of cases.

The right of victims to make a statement should be enshrined in law, the commissioner added, with sanctions for police and other agencies if they did not offer the service.

"No-one can claim that victims are 'at the heart of the criminal justice system' when these figures suggest that the Victims' Code is no more than a wish list," she added.

"More needs to be done to support victims of crime."

The government has allocated £67.85m to Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) in 2016/17, and again in 2017/18, to support victims of crime, the spokesman said.

"It is vital that blameless victims see swift and certain justice, which is why we have protected the victims' budget and given PCCs almost £70m to support **victims** in their areas.

"We have long committed to strengthening victims' rights, to ensure the most vulnerable get the support they deserve," the spokesman added.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-38667992>

The truth was that not only was there no gun, there was no victim.

In this case an Italian priest went to Mpagi's village and verified that his "victim" was still alive.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35106294>

SPEAKING / WRITING ABOUT CRIME INVESTIGATION

*** police-constructions**

But police have opened investigations on more than 120 other deaths that may be connected to the 54-year-old doctor.

Police did launch an inquiry six months before Shipman's arrest, but the case was dropped for lack of evidence even before **the suspect** was questioned.

<http://www.newsweek.com/britains-dr-death-162521>

They were not wearing uniforms, so he did not realise at first that it was the police, but then they pulled out the handcuffs.

When the police came the next day, they arrested the matron but, as chairman, Henry was also held responsible.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35106294>

*** handcuffs-constructions**

They were not wearing uniforms, so he did not realise at first that it was the police, but then they pulled out the handcuffs.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35106294>

A man has escaped in handcuffs from police as they tried to put him in their car.

The force said he would not be able to take off the handcuffs by himself.

Det Supt Mick Orr said: "Anybody offering this man help to remove the handcuffs could be leaving themselves open to prosecution."

Police said Mr Rogers, who has links to Chigwell as well as Waltham Abbey, was wearing handcuffs and grey shorts, a polo top, purple socks, white trainers and has short brown hair.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-37076521>

*** witness-constructions**

No witnesses were called to defend him, and he himself was not asked to testify.

Like Henry, no witnesses were called for his defence.

In Uganda, groups of up to 40 cases are scheduled at the same time for efficiency – that way if witnesses haven't appeared for one trial, the court can get on with the next one.

To corroborate their statements, the lawyers also paid for **witnesses** to travel to the remand centre.

Worryingly, while at court, Henry's father had seen one of her **witnesses** accept a bribe, while being told to put the blame on Henry.

It also means **witnesses** can't be bribed.

"By the time the case comes up, **witnesses** either have died or relocated and are no longer interested in testifying," says the director of public prosecutions, Mike Chibita.

No **witnesses** need to be called, so court cases can be concluded in an hour rather than the usual three months.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35106294>

SPEAKING / WRITING ABOUT TRIALS

* **accuse/ charge - constructions**

The schoolboy wrongly **accused** of two murders

Ugandan schoolboy Tumusiime Henry was 15 when he was **accused** of murder the first time. While he waited almost two years for the trial to begin he was **accused** of a second murder.

Another girl had given birth to a sick baby and was **accused** of murder when it died.

Before arriving in Ihungu, the Americans had been nervous about meeting this boy **accused** of two murders, but he was nothing like what they expected.

Eighteen months after being taken from his classroom, he was now **charged** with two murders and began to feel he would never be released.

Some of the teenagers didn't even know what they were **charged** with.

The first **charge** – the killing of Imanriho – was dismissed immediately.

Henry's father and brother were free to go, but Henry had to return to the remand centre until the conclusion of his other trial, on the **charge** of murdering Innocent.

When Mpagi stood before the High Court judge, he was horrified to hear that the **charge** was murder, not robbery.

All of the charges against you have been dismissed.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35106294>

He was **charged** with sexual assault instead of rape because although he digitally penetrated the woman, he did not have intercourse with her, and California law does not define that as rape.

<http://europe.newsweek.com/stanford-rape-brock-turner-tough-laws-proposals-jerry-brown-california-495168?rm=eu>

The **charge** sheet against him listed 15 middle-aged or elderly victims – all women, few seriously ill.

<http://www.newsweek.com/britains-dr-death-162521>

*court-constructions

On the day of the verdict, 22 April 2010, the court found both parties guilty of murder.

Henry had been examined twice already, but this time the court said he had to be seen by a police doctor.

