Forensic Footwear
Activities

Activity 1: Examination

Footwear impressions can be used as evidence within a range of criminal investigations. A potential suspect will leave foot or footwear impressions on route to, at, and when leaving a crime scene.

This activity will:

    a. Test your observation skills
    b. Demonstrate the types of differences and variations that can be seen between the soles of different shoes, even if the shoes are identical.

Task 1

Take a pair of your favourite trainers and observe its soles. Initially, use only your eyes then you can use a magnifying glass if you wish. Even further, you can take pictures of the soles, upload them onto a computer and use any image viewer your computer may have to zoom in on the shoe soles. Note your observations on the table provided.

NB. Empty tables are provided if you need additional space to note your observations!

We have provided some hints at what to look for. But you are not limited to these! An example has been done for you.

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Side of shoe	Right shoe	Left shoe
Unique feature	Hole on the heel	Worn down under ball of foot
Brand of shoe (visible?)		
Colour		
Unique feature 1		
Unique feature 2		
Gait (manner of walking, e.g. on toes)		

Task 2

Now compare the right sole from one pair of trainers to the right side of another pair of trainers.

Side of shoe	Right shoe	Left shoe
Unique feature	Hole on the heel	Worn down under ball of foot
Brand of shoe (visible?)		
Colour		
Unique feature 1		
Unique feature 2		
Gait (manner of walking, e.g. on toes)		

Task 3

You can now compare one of your shoes to the same shoe (left or right) of someone else's. Ensure you ask nicely for their permission!

Side of shoe	Right shoe	Left shoe
Unique feature	Hole on the heel	Worn down under ball of foot
Brand of shoe (visible?)		
Colour		
Unique feature 1		
Unique feature 2		
Gait (manner of walking, e.g. on toes)		

Task 4

You can repeat these activities as many times as you wish with different combinations of shoes.

Bournemouth University

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