

Justice

What does it mean?

Dictionary definition:

- 1) The quality of being just, impartial, or fair
- 2) Just dealing or right action.
- 3) The administration of law in accordance with established principles

From: *The Penguin English Dictionary*, © Penguin Books, 2000

Justice in *Stone Cold*

Let's think in terms of things being fair or not. Answer the following questions by raising your hand if you agree with the statement:

Link obviously didn't get on with Vince, his mum's new husband. It's not fair that he felt he had to move out.

It's fair enough that Link had to move out of home: he was the one who had a problem with Vince.

From Shelter's comments, it appears he was forced to leave the army, even though he did not want to. It's not fair that he had to leave.

It was fair that Shelter
had to leave the army as
he was ill.

Link has his watch stolen by another homeless person. It's not fair as a person should be able to keep their own possessions.

Although a shame, it's fair enough that Link has his watch stolen; the other person was just doing what was necessary to survive.

Shelter is a murderer so
it's fair that he will go to
prison for a very long
time.

Shelter is a murderer
but, as Link says, he will
get a bed and food in
prison whereas he, Link,
has done nothing wrong
and yet is still homeless.
It's not fair.

It's fair enough that Gail has gone undercover to live the life of a homeless person – it is her who alerts the Police to Link's capture after all.

It's not fair that Gail went undercover to live the life of a homeless person. It meant she lived a lie and she only did it to 'get a story' after all.

Did you find it difficult to decide whether or not you agreed with each statement?

Did you sometimes find yourself agreeing with both statements even though they seem to contradict each other?

What does this tell us
about justice and the idea
of 'what's fair'?