

## Lesson: *The things we think it's OK to steal!*

This is a quick, easy, ready-to-go lesson that will inspire your students. It'll also give them opportunities to improve their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. This lesson comes with a PDF of the lesson, and an audio file. Simply follow the lesson ideas for a fantastic class that'll really motivate your students.

### 1 Warm-up

#### Questions

Print off the questions from the Resource Sheet (at the back of this lesson) for students to ask and answer in pairs. When they've finished, ask students to report back with any interesting information they found out about other students.

### 2 Lesson activities

Go through the activities for the lesson on the sheet: the Pre-reading, Reading I and Reading II activities. You could do this lesson as a **listening** activity. In order to do this, tell your students to turn over the sheet so they can't see the text as they do the exercises.

If your students' listening level is low, stop the recording after each paragraph and check their understanding.

After finishing that, and if you've done this as a listening activity (not a reading), let your students read the text as you play the recording again. This is good for developing their listening skills as they can see the connection between the written and spoken language.

### 3 Follow-up activities

#### Retell it!

Assign a paragraph (or two, etc.) to each student. Students have a minute or two to try to remember the text. When they're ready, students try to recount the information, using as much of the language as possible. Or, ask for volunteers to retell the, using as much of the original language as possible (or even by heart if they can).

#### Poster or video

In pairs, small groups or individually, students design a poster to stop people taking things from hotel rooms. They should think about an interesting way to get this message across. Instead of a poster, they could make a short video, getting people to stop taking things from hotels. They could film it on their smartphones.

#### Dialogue

In pairs, students write a dialogue between a journalist and someone who was arrested for "stealing" sheets and towels from a hotel room. Or, the conversation could be between a manager and a guest at a hotel, with the manager accusing the guest of

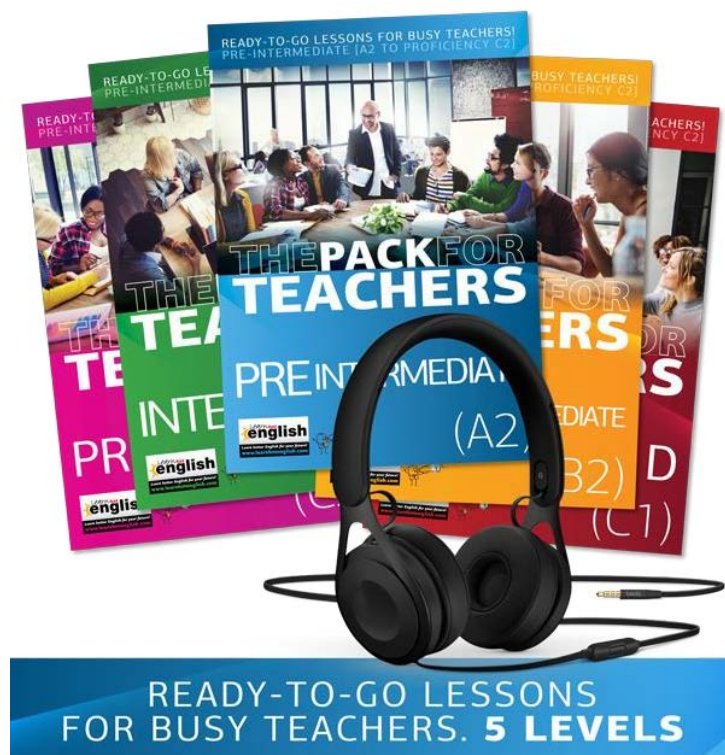
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stealing towels, etc. Tell your students to make the dialogue as funny, silly or serious as they like. When they're ready, ask for volunteers to act out their dialogues (using notes, not reading it out word-for-word). Other students listen and vote on the best ones.

### **Debate it!**

Hold a debate! Divide the class into two. Half the class thinks it's OK to take small items (such as shampoo) from a hotel room; the other half believes it's wrong to do this. In their groups (or in pairs or smaller groups), students prepare arguments either in favour of or against the proposal (even if they don't agree with it personally). When they're ready, allow representatives from each group to stand up and present their arguments. When both sides have finished, open up the debate so anyone can make comments, respond to previous points, etc. At the end (after a few minutes), hold a vote and see which idea is the most popular. Tell students they can vote either way and that they don't have to vote according to their initial group and the stance that they were representing.





## Resource Sheet

Ask and answer these questions in pairs. Then, report back to the whole class with any interesting information.

