

VOCABULARY · EPISODE 08

Routines of a City Policeman

Key words & expressions · English + Español

13 words

Your English Toolbox

1 to pull over

detener en carretera · hacer aparcar · parar a un vehículo**DEF**

to signal a driver to stop at the side of the road

*Core police vocabulary: an officer pulls over a vehicle by turning on blue lights and using the siren briefly.***ES**

Indicar a un conductor que se detenga a un lado de la carretera.

Vocabulario policial básico: un agente detiene un vehículo encendiendo las luces azules.

The officer pulled the car over for driving through a red light.

The officer pulled the car over for driving through a red light. -> El agente detuvo el coche por saltarse un semáforo en rojo.

When you see the blue lights, you must pull over immediately.

When you see the blue lights, you must pull over immediately. -> Cuando veas las luces azules, debes detenerte inmediatamente.

2 to keep watch

hacer guardia · vigilar · montar guardia**DEF**

to stay alert and monitor an area or person to prevent trouble

*The quiet, sustained attention of police work — much of the job is keeping watch rather than responding to emergencies.***ES**

Mantenerse alerta y monitorear un área o persona para prevenir problemas.

La atención silenciosa y sostenida del trabajo policial.

Two officers kept watch outside the building all night.

Two officers kept watch outside the building all night. -> Dos agentes montaron guardia fuera del edificio toda la noche.

You don't need to respond — just keep watch and report anything suspicious.

You don't need to respond — just keep watch and report anything suspicious. -> No necesitas intervenir — simplemente monta guardia e informa de cualquier cosa sospechosa.

3

to step in

intervenir · meterse · tomar cartas en el asunto

DEF

to intervene in a situation, especially to stop a conflict or provide help

Officers must judge exactly when to step in — too early disrupts community, too late allows harm.

ES

Intervenir en una situación, especialmente para detener un conflicto.

Los agentes deben juzgar exactamente cuándo intervenir — demasiado pronto altera a la comunidad, demasiado tarde permite el daño.

She stepped in before the argument turned violent.

She stepped in before the argument turned violent. -> Intervino antes de que la discusión se volviera violenta.

Sometimes the hardest call is knowing when to step in and when to wait.

Sometimes the hardest call is knowing when to step in and when to wait. -> A veces la decisión más difícil es saber cuándo intervenir y cuándo esperar.

4

to break up

disolver · separar · dispersar

DEF

to stop a fight or crowd; to disperse a group causing trouble

Different from 'breaking up with a partner' — in police context: physically separating combatants or dispersing crowds.

ES

Detener una pelea o multitud; dispersar a un grupo problemático.

Diferente de 'romper con una pareja' — en contexto policial: separar físicamente a los combatientes.

It took four officers to break up the fight outside the stadium.

It took four officers to break up the fight outside the stadium. -> Hicieron falta cuatro agentes para disolver la pelea fuera del estadio.

Police were called to break up the crowd that had gathered after midnight.

Police were called to break up the crowd that had gathered after midnight. -> Se llamó a la policía para dispersar a la multitud que se había reunido después de medianoche.

5

a gut feeling

un presentimiento · el instinto · una corazonada

DEF

an instinctive sense about a situation, without a clear logical reason

Experienced officers develop powerful gut feelings — the result of thousands of encounters processed unconsciously.

ES

Una sensación instintiva sobre una situación, sin una razón lógica clara.

Los agentes experimentados desarrollan poderosos presentimientos — el resultado de miles de encuentros procesados inconscientemente.

He had a gut feeling something was wrong before anyone had said a word.

He had a gut feeling something was wrong before anyone had said a word. -> Tenía un presentimiento de que algo iba mal antes de que nadie dijera una palabra.

Never ignore a gut feeling — your brain has processed things your conscious mind hasn't.

Never ignore a gut feeling — your brain has processed things your conscious mind hasn't. -> Nunca ignores un presentimiento — tu cerebro ha procesado cosas que tu mente consciente no.

6

to back someone up

respaldar a alguien · apoyar · dar cobertura

DEF

to support someone; to arrive as reinforcement; to confirm someone's account

Critical in police teamwork — backing someone up can be literal (arriving at the scene) or figurative (supporting a colleague's decision).

ES

Apoyar a alguien; llegar como refuerzo; confirmar el relato de alguien.

Fundamental en el trabajo en equipo policial — puede ser literal (llegar a la escena) o figurativo (apoyar la decisión).

She called for backup, and two units arrived to back her up within minutes.

She called for backup, and two units arrived to back her up within minutes. -> Pidió refuerzos y dos unidades llegaron a respaldarla en cuestión de minutos.

He always backs up his partner's calls, even when he privately disagrees.

He always backs up his partner's calls, even when he privately disagrees. -> Siempre respalda las decisiones de su compañero, incluso cuando en privado no está de acuerdo.

7 a split-second decision

una decisión en una fracción de segundo · una decisión instantánea

DEF

a choice made in an extremely short time, under pressure, with no time to think

The defining challenge of police work — split-second decisions in high-stress situations have major consequences.

ES

Una elección tomada en un tiempo muy breve, bajo presión, sin tiempo para pensar.

