

8A Cutting crime

A society gets the criminals it deserves.
Val McDermid, Scottish crime writer

G the passive (all forms); have something done; it is said that..., he is thought to..., etc. **V** crime and punishment **P** the letter u

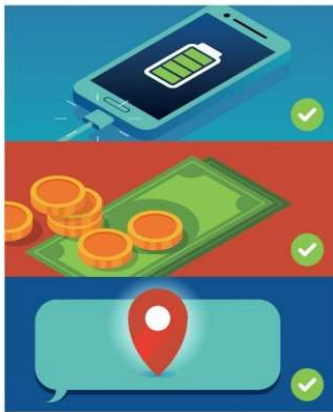
1 LISTENING

- a Imagine you are alone in the street at night in an area that you don't know well. Would you feel nervous? What might you do to feel safer?
- b Read the introduction to a page from a police crime prevention website and look at the pictures. With a partner, decide what advice you think is shown in each picture, and what the missing word in the headings might be.
- c 8.1 Now listen to a Metropolitan Police podcast. Complete the headings. What advice did you predict correctly in **b**?
- d Listen again and answer the questions.
- 1 What should you plan in advance?
 - 2 Why is it important to look confident?
 - 3 What three things shouldn't you do in the street on a mobile phone?
 - 4 What kinds of things should you keep out of sight?
 - 5 Why should you walk facing oncoming traffic?
 - 6 What three things make places safer to walk at night?
 - 7 What should you do during an evening when you're out with friends?
 - 8 Why shouldn't you let your drink out of your sight?
- e Was any of the advice about street crime new to you? Which tip do you think is the most useful? How safe / unsafe is your town, or the area where you live?

Stay safe

Street crime is often unplanned, so making yourself less of a target, moving with purpose, and being aware of your surroundings will go a long way to keeping you safe when you're out and about. Here are eight important pieces of advice.

1 Be _____



2 Be _____



3 Be _____



4 _____ it



5 Go _____ the flow



6 Trust your _____



7 Make a _____



8 Look out for _____



Adapted from the Metropolitan Police website

2 VOCABULARY crime and punishment

- a How much do you think you know about keeping your home safe? Can you 'beat the burglar'? Do the quiz to find out.

Beat the burglar

- What's the most common time of day to be burgled?
 - between 10.00 and 12.00 a.m.
 - between 2.00 and 5.00 p.m.
 - between 10.00 and 12.00 p.m.
- How long do you think a burglar normally takes to search someone's house?
 - 10 minutes
 - 20 minutes
 - 30 minutes
- What two things influence a burglar to choose a house to break into?
 - it's in an expensive area
 - there's no one at home
 - there are trees and bushes around the house
- Which are the most common things that burglars steal, apart from money?
 - laptops and tablets
 - paintings and antiques
 - jewellery
- What is the best place in the house to hide your valuables?
 - the living room
 - the main bedroom
 - a child's bedroom
 - the kitchen
 - the study
- What is most likely to prevent a burglary?
 - a dog
 - a burglar alarm

- b **C Communication** Beat the burglar **A p.109 B p.113** Find out the answers, according to an ex-burglar.

- c Now **A** tell **B** the answers to questions 1–3, and **B** tell **A** the answers to questions 4–6.

- d Match the highlighted words in the quiz to definitions 1–5.

- _____ (noun) a person who breaks in and steals from a private house
- _____ (verb, passive) to have sb enter your house and take things that belong to you
- _____ (noun) the crime of entering a house illegally and stealing things from it
- _____ (phr. verb) to enter a place by force
- _____ (verb) to take sth without intending to return it or pay for it

- e **8.2** Listen and check.

- f **p.160 Vocabulary Bank Crime and punishment**

3 PRONUNCIATION & SPEAKING

the letter u

- a Look at the words in the list. Which sound does the letter u make? Put them in the correct row.

accuse drugs judge jury
mugger punishment smuggling



/ju:/

- b Now look at the pink letters in some more words which include the letter u. Put them in the correct row, according to how the vowel sound is pronounced.

burglar caught court fraud guilty murderer



- c **8.5** Listen and check your answers to a and b. Then answer the questions.

