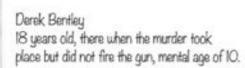
Derek Bentley trial, December 1952

Victim - Sidney Miles, policeman, shot during an attempted burglary

### Accused

Christopher Craiq 16 years old, fired the oun that killed the policeman.





# Case for prosecution

- Craig fired the our. Bentley shouted "Let him have it." This makes him jointly responsible for the murder as he encouraged Craig.
- Bentley has a history of criminality has been in youth detention.
- Bentley has a low level of intelligence but was not insane. and was aware of and responsible for his actions.

### Case for defence

- "Let him have it" could mean, "Let the policeman have the gun." There are questions about whether he really said it.
- Bentley didn't have a weapon. Handed himself over to police.
- Bentley has a learning disability and a mental age of 10.

## Jury

Finds Craig and Bentley guilty, recommends mercy for Bentley.

## Judge's sentence

Craig can't be hanged as under 18. Sentenced to long prison term. Bentley is guilty of the murder under joint enterprise law". Sentenced to death by hanging.



**Devising from Stimulus** 

In 1953 Derek Bentley, aged 19, was convicted of the murder of PC Sidney Miles and sentenced to death. It is the most infamous example of the use of joint enterprise law. Bentley was found guilty despite neither possessing nor firing a gun and giving himself to the police without violence. His codefendant Christopher Craig, who fired the gun, was too young to be executed and served only 10 years in prison. The police officer is said to have asked Craig to hand over the gun and the prosecution case rested on the ambiguous words he allegedly spoke - 'Let him have it, Chris' - interpreted by the court as an incitement to murder.

Bentley was one of the last men in Britain to be sentenced to the death penalty and the furore over the case contributed to its abolishment. His conviction was eventually quashed in 1998, after years of campaigning by his father and sister

The terrible circumstances of this case were immortalised in film in a 1991 production taking its title from the famous words 'Let Him Have It'

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VV2XJDs8FYc



https://www.youtub e.com/watch?v=3YL tp845ifs This song By Elvis Costello captures the essence of the pain

the case caused

Capital Punishment Interrogation Trial Miscarriage of Justice Pc Miles PC Fairfax Campaign Legacy

Role play **Cross Cutting** Narration Duologue Expression Tension Non-Naturalisi Form and Style Verbatim Slow Motion Thought Track