### Would you ever...?

- Would you ever take shampoo home from a hotel room?
  - Would you ever take any sachets of ketchup home from a restaurant?
  - Would you ever take home any stationery from the office where you work?
  - Would you ever pick and take home any flowers from the park?
  - Would you ever put any extra fruit in your bag after weighing it in a supermarket?
  - Would you ever steal food if you were hungry?
  - Would you ever lie to your parents, boss or partner?
  - Would you ever feed the animals at the zoo when it's prohibited?
  - Would you ever smoke in a no smoking area?
  - Would you ever drive a car if you were a bit drunk?
  - Would you ever drive at night with only one headlight?
  - Would you ever drive a car if the brakes didn't work (but you could use the handbrake)?
  - Would you ever borrow money secretly (and later pay it back) from family or friends?
- Other?



**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** Have you ever taken home any shampoo or soap from a hotel? What other things would you take without feeling guilty? What would you take from the office without feeling bad?

**Exams** This reading and listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as KET and TOEFL.

## READ & LISTEN II

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Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-reading I

Look at the list of things below. Which ones would you take without feeling guilty?



**Shampoo**  
(from a hotel bathroom)



**Sachet of ketchup**  
(from a restaurant)



**Stapler** (from the office)

**Coffee**  
(from a colleague at work)



**Pencil** (from IKEA)



**Extra apple**  
(from the supermarket)



**Flowers** (from a park)

### 2 Reading I

Read the article once.  
Which statistic is the most surprising? Why?

### 3 Reading II

Read the article again.  
Then, answer the questions.  
What percentage of people think it's OK to take...

1. ...unsecured internet?
2. ...restaurant condiments?
3. ...office stationery?
4. ...a colleague's tea or coffee?
5. ...an extra apple at the supermarket?
6. ...park flowers?



# THE THINGS WE THINK IT'S OK TO STEAL!

**T**heft is a crime, isn't it? Well, not always. According to a recent survey carried out by [paintballing.co.uk](http://paintballing.co.uk), there are some things that people think it's all right to take.

As part of the poll, 1,000 adults were asked what they felt was acceptable to steal without **feeling guilty**. Top of the list were hotel "**freebies**" such as shampoo, soap, towels, razors, hairbrushes and bathrobes, with 93% believing that it was "all part of staying at the hotel".

Next on the list was **unsecured internet**, with 88% saying they'd **have no qualms** about accessing a neighbour's network if it wasn't **password-protected**.

This is followed by restaurant condiments, with 55% feeling that it was perfectly acceptable to **walk off with** sachets of ketchup and mustard as they'd "already paid for them in the

price of the meal".

At work, 27% felt it was OK to take home office **stationery**, with 22% also thinking there was nothing wrong with **helping themselves to** a colleague's tea, coffee or biscuits.

Out shopping, 17% felt it was all right to eat **pick-and-mix sweets** as they were going to buy some anyway. Eleven percent saw nothing wrong with taking the odd extra apple at the supermarket fruit counter *after* weighing their fruit. Ten percent thought it was OK to weigh expensive food items (such as avocados) as cheaper ones (like tomatoes). And 8% said they wouldn't feel guilty for walking off with pens or pencils from shops such as IKEA as it was a form of publicity for the company as the pens had their logos on.

Finally, three percent admitted to having taken

home park flowers to decorate the house or to give as **gifts** to friends or relatives.

What would you take without feeling guilty? \*

## GLOSSARY

**to feel guilty** *exp*

if you "feel guilty" about something you did in the past, you feel bad about it

**a freebie** *n*

something you're given for free. Often a product with the name and logo of a company on it

**unsecured internet** *exp*

if access to someone's internet is "unsecured", you don't need a password to use it

**to have no qualms** *exp*

if you "don't have any qualms" about something, you aren't worried about it being wrong or bad

**password-protected** *exp*

if access to someone's internet is "password-protected", you need a password to use it

**to walk off with** *phr vb*

if someone "walks off with"

something, they take it without asking permission and with no intention of returning it

**stationery** *n*

equipment used in an office: paper, pens, pencils, rubbers, rulers, etc.

**to help yourself to** *exp*

if you "help yourself to" something, you take it without asking permission first

**pick-and-mix sweets** *n*

a selection of sweets that you can buy in a shop. You choose the sweets you want and put them in a little plastic bag

**a gift** *n*

a present; something that someone gives you