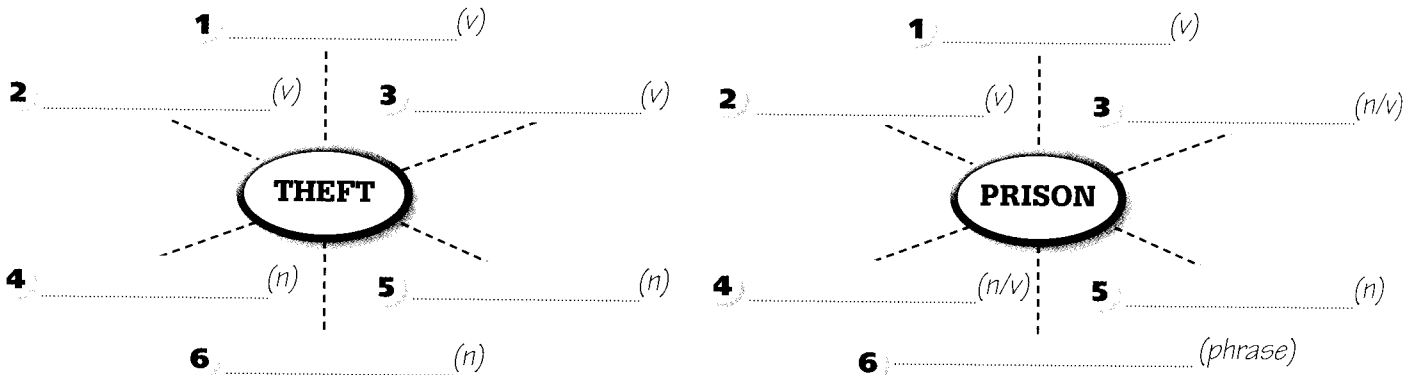


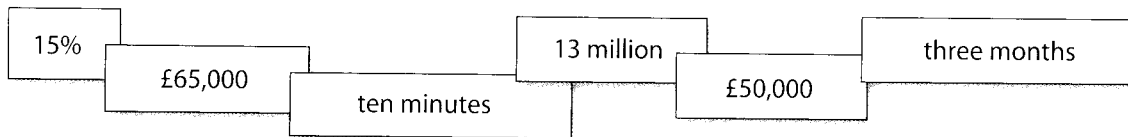
# Criminal activity

1 Use the words from the box to complete the mind maps.

be charged with behind bars break in burglary convict court  
personal identity reoffend robbery sentence smuggle steal



2 Complete the extracts below with the numbers.



profit or to gain some other  
dishonest advantage.

**Identity theft** is the fastest-growing crime in the USA.

Around (a) ..... people are affected every year.

**Justice**, or the administering of deserved punishment or

*In recent years, crime rates in the UK have been down by as much as (b) ..... meaning burglaries and car crimes are not so common. But these figures don't take into account cyber crime. When online crime was included in the figures for the first time in 2015, crime rates increased by a staggering 107%.*

It all started with a letter from a bank saying I was behind in my loan repayments. 'What loan?' I asked. Someone had taken out a loan in my name, using my address and social security number\*. This criminal had all my details, and she'd had them for (c) ..... I was in shock. I think people don't really understand what identity theft is. They think it's when someone steals your credit card and uses it. But this woman had taken out credit, signed up for gas, electricity and phone at her house, all using my details. She'd even got medicine from the doctor.

I was lucky because the criminal was charged. She lived about (d) ..... from my house. She was given community service, not a prison sentence. Criminals make a lot of money out of identity theft, but the authorities don't treat it like the serious crime that it is.

\*In the USA, a Social Security number is used as a national form of ID.



In the UK it costs around (e) ..... to imprison a person including police and court costs, plus (f) ..... for each year they spend behind bars. Less serious crimes are commonly punished by means of fines, community service or drug rehabilitation, which cost considerably less. Around 36% of those on community service end up back in the courts, compared to 60% of those released from short prison sentences.