



EXPENSIVE PAINTING FOUND UNDER BED



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:
1K2G-81L3-C73

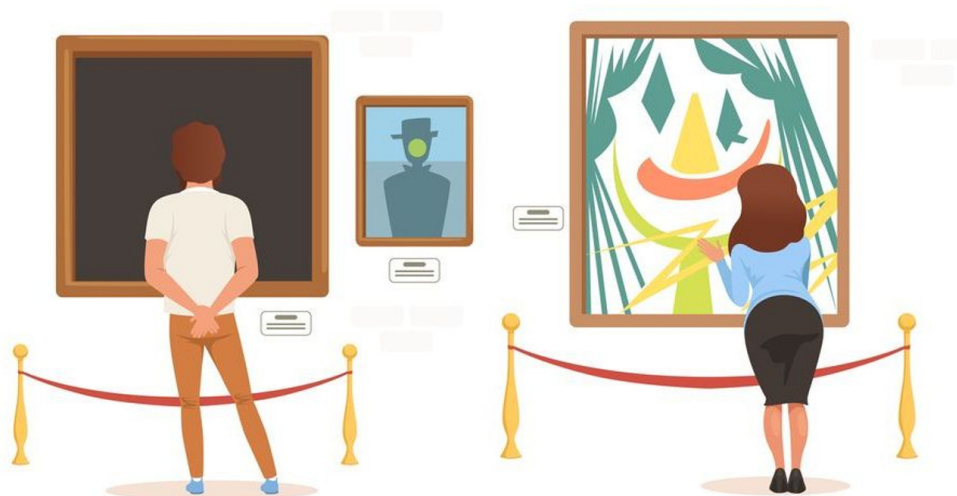


1

Warm up

Discuss the questions in pairs or small groups.

1. How many famous artists can you name? Do you have a favourite painting?
2. Have you ever had anything stolen from you?
3. Do you consider yourself easy to trick?
4. Is stealing always wrong, or are there some situations in which it's okay to steal?
5. Why do you think that paintings are often a target for thieves?





2

Pre-listening task: vocabulary focus

Part A: Match words with the correct definitions.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. scam (n) | a. a person who has been attacked, injured or killed as the result of a crime, a disease, an accident etc. |
| 2. inherit (v) | b. say that somebody has done something wrong or is guilty of something |
| 3. suspect (n) | c. need something; to depend on somebody/something |
| 4. theft (n) | d. the crime of stealing something from a person or place |
| 5. accuse (v) | e. something that is done to cure an illness or injury |
| 6. victim (n) | f. someone who may have committed a crime |
| 7. require (v) | g. a clever and dishonest plan for making money |
| 8. treatment (n) | h. receive money, property etc. from somebody when they die |

Part B: Complete the sentences with the missing words from Part A. You may need to change the form of the word.

1. The only thing you'll be _____ to take to your exam is a pen.
2. The _____ of her favourite necklace made her extremely angry.
3. Some _____ involve people pretending to be authority figures in order to steal private information.
4. He needed _____ after falling down the stairs.
5. Two of the _____ were caught outside the bank.
6. My best friend _____ a large amount of money from her aunt, and invited me to go on holiday with her.
7. If you have been a _____ of a crime, please contact the police using the number below.
8. He's been _____ of driving while drunk, and could go to prison.





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Listening for specific information



Listen to the report about the recent painting theft. Match the numbers and dates mentioned with the things they relate to.

114 million

16

1929

2020

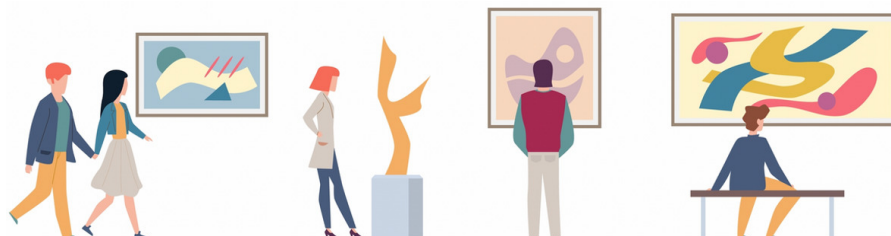
50 million

82

- a. _____ The value of the painting that was found underneath a bed.
- b. _____ The age (in years) of the victim.
- c. _____ The total value of the stolen items and cash.
- d. _____ The year in which the scam began.
- e. _____ The total number of paintings the group is accused of stealing.
- f. _____ The year in which the painting known as Sol Poente was created.

