Police work

It’s their job to stop crime, keep public order and help in emergencies. ANNA HOCH-SIEDER presents language to talk about police work.

Brent Police bulletin for 8 January

A man was caught shoplifting this morning in the High Street branch of Dixon’s. The store detective tried to detain him, but the suspect made off with a laptop computer. He is described as a white male of average build in his early twenties. Eyewitnesses are requested to contact Brent Police on 618 2994.

Brent Police are appealing for information after a man suffered serious head injuries on Sunday evening. The victim was robbed outside Barclay’s Bank in Victoria Road. Anyone who witnessed the assault or who saw any suspicious activity around 10 p.m. on 7 January is asked to contact Brent Police on 618 2986.

A 37-year-old woman has been arrested in connection with a fatal hit-and-run incident on Neal Street. Police responded to an anonymous phone call at 2 a.m. on Sunday. A 20-year-old man was found dead at the scene. An SUV with a running engine had been abandoned by its driver. The owner of the vehicle has been charged with manslaughter. If you have any information on the incident, please call the investigating officer on 618 2970.
PRACTICE
Now try the following exercises to practise talking about police work.

Exercise 1
Complete this text by circling the correct words in bold.

Two young men have been (A) arrested / caught on suspicion of (B) stealing / robbing a man while he was getting money from a cash point. An eyewitness reported the (C) accident / incident and was able to identify the (D) suspects / victims in an identification parade.

Exercise 2
What kind of police officer? Complete the definitions below (A–E) with words from the opposite page.

A. A(n) ______________ is a police officer who does not wear a uniform.

B. ______________ are police officers who are trained and equipped to deal with violent protests.

C. A(n) ______________ is a police officer who deals with traffic control.

D. A(n) ______________ is a police officer whose job it is to find out the truth about a crime.

E. A(n) ______________ is a police officer who works with a trained dog.

Exercise 3
Which verbs and prepositions go together? Match the sentence halves below.

A. A teenager has been ______________
   charged... 1. with jewellery worth more than £100,000.

B. Two police officers ______________
   responded... 2. for the public’s help with a murder investigation.

C. Scotland Yard is ______________
   appealing... 3. to the call and arrived at the crime scene minutes later.

D. The thieves ran away... 4. with assault after robbing and injuring a young woman.

Exercise 4
Complete the sentences below with nouns from the opposite page.

A. Showing his ______________, the police officer introduced himself as Sergeant Frank Mason.

B. The policeman put a pair of ______________ around the suspect’s wrists.

C. The ______________ test proved that the driver had been drinking well over the limit.

D. The police officer pulled his gun out of its ______________ and pointed it at the suspect.

Singular or plural?
- “Police” is a plural collective noun and is followed by a plural verb: The police are questioning a suspect.
- An individual who works for the police is a “police officer”, “policeman”, “policewoman” or, informally, a “cop”.
- To refer to a number of police officers, you can say, for example: “Hundreds of police in riot gear stood outside the building.”

VOCABULARY

  - dringend bitten  |  - Ermittlung  
  - Angriff  |  
  - Angriff  |  
  - charged: be ~ with sth. [tʃaʊdɪd]  |  - Kampf, Einsatzanzug  
  - unter Anklage gestellt werden wegen etw.  |  
  - under Anklage gestellt werden wegen etw.  |  
  - crime scene [ˈkraɪm si:n]  |  - Tatort  
  - Tatort  |  
  - eyelwitness [ˈaɪˌwɪtnēs]  |  - Augenzeuger, Zeugin  
  - Augenzeuger, Zeugin  |  
  - [ə pi:l]  |  
  - [ɪnˈvestɪɡeɪʃn]  |  - [ə pi:l]  |  
  - [ɪnˈvestɪɡeɪʃn]  |  
  - [ə pi:l]  |  
  - [ɪnˈvestɪɡeɪʃn]  |  
  - [ə pi:l]  |  
  - [ɪnˈvestɪɡeɪʃn]  |  
  - [ə pi:l]  |  
  - [ɪnˈvestɪɡeɪʃn]  |  

Answers

1. A. arrested  |  C. incident  
   D. suspects
2. A. plain-clothes  |  B. riot police
   D. investigating officer
3. A. 4–B  |  C. 2–C
   D. 1–A
4. A. warrant card  |  B. handcuffs  
   C. breathalyser  |  D. holster