- Is the vowel sound before a double consonant short or long?
- Which two words are pronounced exactly the same?
- How do we pronounce *gu* before the letters *a*, *e*, and *i*, as in *guard*, *guess*, *guilty*?

- d **8.6** Listen and write five sentences. Then practise saying them.

- e Talk in small groups. Ask for more details.

What do you think are the most common crimes in your town or city?

Have you ever witnessed a crime? What was it? Where? What happened?

Do you know anyone...?

- whose phone or bicycle has been stolen
- whose car has been vandalized
- who has been stopped by the police while driving
- who has been mugged
- who has been burgled
- who has been offered a bribe

4 GRAMMAR the passive (all forms); *have something done; it is said that..., he is thought to..., etc.*

- a Read three true crime stories. In which story was someone...?
- A caught because of what they stole
 - B caught because of what they were wearing
 - C caught because of what they said

1 The telltale trousers

When an attempted robbery at a DIY store went wrong, Milton J. Hodges fled across the street and jumped over a fence to avoid ¹*catching / being caught*. Unfortunately, he ²*landed / was landed* in the grounds of the Cypress Cove Nudist Resort & Spa. Hodges ³*spotted / was spotted* by police easily, as he was the only person wearing clothes.

2 The Apple iDiot

Last week in San Francisco, a woman had her iPhone stolen. A thief cycled up to her on the pavement, ⁴*snatched / was snatched* the iPhone out of her hands, and rode away. However, unknown to him, the woman worked for Apple and ⁵*was demonstrating / was being demonstrated* the iPhone's new GPS tracking device to some customers. The tracker worked, and the thief ⁶*caught / was caught* a few minutes later.

3 Parlez-vous français?

The victim was hysterical when the Calgary police arrived at her house. A window ⁷*had broken / had been broken* and her jewellery had gone. While the police officer was there, her French-speaking father ⁸*called / was called*. She explained to him, in French, that it was all a plan to get the insurance money. What she didn't know was that Officer Meharu speaks six languages, including French. She ⁹*has been charged / has charged* with fraud.


- b Read the stories again. Circle the correct form of verbs 1–9, active or passive.

- c Look at the extract from story 2.

A woman **had her iPhone stolen**.

Does it describe...?

- 1 something the person arranged for someone to do for her
- 2 something bad that happened to her

- d  8.7 Now look at another headline and listen to the news story. In what way was the robber polite?

Britain's most polite robber

- e Listen again and complete extracts 1–4. How is the structure different between 1 and 4, and 2 and 3?

- 1 Police in Stockport are looking for a man who is said _____ Britain's most polite armed robber.
- 2 It is believed _____ a tall man in his early 40s...
- 3 It is thought _____ at least four shops in Stockport in recent weeks.
- 4 He is reported _____ to his victims...

- f  p.146 Grammar Bank 8A

5 READING

- a Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- 1 Do you post photos on social media sites like Facebook or Instagram? How often? What kinds of photos do you post?
- 2 Who do you allow to see your posted photos? Why?
- 3 How do you feel when other people post photos of you without your permission?









- b You're going to read an article about Steve Bustin, who had problems with some photos he posted on Facebook. First, look at the four photos. Then read the article once and answer the questions.

- 1 Who are the people in photo A? Who did 'Martin' say they were?
- 2 Why did photos B and C make Constance suspicious?
- 3 What had happened in photo D? How did the scammer use it?

- c Read the article again. Choose a, b, or c.

- 1 When Steve received Constance's email he felt _____.
 - a surprised
 - b pleased
 - c sorry
- 2 Constance was attracted to Martin because _____.
 - a she liked his profile photo
 - b he paid her a lot of attention
 - c he reminded her of her husband
- 3 Thanks to a website about dating scams, Constance was able to find out who _____.
 - a 'Martin' really was
 - b the photo was really of
 - c had originally posted the photo
- 4 In a typical dating scam, men like Martin start by _____.
 - a being very nice to women
 - b asking women for money
 - c trying to get women's sympathy
- 5 As a result of the scam, Steve has decided to be more careful about _____ on social media.
 - a posting holiday photos
 - b who can see what he posts
 - c contacting friends and family

- d Look at the **highlighted** words in the article related to scams and try to work out what they mean. Then match them to a synonym in the list.