El desafío definitorio del trabajo policial.

In that split-second decision, she chose to shield the child first.

In that split-second decision, she chose to shield the child first. -> En esa decisión en una fracción de segundo, eligió proteger al niño primero.

Training exists precisely so that split-second decisions become instinct, not guesswork.

Training exists precisely so that split-second decisions become instinct, not guesswork. -> El entrenamiento existe para que las decisiones instantáneas se conviertan en instinto.

8 to defuse

calmar · desactivar · apaciguar

DEF

to reduce tension in a dangerous or emotional situation; to make something less dangerous

Defusing a situation (not 'diffuse') — one of the most valuable and underrated police skills.

ES

Reducir la tensión en una situación peligrosa o emocional.

Una de las habilidades policiales más valiosas y poco reconocidas.

He talked calmly for twenty minutes and defused the situation without force.

He talked calmly for twenty minutes and defused the situation without force. -> Habló con calma durante veinte minutos y desactivó la situación sin usar la fuerza.

The best officers defuse with words before they ever reach for anything else.

The best officers defuse with words before they ever reach for anything else. -> Los mejores agentes calman con palabras antes de recurrir a cualquier otra cosa.

9 to keep the peace

mantener el orden · preservar la paz · velar por la tranquilidad

DEF

to maintain order and prevent conflict in a community or area

The oldest statement of police purpose — 'keeper of the peace' dates to medieval English law.

ES

Mantener el orden y prevenir conflictos en una comunidad.

La declaración más antigua del propósito policial — 'guardián de la paz' data del derecho inglés medieval.

Officers were stationed at the venue to keep the peace during the match.

Officers were stationed at the venue to keep the peace during the match. -> Agentes estacionados en el recinto para mantener el orden durante el partido.

Keeping the peace in a diverse neighbourhood requires patience and respect.

Keeping the peace in a diverse neighbourhood requires patience and respect. -> Mantener el orden en un vecindario diverso requiere paciencia y respeto.

10 a tip-off

un soplo · una información confidencial · una denuncia anónima

DEF

secret information given to police or journalists about an illegal activity

Tips-offs are vital in police work — much detective work begins with an anonymous phone call or a quiet word from an informant.

ES

Información secreta dada a la policía sobre una actividad ilegal.

Los soplos son vitales en el trabajo policial.

Acting on a tip-off, officers raided the warehouse in the early hours.

Acting on a tip-off, officers raided the warehouse in the early hours. -> Actuando sobre un soplo, los agentes registraron el almacén en las primeras horas de la madrugada.

The tip-off came from inside the organisation — someone wanted out.

The tip-off came from inside the organisation — someone wanted out. -> El soplo vino del interior de la organización — alguien quería salir.

11 to clamp down on

tomar medidas enérgicas contra · endurecer la mano contra

DEF

to take strict action to control or stop something illegal or disruptive

Signals a period of increased enforcement — police 'clamping down on' signals a targeted operation against a specific type of crime.

ES

Tomar medidas estrictas para controlar o detener algo ilegal.

Señala un período de mayor represión — la policía 'endurece la mano' frente a un tipo específico de delito.

The city clamped down on illegal street racing after a series of accidents.

The city clamped down on illegal street racing after a series of accidents. -> La ciudad tomó medidas enérgicas contra las carreras callejeras ilegales tras una serie de accidentes.

Officers were told to clamp down on noise complaints after 10 pm.

Officers were told to clamp down on noise complaints after 10 pm. -> Se dijo a los agentes que endurecieran la mano con las quejas de ruido después de las 22h.

12 to go above and beyond

ir más allá del deber · dar más de lo esperado · superar las expectativas

DEF

to do more than is required or expected of you

The phrase that distinguishes officers who leave their beat transformed from those who simply complete their shift.

ES

Hacer más de lo requerido o esperado.

La frase que distingue a los agentes que transforman su zona de los que solo completan su turno.

She goes above and beyond — helping residents with problems that aren't even police matters.

She goes above and beyond — helping residents with problems that aren't even police matters. -> Va más allá del deber — ayuda a los residentes con problemas que ni siquiera son asuntos policiales.

Going above and beyond isn't in the job description, but it's what earns trust.

Going above and beyond isn't in the job description, but it's what earns trust. -> Ir más allá del deber no está en la descripción del trabajo, pero es lo que gana confianza.

13 on duty

de servicio · de guardia · en funciones

DEF

currently working in an official capacity; carrying out one's professional responsibilities

Key phrase for police episodes — 'on duty' vs. 'off duty' defines legal obligations, powers of arrest, and accountability.

ES

Actualmente trabajando en calidad oficial; cumpliendo responsabilidades profesionales.

'De servicio' frente a 'fuera de servicio' define obligaciones legales, poderes de arresto y responsabilidad.

Officers on duty must respond to any emergency in their area.

Officers on duty must respond to any emergency in their area. -> Los agentes de servicio deben responder a cualquier emergencia en su zona.

He spotted the theft while off duty but responded as if he were on duty.

He spotted the theft while off duty but responded as if he were on duty. -> Vio el robo fuera de servicio pero respondió como si estuviera de servicio.