



Learn English: The Justice System with Second and Third Conditionals

Reading Comprehension

Jack Smith had been in prison for more than ten years. Yesterday, he left after a judge reviewed his case and said he was not guilty.

"Mr. Smith is innocent. He was not part of the gang that robbed the jewelry store," said the judge.

During the trial, Jack received a punishment of fifteen years in prison for the robbery. His defense was that he had been sick on the day of the crime. Jack had said he was innocent, but the jury didn't believe him.

"If I hadn't been sick that day, I could have gone to work, and I wouldn't have spent over ten years in jail," he said.

Jack couldn't show evidence that he was sick because he didn't see a doctor and had stayed home alone until he felt better.

"As a factory worker, I couldn't afford to go to the hospital because I didn't have health insurance." He added, "My coworkers and boss couldn't prove where I was. No one could contact me because I had forgotten my phone at work."

The factory manager said, "Jack was a very hardworking employee. If his coworkers had too much work, Jack would always help them. I couldn't believe it when the police arrested him."

Jack added, "I had planned to start a business before all this happened. Now, I don't know how to start again."

Jack also has some advice. "If you are sick, go to the doctor. If you don't, you could go to prison instead."