-  careful
-  chosen
-  fraud
-  give
-  make use of (in a dishonest way)
-  said that (even though it wasn't true)
-  thought that
-  trick (verb)

A case of identity theft



I sighed when I glanced at the email on my phone. It was from a woman called Constance, a complete stranger to me, who ¹ was under the impression that we'd been in a relationship for several months. It has become an all-too-familiar story. Over the past two years, my photos have been used to ² con 11 women on dating websites. These are just the ones I know about; the real number could be much higher.

I rang Constance and listened as she explained she'd met a man called Martin Peterson on Elite Singles. He said he was Danish and a widower. Constance had joined the website hoping to find love, after losing her husband three years earlier, and Martin had seemed kind and understanding. He was interested in everything about her, texting her every morning and ringing her for cosy chats in the evening. But on his dating profile were several photos, which were in fact, of me! She forwarded me the pictures, and I shuddered when I saw one of me and my sister, who Martin had said was his dead wife.

Constance had begun to be suspicious of Martin when she noticed his hair colour and style change within the space of a few hours. He ³ claimed he was on a business trip, and sent her a photo of me sitting in a hotel garden having breakfast, with my curly grey hair in need of a trim. Later in the day, he sent a second photo of me by a swimming pool, in which my hair was shorter and darker. In fact, these photos had been taken several years apart and had been 'harvested' from my Facebook account. Constance began to look carefully at all the pictures he had sent. She researched dating ⁴ scams online, and found

a way to find out where a picture had originated. By dragging a picture of Martin into a 'reverse image search' on Google, she discovered that the pictures of the man she'd believed to be a Danish widower were actually of me, a public speaker from Brighton.

People like 'Martin' are known to ⁵ prey on older women. First, they gain their trust and bombard them with attention, then they say they are travelling abroad for work, where they are involved in an accident. Finally, they ask the woman to transfer money for medical treatment or flights home. A few years ago, I scratched my face, and posted a photo online of me with blood on my face. This picture has now been used by the scammer several times - he sends it alongside a picture of a smashed-up car, and says he's been involved in a serious accident. Fortunately, Constance didn't ⁶ hand over any money. But other women have, including one woman who lost thousands of pounds.

These days, I'm a lot more conscious of what I post online. I always used to share pictures of everything: holidays by the pool, work speeches, me and my dog, fancy dress parties... Now I've changed my privacy settings on social media. I suppose my account was ⁷ targeted because I had a range of photos and the scammer could build a whole life from them. An expert told me that my pictures had probably been sold on as a bundle on the black market. I now encourage all my friends and family to be ⁸ wary about what they post - once they're out there, there's nothing you can do about it. Unfortunately for me, my identity is no longer my own.

Adapted from the Mirror website

6 SPEAKING

- How common do you think identify theft is nowadays? What can people do to avoid it happening?
- Look at the questions on the right. For each one...
 - decide what you think.
 - think of reasons for your opinions.
 - decide how you think the 'crime' should be punished.
- Now discuss the questions in groups.

Do you think it should be illegal to...?

- post a photo or video of someone online without their permission
- post aggressive or threatening 'tweets' or messages
- download music, books, and films without paying for them
- own an aggressive breed of dog
- squat in an unoccupied house (live there without paying rent)
- paint graffiti on a wall or fence
- smoke outdoors, e.g. in parks or in the street
- kill another person in self-defence

If yes, how do you think they should be punished? If no, say why not.

7 WRITING

W p.120 **Writing** Expressing your opinion Write an article for an online forum, saying what you think about some aspects of crime.

8B

FAKE Fake news

For most people no news is good news, but for journalists good news is not news.
Gloria Berger, US political commentator

G reporting verbs **V** the media **P** word stress

1 LISTENING & SPEAKING

a Talk to a partner.

- 1 Where do you get your international, national, and local news from?
- 2 Look at the list below. What kinds of news are you normally interested in?

arts and culture business celebrity gossip
crime the environment food & drink health
local / national news politics sport technology
TV and entertainment the weather world news

- 3 What kinds of news headlines, e.g. a death, news about a celebrity, a sports result, might make you want to read the whole article?
- 4 What stories are in the news at the moment in your country?

b Look at the headlines and photos for two news stories that were reported in the same week. What do you think they are about?



