

## Speaking 2

TOPIC  
DEVELOPMENT

Technology and fraud

## SPEAKING SKILLS

Comparing, discussing  
advantages and  
disadvantagesMAIN TASK  
TYPEEvaluating the  
effectiveness of  
anti-crime measures

## KEY LANGUAGE

Expressions for  
evaluating:

*Although it is ..., it is also ...; ... is almost foolproof, but it is expensive; ... is very/quite sophisticated/accurate but it ...; Some people would object to ...; ... would be useful in certain circumstances*

## PREPARATION

One copy of Worksheet 1 (cut up) for each group of four students and one copy of Worksheet 2 for each student

## TIME

50–60 minutes

## Technology

## Technology and fraud

## Reading and speaking

- Write *fraud* on the board. Students brainstorm in pairs, noting down as many different kinds of fraud as they can, for example: *tax evasion, claiming social security benefits falsely, spending company money on yourself (embezzling), writing a cheque that bounces, forging someone's name on a cheque, insurance fraud, charging for services not provided, bribery, identity theft.*
- Put students into groups of four and give one text from **Worksheet 1** to each student. Ask students to read their text and then tell the others in the group what it was about.
- The group should then decide which crimes were the most and least serious. For larger classes, you could then do a poll of the whole class to find out which crimes they thought were the most and the least serious.

## Speaking

- A** Hand out **Worksheet 2**. Ask students to discuss and note down the advantages and disadvantages of each of the technological crime-fighting devices shown and listed in the table. Encourage students to use some of the language from the Useful language box. Elicit and discuss ideas from the class.

## Suggested answers

Device	Used for	Advantages	Disadvantages
Photofit picture	Finding and identifying criminals	Might help someone to remember	Might not be accurate enough / recognisable
Lie-detector	Checking whether a suspect is telling the truth	An additional source of evidence	Not everyone accepts their accuracy
Street cameras (CCTV)	Deterring crime and identifying criminals	Can cover a wide area and provide evidence	Criminals might know where cameras are, and avoid them
DNA testing	Identifying people	100% reliable, unique to one person	Expensive and DNA not always readily obtainable
Watermarks / foil strips in banknotes	Deterring/preventing counterfeiting	Difficult for criminals to reproduce	May become copiable in time
Iris recognition	Identifying people	Unique to one person	Expensive
Telephone tapping	Gaining prior information about crimes and criminals	Provides additional evidence	Not always legal
Computer records	Providing evidence of criminal activity	Provides additional evidence	Computer hard disks can be wiped clean and evidence destroyed
Chip and PIN technology	Preventing credit/debit card fraud	More reliable than other methods	Individual may divulge number to others

**Note** The obvious problem with the older devices is that criminals catch up with and use modern technology themselves.

- B** Students discuss these questions in pairs, groups or as a class.

**Speaking 2** Technology and fraud**Worksheet 1**

A

## A few clicks of the mouse, and you become a doctor

It's your dream job but you don't have the qualifications. So, instead of studying for the results you need, you find an Internet website that promises you a certificate with your requirements for just £165. You send your payment and in a few days you receive an authentic-looking fake certificate – an exact copy of one issued by a real university.

The owner of this lucrative business has been investigated by the police several times, but he has never been charged.

✂

B

Dear Mr Chadwick,

As part of our fraud detection measures, we are trying to identify transactions which may have been undertaken without your consent.

Please check the items below. If they are genuine, no further action is required. If you do not recognise one or more transactions, please call us.

09 / 06	£27.80	China Village Restaurant <i>OK</i>
10 / 06	£31.37	BP Garage <i>OK</i>
11 / 06	£10,000.00	Harrods <i>Not me!! Never been to Harrods!</i>

✂

C

## Online fraud cases triple

The number of fraud cases involving Internet auction sites nearly tripled in the United States from 2001 to 2002 as an increasing number of people use the sites to buy everything from pets to automobiles. Consumers were defrauded out of \$54 million last year.

A typical case involves a cashier's check, thought by many people to be the same as cash. Jessica Roth advertised a flute on an Internet site for \$825. Someone emailed to say he was interested in buying it. He promised to send her a cashier's check for \$5,000 and asked her to wire him the change. When the check arrived, Jessica posted the flute to the buyer and sent him the change of \$4,175. The next week her bank told her the cashier's check was a fake.

✂

D

## Identity theft: a new crime



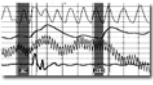







Identity theft and identity fraud refer to crimes in which someone wrongfully obtains and uses another person's personal data in some way that involves fraud or deception.

In one notorious case, the criminal not only incurred more than \$100,000 of credit card debt, obtained a home loan, and bought homes in the victim's name, but called his victim to taunt him – saying that he would continue to pose as the victim for as long as he wanted. He eventually filed for bankruptcy, also in the victim's name. While the victim and his wife spent four years and \$15,000 of their own money to restore their credit and reputation, the criminal served a brief prison sentence.

**Worksheet 2**

**Technology and fraud** **Speaking 2**

**A** Below are some of the ways technology can help to solve crime. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each device with your partner, using expressions from the Useful language box below. Write notes about each device in the table.

Device	Used for	Advantages	Disadvantages
Fingerprints 	<i>Finding and identifying criminals</i>	<i>Unique to one person</i>	<i>Can easily be wiped off</i>
Photofit picture 			
Lie-detector 			
Street cameras (CCTV) 			
DNA testing 			
Watermarks / foil strips in banknotes 			
Iris recognition 			
Telephone tapping 			
Computer records 			
Chip and PIN technology 			

**Useful language**

... is very/quite sophisticated/accurate but it ...  
 ... is almost foolproof, but it is expensive.  
 Although it is ..., it is also ...  
 Some people would object to the idea of (phone tapping).  
 ... would be useful/effective in certain circumstances/situations.

**B** Discuss these questions in pairs or groups.

- 1 Do you think fraud and similar crimes are on the increase? Why? Do you take any steps to avoid becoming a victim yourself?
- 2 People say that criminals are always one step ahead of the police. Why is this? What can the police do about it?
- 3 Have you or has anyone you know ever been the victim of fraud?