

What's the law?

Australian law for new arrivals

Answer sheet 5: Police

July 2011

Requirements: A copy of the DVD.

Pre-teaching

Vocabulary: arrest, bummer, calm, charge, commit, complain, cooperate, cops, easy way, false, furious, hard way, identification (ID), joke, mate, offence, prison, provide, resisting arrest, right to silence, sense of humour, warning.

Warmer activity to introduce topic: Question students to initiate discussion: *Who has had contact with the police in Australia?*

Key Messages

1. It is important to be polite and stay calm when dealing with the police.
2. The police must follow the law. It is the job of police to protect property, keep the peace and make sure people are safe. The law gives police powers – such as the power to arrest – so that they can do this job. But their powers are also limited by law.
3. The police are not the military.
4. Police can ask for your name and address if they think you have done something wrong. They can also ask for your name and address and for your licence if you are driving a motor vehicle. It is against the law to not give your name and address in these circumstances. If you give a false name, fight, or try to run away, you can be charged with an offence.
5. If you ask, the police officer must give you their name, rank and police station where they work. You can ask for this in writing. This can help later if you want to make a complaint against the police. If the police refuse to give you their name and address, then you should ask again, stay calm, and consider making a complaint later.
6. If you are charged with an offence and you get a summons to go to court, you should get free legal advice before you go to court.
7. If you get a summons, you must go to court. You may be able to see a duty lawyer from legal aid at the court.

Answers

Activity A

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|
| 1. in a shopping mall | 2. what are you doing here? | 3. any of the following: rude, annoyed, defiant | 4. providing a false name and address to a police officer |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|

Activity B

- | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1. b | 2. d | 3. a | 4. c |
|------|------|------|------|

Activity C

- | | | |
|------|------|------|
| 1. c | 2. a | 3. b |
|------|------|------|

Activity D

- | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1. b | 2. a | 3. c | 4. b |
|------|------|------|------|

Activity E

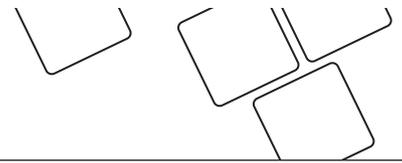
- | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| 1. true | 2. true | 3. false | 4. true | 5. false | 6. true |
|---------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|

Activity F

Discussion

Activity G

Check last slide in the DVD for the best place to get free legal help.



Script for Police story

Police officer What are you doing here boys?

Abdi Nothing.

Police officer Were you here yesterday?

Abdi No. Why do you want to know?

Police officer Someone who looks like you has committed a crime in this area.

Abdi I was at work all day yesterday.

Police officer What is your name and address?

Abdi Why do you want it?

Police officer You have to give me your name and address.

Abdi Alright, my name is Snoop Dogg.

Police officer Do you have any ID on you?

Abdi NO!

Police officer Listen mate, I don't believe your name is Snoop Dogg. I'm warning you - it's an offence to provide a false name and address.

Abdi You tell me your name and address, cop!

Gahmal Just tell him your name.

Police officer Give me your real name or I will arrest you.

Abdi I'm not going anywhere.

Police officer If you refuse to cooperate I will charge you with giving a false name.

Abdi My name is Abdi Ghergis. My address is.... (Trailing off)

A few weeks later

Abdi Hey Gahmal how you doing? I just got a letter from the cops.

Gahmal What does it say?

Abdi It says, 'You are charged with providing a false name and address to a police officer.' They got no sense of humour.

Gahmal fff! So... What's gonna happen?

Abdi I gotta go to the court in three weeks.

Gahmal Bummer! You better go to legal aid man.

Lawyer So tell me what happened.

Abdi Well, we were in the shops minding our own business and this cop comes up and he says...

Lawyer Hmm. The police can ask for your name and address if they think you have done something wrong. Sometimes it's easier to just tell them. It's against the law to give them a false name and address.

Abdi It was a joke!

Lawyer It's still against the law. After you've given your name and address you have a right to silence.

Abdi What's that mean?

Lawyer Well, most of the time you don't have to answer any other police questions. Like, where you're going or what you're doing.

Abdi But the police are always picking on us.

Lawyer Abdi, you **MUST** stay calm when you're talking to the police even if you feel angry. You can complain later if they treat you badly and they have to give you their details too, if you ask.

Abdi Well, I asked him and he didn't give it to me.

Lawyer Well, he should have and I can help you complain if you want. Now these papers mean you must go to court in two weeks. If you don't go you can be arrested and put in prison.

Abdi OK.

Gahmal *(leaves text message bip bip bip)* Good luck, Abdi! Call me when it's over.