Wine goes blue



Egyptian zoo denies their zebra is a donkey

c **8.11** Listen to the stories and check. Were you correct?

d Listen again and complete the information.

- 1 Vindigo wine gets its colour from...
- 2 The wine is being produced in...because...
- 3 A bottle of Vindigo costs...
- 4 Monsieur Le Bail says the wine is ideal for...
- 5 Mahmoud Sarhan was visiting the zoo when he saw...
- 6 He was sure it was a donkey because...
- 7 A vet who looked at the photo said that...
- 8 The zoo's owner wouldn't accept that...

e Look at two more headlines and photos from the same week's news. With a partner, guess what they are about.



Football fan gets World Cup fever



Shark baby drama

f **Communication** Strange, but true **A** p.109 **B** p.113 Read the stories and check, then tell each other what happened.

g Three of the four stories are true and one is fake news. Which one do you think is the fake?

2 GRAMMAR reporting verbs

a Look at some extracts from the four news stories. Match them to the direct speech A–F.

- 1 He **persuaded a company** in Almeria in Spain, **to produce** the wine.
- 2 **He...recommends drinking** it on the beach, or around the swimming pool.
- 3 A zoo in Egypt **has denied painting** a donkey with black stripes...
- 4 ...a local vet...**agreed to examine** the photo.
- 5 He **advised me not to take** football so seriously.
- 6 He **threatened to steal** another shark if he felt it was necessary.

- A 'OK, I'll have a look at it.'
 B 'That's the best place to have it.'
 C 'I'll do it again if I have to.'
 D 'Don't do it – it's not very important.'
 E 'Please make it for me.'
 F 'We definitely didn't do it.'

b p.147 Grammar Bank 8B

3 PRONUNCIATION word stress

a Look at the two-syllable reporting verbs in the list. All of them except four are stressed on the second syllable.

Circle the four exceptions.


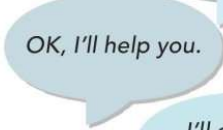
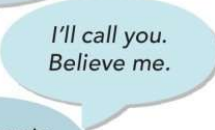


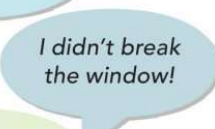
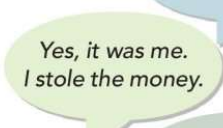
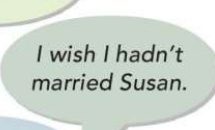


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 or|der per|suade pro|mise re|fuse
 re|gret re|mind su|ggest threa|ten

b 8.13 Listen and check.

Spelling of two-syllable verbs

If a two-syllable verb ends in consonant–vowel–consonant and is stressed on the second syllable, the final consonant is doubled before an -ed ending, e.g. *regret* > *regretted*, *admit* > *admitted*. However, when the stress is on the first syllable, the final consonant is not doubled, e.g. *offer* > *offered*, *threaten* > *threatened*.

c Complete the sentences below with the correct reporting verb in the past tense.

- | | |
|--|--|
|  | 1 He <u>offered</u> to make some coffee. |
|  | 2 He _____ to go. |
|  | 3 He _____ to help me. |
|  | 4 He _____ to call me. |
|  | 5 He _____ me to lock the door. |
|  | 6 He _____ me to buy a new car. |
|  | 7 He _____ me to have dinner. |
|  | 8 He _____ breaking the window. |
|  | 9 He _____ stealing the money. |
|  | 10 He _____ marrying Susan. |
|  | 11 He _____ going to a club. |
|  | 12 The police _____ him of killing his boss. |

d 8.14 Listen and check.

e Cover the right-hand column in c. Look at the direct speech and say the reported sentence, linking the verbs and to where appropriate.

Linking

Remember that if a word ends in a /t/ or /d/ sound, e.g. regular past tense verbs, and the next word begins with a /d/ or /t/ sound, the two words are linked, e.g. *offered* d *to*.

f 8.15 Listen to some more sentences in direct speech. Then report them using the verb you hear.

- 1 I didn't steal the wallet! **deny** (He denied stealing the wallet.)



4 VOCABULARY & SPEAKING

the media

- a Look at the four headlines. What four categories of news are they?

