

cop^s and Bobbies

Near·ly ever·y·one at some time has heard a po·lice of·fi·cer called a "cop." Do you know why we use that name? One ex·pla·na·tion is that from 1890 to 1895, all po·lice of·fi·cers in New York Ci·ty were giv·en cop·per bad·ges and re·quⁱred to wear them. The po·lice there soon be·gan to be called "cop·per^s," and in a short time, this was ch^anged to "cop." Now the^se words are used by peo·ple in man·y cit·ie^s th^rough the whole coun·try.

In Lon·don, the po·lice of·fi·cer is fre·qu^ent·ly called a "bob·by." This name is de·riv^ed from the first name of Sir Ro·bert Pe^el, wh^o or·ga·nized Lon·don's po·lice for·ce a·bout 150 year^s a·go.

There are more than 30,000 po·lice of·fi·cer^s in New York Ci·ty a·lone and thou·sand^s more in the var·i·ous part^s of the U·ni·ted State^s. They are paid by the cit·ie^s in whⁱch they w^ork.

Po·lice·w^o·men, wh^o on·ce worked on·ly at desks or in court^s, now ride in pa·trol car^s and an·swer calls for help. The po·lice for·ce is ex·pect·ed to kee^p or·der, to see that law^s are o·beyed, and to pro·tect the ci·ti·zen^s. The live^s of law en·for·cer^s are not ea·sy. The^se of·fi·cer^s of·ten fa·ce dan·ger to kee^p the^r cit·ie^s safe.