

Q: So I've got to keep my mouth shut. What tricks can I expect the police to pull in order to make me talk?

The police try to get people to talk in many devious ways. The following are some pretty good examples, but remember they may try some other line on you.

THESE ARE THINGS THAT OFTEN CATCH PEOPLE OUT. DON'T GET CAUGHT OUT.

- **"Come on now, we know it's you, your mate's in the next cell and he's told us the whole story"**
If they've got the story, why do they need your confession? Playing co-accused off against each other is a common trick as you have no way of checking what another person is saying. If you are up to something dodgy with other people, work out a story and stick to it. Plus you can't be convicted just on the word of a co-accused. → leugens
- **"We know it's not you, but we know you know who's done it. Come on Jane, don't be silly, tell us who did it"**
The cops will use your first name to try and seem as though they're your friends. If you are young they will act in a fatherly/motherly way, etc. → betuttelen / patriarchal gedrag
- **"As soon as we find out what happened you can go"**
Fat chance! → leugens
- **"Look you little bastard, don't fuck us about. We've dealt with some characters, a little runt like you is nothing to us. We know you did it, you little shit, and you're going to tell us"** → ontmenselijken / fysieke dominantie
- **"What's a nice kid like you doing messed up in a thing like this?"** → betuttelen/patriarchal gedrag / social verhoor
They're trying to get at you.
- **"We'll keep you in until you tell us"** → hierarchie vastleggen / fysieke dominantie / verborgen vraag
Unless they charge you for a "serious offence" they have to release you within hours. Even if you are suspected of a "serious offence" you have the right to a solicitor, and only a magistrate can order you to be held without charge for longer.
- **"You'll be charged with something far more serious if you don't answer our questions, sonny. You're for the high jump. You're not going to see the light of day for a long time. Start answering our questions cos we're getting sick of you"** → leugens / hierarchie vastleggen / fysieke dominantie
Mental intimidation. They're unlikely to charge you with a serious charge that won't stick in court. Don't panic.
- **"My niece is a bit of a rebel"** → social verhoor / wolf in schaapskleren
- **"If someone's granny gets mugged tonight it'll be your fault. Stop wasting our time by not talking"** → schuld en schaamte
They're trying to make you feel guilty. Don't fall for it - did you ask to be nicked and interviewed?
- **Mr Nice: "Hiya, what's it all about then? Sergeant Smith says you're in a bit of trouble. He's a bit wound up with you. You tell me what happened and Smith won't bother you. He's not the best of our officers, he loses his rag every now and again. So what happened?"** → wolf in schaapskleren
Mr Nice is a devious as Mr Nasty. He or she will offer you cigarettes, a cuppa, a blanket. It's the softly-softly approach. It's bollocks. "No Comment". → wolf in schaapskleren
- **"We've been here for half an hour now and you've not said a fucking word ... look you little cunt, some of the CID boys will be down in a minute, they'll have you talking in no time. Talk now or I'll bring them in"** → fysieke dominantie / ontmenselijken
Keep at it, they're getting desperate. They're about to give up. You've a lot to lose by speaking.
- **"Your girlfriend's outside. Do you want us to arrest her? We'll soon have her gear off for a strip search. I bet she'll tell us. You're making all this happen by being such a prick. Now talk."** → schuld en schaamte / hierarchie en fysieke dominantie
They pick on your weak spots, family, friends, etc. Cops do sometimes victimise prisoner's families, but mostly they are bluffing.
- **"You're a fucking loony. Who'd want you for a mother, you daft bitch? Confess or your kids are going into care"** → patriarchaal gedrag / ontmenselijken
- **"Look, we've tried to contact your solicitor, but we can't get hold of them. It's going to drag on for ages this way. Why don't you use one of our duty solicitors, and we'll soon get the situation cleared up so you can go home"** → leugens
Never accept an interview without your solicitor present, and don't make a statement even if your solicitor advises you to - a good one won't.
- **"You're obviously no dummy. I'll tell you what, we'll do a deal. You admit to one of the charges, and we'll recommend to the judge that you get a non-custodial sentence, because you've co-operated. How does that sound?"** → leugens / wlf in schaaps kleren
They're trying to get you to do a deal. There are no deals to be made with the police.
- **"Now come on, tell us who you are. Wasting police time is a very serious offence. Now tell us who you are or you've had it"** → leugens
If you didn't reveal your identity, stick at it. You can't be charged for wasting police time for not answering questions.
- **"They've abolished the right to silence - you have to tell us everything now, it's the law"** → leugens
As we said at the beginning, you can still say nothing. There is no obligation to tell the cops anything.