- 1 Manager **quits** following shock Cup defeat
- 2 21-year-old **tipped** to become party leader
- 3 Reality TV star **to wed** girlfriend after one-week engagement
- 4 Companies **split** after unsuccessful merger

- b Guess the meaning of the **bold** verbs. Then match them to a word or phrase from the list.

is going to marry is predicted
leaves separate

- c **V p.161 Vocabulary Bank** The media

- d Look at the questions below. Decide if you personally agree or disagree with them. Think of reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Is it ever OK...?

- for journalists to access other people's phones or email accounts
- for the media to publish stories and photos about celebrities' private lives
- for the paparazzi to take photos of well-known people when they are at home or on holiday
- to censor the news
- to publish news articles that aren't completely true

(I think it's perfectly OK for / to...

(I think it can be OK for / to..., depending on the circumstances.

(I don't think it's ever OK for / to...because...

- e Work in small groups. Take turns to ask one question. Give your opinion and explain why. Then discuss with the group. What is the majority opinion on each topic?

5 READING

- a Read a news report about the Tour de France cycle race. Why was Chris Froome said to be disappointed?

m www.thedailymash.co.uk/sport

Competitors' disappointment over Tour de France route



CYCLISTS have begun to complain that their enjoyment of the Tour has been spoiled by periods of intense uphill cycling. British cyclist Chris Froome said, 'Even though it's called the Tour de France, I don't feel like I'm getting to experience the real France at all. The organizers have planned a route that goes right through some of the hilliest parts of the country, when there are much quicker flat roads we could use. I was hoping we could stop off at a vineyard, or have lunch at an authentic local brasserie, but we're just on our bikes all day. I spent six months doing night courses in French and have barely been able to speak a word, because I pass every French person I meet at 30 mph.'

- b Read the article again. At what point did you realize that this is not a serious piece of news? Are there any other features of the article that made you suspicious?
- c Now read an article about how to spot fake news. Complete the headings with a word from the list.

addresses date fake images name sense spellings trust

- d Read the article again and answer the questions about each section.

Introduction Why do many online sites publish fake news?

- 1 Why don't you need to worry about a Category Six hurricane?
- 2 What was suspicious about the story in the *Denver Guardian*?
- 3 What was the problem with the URL *ABC.com.co*?
- 4 What was wrong with the photos of a news report about a terror attack in Brussels?
- 5 Why does a lot of spelling mistakes in a news article mean that it might be fake?
- 6 How would you know that the Twitter handle @WarrenBuffet was fake?
- 7 Why might an emotionally disturbing image with a news story be a telltale sign?
- 8 What should you do before making an important decision based on online information?

8 tips on how to spot fake news

Fake content has become a daily reality of life online, with hundreds of sites creating false or exaggerated stories for political or personal gain. In spite of the efforts of big tech companies to limit the spread of fake news, some stories fall through the cracks. The expert advice is that it's always useful to have a critical eye and to be on the lookout for misleading stories. There are several telltale signs to look for. Fake news experts Will Moy, director of British fact-checking charity Full Fact, and Cambridge University researcher Sander van der Linden offer their tips.

1 Beware of stories that don't make _____

One of the key signs of fake news is that the stories are highly improbable. During last year's Hurricane Irma, a hugely popular viral story claimed that it was a Category Six hurricane that would 'wipe cities off the map'. Category Six hurricanes do not exist. Moy says, 'Extraordinary claims need extraordinary evidence. If somebody says Elvis is alive, ask for a song before you believe it.'

2 Check the _____ of the news site that published it

Unfamiliar sites built to sound like news organizations are behind many fake news stories, but the names of the sites are often a hint that stories may be fake. When the *Denver Guardian* made claims about Hillary Clinton's emails, there was one small problem – there is no such paper as the *Denver Guardian*. It sounds real, but it is completely fake. 'Be careful of websites that you haven't heard of before,' says Moy.

3 Beware faked website _____

Some sites may try to impersonate real news outlets with URLs which seem similar but have slight differences. For instance, one fake news site impersonated ABC news using a URL which read *ABC.com.co*, rather than *abcnews.go.com*.

4 Check the _____

False news stories often include timelines which make no sense, or contain the wrong dates. For instance, images purporting to be of a 2016 terror attack in Brussels were actually from a 2011 attack on Moscow's Domodedovo Airport.

