

Muggers now targeting luxury winter coats

8th January 2024



There has been a spate of muggings in cities across the globe as muggers are focusing on a new item to steal – luxury coats. In recent weeks people in London, Washington DC and other metropolitan areas have been robbed of their coats at

knifepoint. One man in Birmingham in the UK was slashed across his face as thieves made off with his jacket. Criminals are targeting coats that cost as much as \$2,200 each. As well as literally stealing the coats off people's backs, thieves are breaking into people's vehicles. Professor David Wilson, a criminologist at Birmingham City University, warned that the muggings were the start of a new "luxury crime trend". He said the thefts were "worrying".

Professor Wilson warned those with high-end winter jackets to be careful. He said: "I would tell anyone wearing Canada Goose branded jackets to be careful and be aware of your surroundings and who is around you. You have to be vigilant for opportunists who might try to steal them." He added that: "Thieves used to target Rolex watches which go for thousands of pounds and then sell them online." A London Transport spokesperson said: "Canada Goose coats are targeted for robbery. It's a real concern to us because it really impacts the safety of young people on the network." She added that this "acquisitive crime" was "very concerning, intimidating and frightening".

Sources: mirror.co.uk / birminghammail.co.uk / dailymail.co.uk

Writing

Muggers should get at least 20 years in prison. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

spate / muggers / luxury coats / recent weeks / thieves / stealing / criminologist / winter jackets / your surroundings / vigilant / opportunists / robbery / network / crime

True / False

- 1) Muggers have been stealing expensive coats in cities worldwide. T / F
- 2) Some muggers have used knives to steal luxury winter coats. T / F
- 3) Muggers are only stealing coats that cost more than \$2,200. T / F
- 4) A criminologist said the coat thefts have become a trend. T / F
- 5) A professor warned people who wear the Canada Duck brand coats. T / F
- 6) The professor said people with luxury coats should be vigilantes. T / F
- 7) London Transport asked people not to wear luxury coats on their trains. T / F
- 8) London Transport said the coat thefts were worrying and scary. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. spate | a. threatening |
| 2. steal | b. alarming |
| 3. slashed | c. lawbreaking |
| 4. literally | d. thief |
| 5. worrying | e. observant |
| 6. high-end | f. series |
| 7. surroundings | g. expensive |
| 8. vigilant | h. exactly |
| 9. crime | i. environment |
| 10. intimidating | j. knifed |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you do to stay safe on the streets?
- c) Have you had any bad experiences on the streets in your town?
- d) What punishment should be given to muggers?
- e) What is so good about luxury clothes and other items?
- f) How much better is a \$2,000 coat than a \$200 coat?
- g) Have you ever stolen anything?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the police?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. There has been a spate | a. for thousands of pounds |
| 2. London, Washington DC and other | b. at knifepoint |
| 3. robbed of their coats | c. people's vehicles |
| 4. thieves made off | d. opportunists |
| 5. thieves are breaking into | e. of muggings |
| 6. high- | f. of young people |
| 7. You have to be vigilant for | g. end winter jackets |
| 8. Rolex watches which go | h. metropolitan areas |
| 9. it really impacts the safety | i. and frightening |
| 10. concerning, intimidating | j. with his jacket |

Discussion – Student B

- How safe are the streets where you live?
- How can we stop muggings?
- What crimes are you worried about in your town?
- Why do people buy \$2,000 coats?
- What kinds of coats do you like?
- What luxury items do you like?
- What three adjectives best describe this story?
- What advice do you have for people wearing expensive coats?

Spelling

- There has been a stape of muggings
- other teiaonptmlo areas
- ldshaes across his face
- breaking into people's hsvclcie
- a gimnioilcotrs at Birmingham City University
- He said the tesfth were worrying
- be aware of your odsrqunsnuri
- You have to be iivntlag
- noptsptiuors who might try to steal them
- it really ctamips the safety of young people
- tuisqiiacve crime
- very concerning, iimgniitnda and frightening

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. j	4. h	5. b
6. g	7. i	8. e	9. c	10. a

Role Play

Role A – Louis Vuitton

You think Louis Vuitton is the best brand. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their brands. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Apple, Mercedes or Disney.

Role B – Apple

You think Apple is the best brand. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their brands. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Louis Vuitton, Mercedes or Disney.

Role C – Mercedes

You think Mercedes is the best brand. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their brands. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Apple, Louis Vuitton or Disney.

Role D – Disney

You think Disney is the best brand. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their brands. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Apple, Mercedes or Louis Vuitton.

Speaking – Brands

Rank these with your partner. Put the best brands at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| • Louis Vuitton | • Mercedes |
| • Apple | • Adidas |
| • Disney | • Airbnb |
| • Lego | • McDonald's |

Answers – True False

1	T	2	T	3	F	4	T	5	F	6	F	7	F	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.