Birth records in Uganda are not always reliable, so courts ask doctors to determine the age of a defendant.

The idea of plea bargaining was originally suggested by two students from Pepperdine in 2009 and when Gash was in Uganda to prepare Henry's pre-sentencing report it was raised again, by a High Court judge.

When Mpagi stood before the High Court judge, he was horrified to hear that the charge was murder, not robbery.

Then he discovered there was a provision in Ugandan law that allowed visiting lawyers to act for a client, as long as they were supported by a Ugandan lawyer. It had only been done once before, with a lawyer from Kenya.

Gash represented him and became the first American lawyer ever to plead a case in a Ugandan court.

"I want to extend my appreciation for having been represented by a very good, perfect lawyer," said a beaming Henry.

But then he met an American lawyer who slowly realised it was up to him to come to the rescue of an innocent teenager.

Then in January 2010 some American lawyers arrived in Ihungu.

The lawyers then called the headmaster, who confirmed the story.

Between interviews, the lawyers would chat and play football with the boys.

For his second trial Henry shared a lawyer with his co-accused, the matron, Mpairwe.

More worrying still was the defence lawyer's strategy – because Henry was only 17, he could get no more than three years for a capital offence, so the lawyer decided to focus on defending his other client, who faced the maximum penalty.

"The lawyer told me not to defend myself and told Rose to defend herself," says Henry.

"I was really confused. I was trusting him as my lawyer but I was very concerned."

It then turned out that the lawyer intended to lay all the blame on Henry – it was her word against his.

The two young men spent a year on remand in the local prison during which time they only met their lawyer twice.

"There was one kid who spoke a language that only one other kid spoke, so I would ask Henry in English and then he would interpret into this other language and then that boy would interpret into the native language of the defendant," says Gash.

A group of 90 villagers wrote to **the attorney general** to confirm that no murder had taken place, but years passed before he finally received a presidential pardon.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35106294>

The criticism of Santa Clara County Superior Court **Judge** Aaron Persky's sentence in the Turner case has been fierce, generating more than a million signatures on an online petition calling for his ouster and prompting a recall campaign.

Since the sentencing, the **judge**, who declined to comment for this story, **has recused himself from a sexual assault case** and asked to hear only civil cases.

The recall campaign and legislative responses have come under fire from many public **defenders**, who represent **defendants** unable to afford legal fees, and some **judges**, who say they limit judges' discretion when handling cases.

The Turner case initially shot to prominence last year because the **defendant** was a **rising student athlete** at Stanford.

In June, Persky sentenced Turner to six months in a county jail and three years probation, sparking outrage that intensified after **prosecutors** released a letter written by Turner's father calling the assault "20 minutes of action."

"**Judge** Persky's ruling was unjustifiable and morally wrong, however, under current state law it was within his discretion," Low said.

<http://europe.newsweek.com/stanford-rape-brock-turner-tough-laws-proposals-jerry-brown-california-495168?rm=eu>

SPEAKING / WRITING ABOUT PRISON LIFE

*** prison/ jail-constructions**

The two boys – aged 15 and 13 – **were locked up in Hoima jail** with their father, although their mother was released.

After two months in the adult jail, Henry and Joseph were sent to a juvenile remand centre in Ihungu, about 50km (30 miles) away.

His 18 years on death row in Kampala's maximum security Luzira prison ended before Henry was even arrested but their cases have much in common.

The two young men spent a year on remand in the local prison during which time they only met their lawyer twice.

It also means Uganda's **prisons** are hugely overcrowded. **Luzira prison**, with a capacity for 600, houses more than 2,500 prisoners, more than half of them are on remand.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35106294>

Turner's sentence to months in county **jail** instead of years in state **prison** stoked international outrage, leading California lawmakers to call for mandatory **prison time** for sex assaults involving unconscious victims, and expanding the state's definition of rape.

But the proposed new laws, now on the desk of Democratic Governor Jerry Brown, come as Democrats and Republicans alike are trying to move the criminal justice system away from mandatory sentencing laws and other get-tough measures that have contributed to crowded prisons and the over-incarceration of poor and minority defendants.

Changing the law, said Assembly member Evan Low, who co-authored the bill mandating prison time for sexually assaulting an unconscious victim, would keep that from happening again.

In June, Persky sentenced Turner to six months in a county jail and three years probation, sparking outrage that intensified after prosecutors released a letter written by Turner's father calling the assault "20 minutes of action."