5 Look for unusual _____ and mistakes

Often, the sign that news is fake is that it is of low quality, with spelling errors and an over-use of capital letters. Real news sources will employ editors to remove these errors and ensure accuracy.

6 Look out for _____ celebrity accounts

'Sometimes stories can spread online after being shared by a social media account designed to impersonate a real person,' says Sander van der Linden. 'Think about the fake tweets that were supposedly sent out by billionaire Warren Buffett. Someone was impersonating him, and millions of people did not notice that the Twitter handle read 'WarrenBuffet', while his real name is Warren Buffett.'

7 Google-search the _____

Fake news sites will often use unrelated or doctored photos. Google-search them to see where they came from and check how accurate they are against other legitimate news sites. Other hoaxers will use deliberately disturbing imagery in an attempt to hook in readers, van der Linden says. 'Emotional content is more likely to go viral, for example, imagine the effect of a fake story containing disturbing images about the effects of a fake disease.'

8 If you're unsure, double check with a source you _____

Fake news stories will often appear on just one site, so if you're unsure, check against a reliable news source. 'When it matters, double check,' says Moy, 'particularly when it comes to health or other life decisions. Always use a trustworthy source.'

e Can you remember these adjectives from the text for...?

- something you shouldn't believe:
exa_____, mis_____,
impr_____, doc_____
- something you should believe:
leg_____, rel_____, tru_____

f Which news websites do you think are a) reputable, b) untrustworthy? Can you think of any examples of exaggerated or fake news?

6 VIDEO LISTENING



a Watch the documentary *The speed of news* once. Number the ways of delivering news in the order they are mentioned.

- cable TV
- Facebook
- live Twitter feeds
- radio and television
- the Boston newsletter
- the telegraph line

b Watch the documentary again and answer the questions.

- Where is the Newseum? How many different newspapers are there?
- Who was Edward Teach? When was he killed?
- How were early newspapers distributed? Why was this a problem?
- How was news communicated during the American Civil War?
- Why were Civil War news reports not very accurate?
- Which inventions created the age of mass media?
- What event appeared on Twitter seconds after it occurred?

c Are there any newspapers or magazines in your country that have existed for a long time? What reputation do they have nowadays? Do you ever read them?

GRAMMAR

Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first.

- I'm almost sure you left your phone in the restaurant.
You _____ your phone in the restaurant.
- It was wrong of you not to tell me you'd borrowed my car.
You _____ me you'd borrowed my car.
- It's possible that the backpackers got lost.
The backpackers _____ lost.
- I'm sure it wasn't Jake's fault. He wasn't there last night.
It _____ Jake's fault. He wasn't there last night.
- I think somebody has tried to break in.
It looks _____ somebody has tried to break in.
- This meat has a very similar taste to beef.
This meat _____ beef.
- I don't like cooking fish because then there's an awful smell in the kitchen.
I don't like cooking fish because then the kitchen _____.
- The accident happened when they were repairing the road.
The accident happened when the road _____.
- They'll probably never find the murderer.
The murderer will probably _____.
- People think the burglar is a teenager.
The burglar is thought _____ a teenager.
- People say that crime doesn't pay.
It _____ that crime doesn't pay.
- We want someone to fix the shower.
We need to have _____.
- 'I think you should talk to a lawyer,' I said to Sarah.
I advised Sarah _____ to a lawyer.
- 'I didn't kill my husband,' Margaret said.
Margaret denied _____.
- 'I'm sorry I'm late,' James said.
James _____ late.

VOCABULARY

a Circle the correct verb.

- Please *remind* / *remember* the children to do their homework.
- A I'm terribly sorry.
B Don't worry. It doesn't *mind* / *matter*.
- The robbers *stole* / *robbed* €50,000 from the bank.
- If you know the answer, *raise* / *rise* your hand, don't shout.
- Don't *discuss* / *argue* about it! You know that I'm right.
- My brother *refuses* / *denies* to admit that he has a problem.

b Circle the word that is different.

- palm calf wrist thumb
- kidney lung hip liver
- wink wave hold touch
- robber vandal burglar pickpocket
- fraud smuggler theft terrorism
- evidence judge jury witness

c Write the verbs for the definitions.

