

## Unit 6

# Crime News

### What Is Crime News?

Crime news concerns the events that involve such wrongdoings or illegal actions as theft, burglary, robbery, gambling, blackmail, smuggling, drug trafficking, narcotics, child abuse, child labor, rape, prostitution, fraud, kidnapping, assaults, bombings, murder, assassination, and massacres.

### The Techniques of Crime News Writing

The following are some of the techniques the writer of a crime news story may make use of:

1. Use *simple past tense*, and *past perfect tense*, for example:
  - The police of Hua Mark Police station yesterday *arrested* two women on charges of selling fake watches.
  - Police said the man *had* shot his neighbor by accident.
2. Use the passive voice to emphasize the object of the sentence, for example:
  - 45-kilos of heroin *was seized* after the police received a tip-off.
  - Two British civilians *were detained* as hostages in Rwanda.

3. Use adverbs as effective modifiers, either at the beginning, in the middle or at the end of the sentence, for example:

*Immediately*, the man stabbed the passers-by with a cutter.

- The police *instantly* arrived at the death scene.
- The robber escaped, *quickly*.

4. Keep the sentences short, clear and specific, and get rid of any redundant or ambiguous words or phrases, for example:

- A man suspected of shooting a Dallas police officer = *An unidentified suspect* accused of shooting a police officer.
- Women are likely to be disappointed in their choice of a permanent mate, a study shows. = Women *want* permanent mates who are sensitive, self-assured and warm, a sociologist's report shows.

5. Use action words such as strong verbs instead of weak verbs, for example:

- A woman who is 30 years old from a village in the North attempted to kill herself yesterday. = A 30-year-old woman from a northern village *tried to commit suicide* yesterday.
- Electrical power was cut yesterday. = People *lost* electrical power for almost three hours yesterday.
- There will be an increase in property taxes. = Property taxes *will increase*.
- Firefighters in Oregon seemed to use every method they could to fight with a forest fire. = Firefighters in Oregon *battled* a forest fire on Monday.

6. Use informal and simple words rather than the formal and elaborate ones, for example:

attempt	=	bid		purchase	=	buy
instruct	=	teach, tell		ponder	=	think
affluent	=	rich		witness	=	see
deceased	=	dead		conceal	=	close
utilize	=	use		possess	=	own, have
solitary	=	alone, single		assist	=	help
exhibit	=	show		terminate	=	end
numerous	=	many, plentiful of		incorrect	=	wrong
fatigued	=	tired		impoverished	=	poor
genuine	=	true, real		selection	=	choice

7. Be careful of the punctuation because it helps guide the reader, for example:

- A baby who was so small at birth that, if she had died, she would have been considered a miscarriage, this week reached 4 pounds and is thriving at St. Joseph's Hospital, physicians and nurses said.
- Shanghai-- "Bikinis are out!" yells Lo Chaotian.

8. Identify the persons in the news stories by giving their rank, position, name, age, sex, occupation, nationality, hometown, homeland, and clarify the name of the places and objects as well, for example:

Pol. Gen **Manat** Krutchaiyant      John Crawford, Lance **Coporal**,  
 An **18-year-old-boy**                      A **24—year-old graduate** student  
 A **40-year-old** Bangkokian              A **52-year-old** doctor from Japan  
 An a-year-old West Phoenix girl  
 Peter, **33**, a native and veteran of Ohio  
 A Delaware county businessman      A three-month-old baby boy  
 A **17-year-old** student from Jefferson Junior High School  
 Madelene Albright, US Secretary of State  
 President Joseph Estrada  
 Sixth floor, Orlando City Parking Garage, 53 W. Central Blvd.,  
 Downtown Orlando  
 Somchai, alias Dang Bailey  
 The needle, which was believed to be infected with AIDS virus, contained  
 blood.

## Identifying Crime News

Drugs trafficking

### ***A ton of marijuana seized***

*Nukhon Pathom-- Police seized **about** a ton of dried **marijuana** from a sir-wheel truck following a brief shootout with three suspected drug traffickers in Si Sarakham District on Monday morning.*

*The incident occurred on the Khamhui-Hat Paeng Road whenv a truck laden with **Marijuana** believed to have been smuggled from Laos, rammed through a roadblock manned by a police squad after a tip-off.*

*Pol. Sgt Paichit Chanthayuth was slightly injured when the truck smashed into the roadblock and hit a tree, police said, adding that the suspects then jumped off the truck and fired at the approaching policeman.*

*The two sides exchanged fire for about five minutes before the suspects broke contact and escaped, police said*

## **Vocabulary:**

### **Verbs:**

to seize	to shoot	to fire
to man	to ram into	to break contact
to injure	to smuggle	to exchange fire
to escape	to hit	to smash into
to jump off	to occur	to approach

### **Nouns:**

drug trafficker	suspect	smuggler
marijuana	Police Sergeant (Pol Sgt)	six-wheel truck
squad	roadblock	tip-off
ton		

### **Adjectives:**

laden	suspected	approaching
brief	dried	alleged
laden with		



*The teenager, reportedly with long hair and wearing blue tattered jeans, was said to have approached a female student saying, "Share some of this," before stabbing her with a needle.*

*Pol. Gen. Manat said he had ordered the Central Investigation Bureau and the Metropolitan Police to mount an immediate search after being informed by the Public Health Ministry.*

*Pol. Gen. Manat said anyone who encounters the boy should alert the nearest police office.*

**Vocabulary:**

**Verbs:**           to launch                           to stab                           to be infected  
                  to be attacked                   to approach                   to mount  
                  to strike                           to inform                   to encounter  
                  to alert                           to share