<http://europe.newsweek.com/stanford-rape-brock-turner-tough-laws-proposals-jerry-brown-california-495168?rm=eu>

Jailing Shipman for life, Justice John Forbes told him: "I have little doubt each of your victims smiled and thanked you as she submitted to your deadly ministrations."

<http://www.newsweek.com/britains-dr-death-162521>

* **cell-constructions**

Mpagi and his cousin were sentenced to death and taken straight to Luzira, where the death row cells were meant for one man but housed four or five.

Inmates were only allowed out of their cells for half an hour a day, to empty the buckets.

Mpagi heard every one from his cell.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35106294>

* **prisoners/ fellow prisoners (outsider & insider perspective)**

Luzira prison, with a capacity for 600, houses more than 2,500 prisoners, more than half of them are on remand.

Prisoners can volunteer to plead guilty in return for a reduced sentence.

The last hanging of civilians took place in 1999, when a group of 28 prisoners were taken out to die.

Before that, there were five other executions, of three to nine prisoners each, between 1989 and 1996.

Released in 2000, Mpagi started visiting Luzira as a Catholic preacher, to provide comfort to prisoners.

He still visits death row every week and says the situation there is improving, with **prisoners** now taking part in educational activities.

In 2005 the constitutional court of Uganda also ruled that long delays in carrying out executions amounted to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, so now any prisoners held on death row for three years have their sentences commuted to life.

"Most prisoners do not have lawyers and still need somebody to follow up on their cases."

He believes that clearing the case backlog will give overwhelmed courts time to concentrate on those prisoners who continue to protest their innocence and result in fairer trials.

"I struggled to lift up the voices of any fellow prisoners who were not listened to," he says.

"This was my fellow prisoner," he says.

Henry was still the chairman, responsible for his fellow prisoners and needed to be able to call for help if anyone got sick or hurt.

Two months later, in March 2010, both of Henry's cases – and those of his fellow prisoners – went to court.

He felt lonely – not only was his brother gone but 17 of his fellow prisoners had also been released.

Inmates were only allowed out of their cells for half an hour a day, to empty the buckets.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35106294>

REACTING TO CRIME

*coming/ going to the rescue

But then he met an American lawyer who slowly realised it was up to him to come to the rescue of an innocent teenager.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35106294>

Hugh Thompson was a helicopter pilot who went to the rescue of the trapped villagers, ordering his gun crew to train their guns on their fellow soldiers in an effort to halt the slaughter.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b08lxqhf>

* outrage-constructions

Turner's sentence to months in county jail instead of years in state prison stoked international outrage, leading California lawmakers to call for mandatory prison time for sex assaults involving unconscious victims, and expanding the state's definition of rape.

The Turner case has become the focal point of growing international **outrage** over campus rape.

In June, Persky sentenced Turner to six months in a county jail and three years probation, sparking **outrage** that intensified after prosecutors released a letter written by Turner's father calling the assault "20 minutes of action."

<http://europe.newsweek.com/stanford-rape-brock-turner-tough-laws-proposals-jerry-brown-california-495168?rm=eu>

Outrage after General de Gaulle's tomb damaged by vandals

Two suspects are being sought after vandals damaged the tomb of former French leader General Charles de Gaulle, sparking **outrage**.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-40077870>

***result/ consequence-constructions**

Former Stanford University swimmer Brock Turner will be released on Friday after serving three months for sexually assaulting an unconscious woman near a fraternity party, a sentence that has ignited fierce **debate** over the way California defines and punishes rape.

But the proposed new laws, now on the desk of Democratic Governor Jerry Brown, come as Democrats and Republicans alike are trying to move the criminal justice system away from mandatory sentencing laws and other **get-tough measures** that have contributed to crowded prisons and the over-incarceration of poor and minority defendants.

Crafting a **solution** has proven thorny.

The recall campaign and legislative responses have **come under fire** from many public defenders, who represent defendants unable to afford legal fees, and some judges, who say they limit judges' discretion when handling cases.

The Turner case initially **shot to prominence** last year because the defendant was a rising student athlete at Stanford.

A letter written by the victim, who remains anonymous, **went viral** with a moving explanation of her ordeal.

<http://europe.newsweek.com/stanford-rape-brock-turner-tough-laws-proposals-jerry-brown-california-495168?rm=eu>