- _____ to bite food into small pieces in your mouth
- _____ to rub your skin with your nails
- _____ to look at sth or sb for a long time
- _____ to make a serious, angry, or worried expression
- _____ to find a way of entering sb's computer
- _____ to demand money from sb by threatening to tell a secret about them
- _____ to give sb money so that they help you (especially if it's dishonest)
- _____ to leave your job (especially in newspaper headlines)

d Complete the missing words.

- The *Sunday Times* TV cr _____ wrote a very negative review of the programme.
- This paper always supports the government. It's very b _____.
- The journalist's report was c _____ by the newspaper. They cut some of the things he had wanted to say because of government rules.
- My favourite n _____ is the woman on the six o'clock news on BBC1.
- The article in the newspaper wasn't very acc _____ – a lot of the facts were completely wrong.

PRONUNCIATION

a Circle the word with a different sound.

1  elbow frown eyebrows vow

2  honest heart hip hack

3  fraud caught warn journalist

4  lungs touch shoulder smuggle

5 /ju:/ argue refuse news jury

b Underline the main stressed syllable.

1 re|a|lize 3 van|da|lism 5 ob|jec|tive

2 black|mail 4 co|mmen|ta|tor

CAN YOU understand this text?

a Read the article once. What is a *web sleuth*?

b Read the article again and complete it with phrases A–F.

- A any information is obviously welcome
- B are fascinated with crime and missing persons
- C there's still a debate about whether amateur sleuthing is good or bad
- D the police have come to the site for help
- E these instances aren't very common
- F she never looked back

▶ CAN YOU understand these people?

▶ 8.19 Watch or listen and choose a, b, or c.



1 Melanie 2 Erica 3 Hugo 4 Diarmuid

- 1 Melanie _____.
 - a argues with her sister about housework
 - b always wins arguments with her sister
 - c hates arguing with her sister
- 2 When Erica acted in the play *A Woman's Worth* she _____.
 - a felt nervous because her family were in the audience
 - b played a woman who was afraid of marriage
 - c played a woman who had problems with her boyfriend
- 3 Hugo witnessed a crime where the criminal _____.
 - a was arrested
 - b escaped
 - c was injured
- 4 Diarmuid _____.
 - a is sceptical about what he reads in the news
 - b gets his news mainly from newspaper apps
 - c is only really interested in sports news

Solving crimes from the bedroom

It seems that people are starting to take the law into their own hands. Is it time for the police to take web sleuths seriously?

Ella Hamilton, a 23-year-old from Scotland, is part of a not-so-small community of citizen-detectives who ¹____. They look through all the clues, police reports and online tips to uncover what the police may have missed. Ella discovered the world of sleuthing after watching a documentary about unsolved mysteries. She was keen to discuss it with other people, and after finding an online forum, ²____. Ella says that most citizen detectives are valuable assets, providing the police with ideas they might not have thought of. 'I've watched hundreds of videos, trying to spot people in the background. It feels good to help.'

Tricia Arrington-Griffith owns the website WebSleuths. She can recall many times that ³____. 'In 2014, a detective came to us with a piece of evidence, a particular T-shirt, from an unsolved murder. Within 36 hours, one of our members had found out exactly where the T-shirt was made, how much it cost, and where it was sold.' Tricia says that the police were incredibly grateful

on this occasion, but she admits that ⁴____. She believes that the police mainly view citizen-detectives as troublemakers. 'And we have had other problems,' she admits. 'WebSleuths was my first introduction to unpleasant behaviour online.'

So what do the police really think? Stewart Smith, an ex-Crime Prevention Officer, says, 'I personally feel that the work many of these sleuths do is fantastic. Police resources are limited, so ⁵____.' But sleuths must be 'careful and considerate in their investigations, especially towards family members'. Family members just like Karen Downes. Her daughter, Charlene, disappeared over 14 years ago in Blackpool, and there's been no trace of her since, but hundreds of people are still trying to solve the mystery online. Karen is delighted with the helpful and respectful amateur sleuths, but her husband Bob disagrees. Claims that he killed his own daughter were posted all over the internet by citizen-detectives; he was even physically attacked on the street, and this is not unusual behaviour. So ⁶____. It's clearly a fascinating hobby, but all citizen-detectives need to make sure they are familiar with the law and behave appropriately.