**Nouns:**           AIDS                           teenager  
                  passer-by                   needle  
                  drug addict               victim  
                  blue jeans               search

**Proper names:**    Central Investigation Bureau           Metropolitan Police  
                          Public Health Ministry               Pathumwan Intersection  
                          Police Department               Police General  
                          Deputy Director- General

**Adjectives:** long-haired                      berserk                      blood-stricken  
female                      tattered                      immediate  
nearest

**Idioms and expressions:**

to go berserk                      among one of  
a hunt for                      to mount an immediate search

**The 5Ws and H:**

**Who:** Police, Police Department, Pol. Gen. **Manat** Krutchaiyant, Public Health Ministry, a teenager and drug addict, a female student, passers-by

**What:** Police were informed of a teenager who stabbed passers-by with a blood-stricken needle.

A teenager who was a drug addict stabbed passers-by with a needle containing blood infected by AIDS virus, among them was a female student.

A female student was stabbed with a blood-stricken needle by a drug addict.

**Where:** At Pathumwan intersection

**When:** Yesterday afternoon

**Why:** The teenager was stricken with AIDS virus and wanted others to share the same fate with him.



**How:** The Ministry of Public Health informed the Pathumwan police of this incident.

The boy has gone berserk at the Pathumwan intersection and attacked the crowd of passers-by. Pol. Gen. **Manat** Krutchaiyant, Deputy Director- General of the Police Department ordered a hunt and search for the boy immediately.

Anyone who comes across the boy should immediately inform the Pathumwan police.

## Activities

### Exercise 1

Write the lead of a crime news story using the information from the 5 Ws and H.

**who:** Luke **Woodham**, 17 years old student of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, USA.

A jury in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, USA.

**What:** Luke **Woodham** killed two classmates. One of them was a girl he had dated.

The jury found Luke **Woodham** guilty because he killed two friends, one of them was a girl he used to date. They charged him with aggravated- assault.

**Where:** At Pearl High School in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, U.S.A.

**When:** On Friday June 12, 1998.

**why:** Because he was violent and the event happened during his shooting rampage.

**How:** During his shootings, he injured seven classmates and shot two of them dead in a rage. The jury unanimously sentenced him to life imprisonment.

(Write your lead in the space below.)

.....  
.....  
.....

## Exercise 2

Choose the best headline to suit the crime news story above by putting a tick or cross in the space provided.

- ..... Two classmates killed by friend who is insane and enraged.
- ..... Schoolboy found guilty of shootings at Mississippi school
- ..... Mississippi jury sentence boy to life imprisonment
- ..... Schoolboy accused of killing classmates
- ..... Schoolboy apologizes for shooting friends

### Exercise 3

Arrange the following information in the correct order to make a good crime news story by writing 1,2,3 ,... . . . in the space provided.

..... Customs officials asked to search her luggage. A few other Africans whom Customs believed were in the same gang as Mrs. **Mabola**, fled the scene but left four bags.

..... The seizure is the largest single haul this year, according to Customs Director- General Dr. **Aran Thammano**, who said the drug would have a street price abroad of 940 million baht.

. . . . **45- kilos heroin seized in largest single haul this year**

..... About 11.30 p.m. a **Zairian** later named as Kunga Mobola, 27, arrived at a check-in counter with a large amount of luggage to catch Egypt Air flight MS 865 to Lagos via Cairo.

..... Customs officials seized about 45 kilogrammes of high-grade heroin worth 9.4 million baht at local wholesale rates and arrested a Zairian woman on trafficking charges at Don **Muang** airport late on Saturday night.

. . . . Customs officials, acting on a tip-off, closely watched departing passengers for suspicious behaviour.

..... Miss Mabola was charged with trafficking in heroin and handed over to the Crime Suppression Division.

..... The officials found 41 cakes of high-grade heroin weighing a total of 15.5 kg in Mrs. Mabola's luggage. The other four bags revealed 82 cakes of heroin weighing a total of 30.2 kg.

## Exercise 4

Punctuate the following leads.

Seri launches probe into alleged Kurusapa fraud  
Central Investigation Bureau Commissioner Seri Temiyavej has set up a team to investigate allegations **that** the president of Kurusapa Business Organization who is close to the former education minister Sukhavich Rangsitphol cheated the state **firm** out of Bt250 million

(From *The Nation*, Friday June 12, 1998)

**California--** A thirteen year old Robert C. Smith abducted from his California home 21 months ago buried his face in his father's arms in a dramatic family reunion yesterday morning outside the State Police barracks here.

(From *The Boston Globe*)

## Exercise 5

Remove all the unnecessary words in the following sentences, You may have to rewrite some of them.

1. The assault took place late at night.

.....

2. He called a press conference to announce his innocence.

.....

3. She was taken into custody and sentenced to life imprisonment.

.....

4. Police declared that a dead body had been found in the river.

.....

5. Police made an investigation but do not make any comment at the present time.

.....

6. Police arrived just in the nick of time.

.....

7. The man stabbed him at the back straight as an arrow.

.....

8. The police thought his excuse was like a fairy tale.

.....

9. The bald-headed man surrendered to police.

.....

10. Police were looking for a blue-colored mini van.

.....

11. Due to the fact that the man was a suspect, the police held him up.

.....

12. Police determined that the victim had been suffocated to death.

.....

13. An assembled crowd of people gathered to witness the glue sniffer.

.....

14. The police launched a city-wide hunt for the assassin at the hour of noon.

.....

15. The man with a criminal record recorded by the Central Investigation was taken to re-enact the murder scene where he plotted the murder.

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