Glossary

- **face charges** (v): to be formally accused of a crime
- **accomplice** (n): a person who helps another to commit a crime or do something wrong
- **suspicious** (adj.): feeling that somebody has done something wrong illegal or dishonest, without having any proof
- **confine** (v): to keep somebody/something inside the limits of a particular activity, area, building etc.
- **psychic** (n): a person who claims to have strange mental powers that allow them to predict the future, speak to dead people etc.
- **curse** (n): a word or phrase that has a magic power to make something bad happen





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Listening for comprehension

Listen to the report again. Answer the questions true (T), false (F) or not given (NG). Give reasons for your choices.

1. The painting found under the bed was by a famous Argentinian artist. _____
2. The owner of the painting is the wife of an art collector who left the artwork to her when he died. _____
3. The group who set up the scam were caught by the victim's own daughter. _____
4. The psychic was a member of the group, and received some of the stolen money. _____
5. Eventually, the victim was forced to remain in her own house by the thieves. _____
6. A painting known as Sol Poente was found under the victim's bed. _____
7. Scams involving psychics became less common during the first year of the pandemic. _____
8. Psychics involved in scams often offer services, such as protection from negative energies, for large amounts of money. _____



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General vocabulary

Part A: Match the words and phrases in bold with the correct definitions.

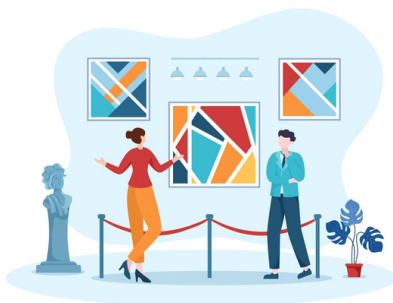
**Group 1**

1. I bought the jacket at an **au**ction****. Apparently, it used to belong to a famous actor. (n)
2. The lights in your home may **ge**nerate**** a lot of heat, which could be uncomfortable in the summer. (v)
3. I'm not sure how we managed to **pu**ll off**** the business deal, but our boss was very happy with us. (phr. v)
4. The museum has many interesting **ex**hibits****, and they usually change them every few weeks. (n)
5. The thief **po**sed as**** an office worker to get into the building. (v)
6. They're keeping the ancient jewellery in a **dis**play case**** in a local museum. (n)
7. My cat **tr**iggered**** my car alarm this morning by jumping onto the roof of the vehicle. (n)
8. Some sinks use **se**sors**** so that people don't need to touch anything when washing their hands. (n)
 - a. a device that can react to light, heat, pressure etc. in order to make a machine do something or show something
 - b. pretend to be somebody in order to trick other people
 - c. a cupboard made or partly made of glass, for showing items to the public in a shop, museum etc.
 - d. cause a device to start working
 - e. succeed in doing something difficult
 - f. a public sale in which things are sold to the person who offers the most money for them
 - g. an object or a collection of objects put in a public place, such as a museum, so that people can see it
 - h. produce or create something



**Group 2**

1. The thieves **disguised** themselves as police officers, and were never caught. (v)
2. Some people keep their washing machine in the **basement** of the house, so that they can't hear the noise. (n)
3. If the power goes out, it's a good idea to check your **fuse box**. (n)
4. I was stopped by the **security guards** because I looked nervous when I left the shop. (n)
5. My colleague **calculated** that our total pay should be much higher than it is. (v)
6. Pans are often covered with a special **coating**, so that food doesn't stick to the surface. (n)
7. Unfortunately, the tickets were **fake**, so when I arrived at the concert I wasn't allowed inside. (adj.)
8. I see a **homeless** man most mornings on my way to work. I usually give him some money for food. (adj.)
 - a. having no place to live, and therefore typically living on the streets
 - b. to use numbers to find out a total number, amount, distance etc.
 - c. a room or rooms in a building, partly or completely below the level of the ground
 - d. a small cupboard that contains switches that control the electrical power of a building
 - e. to change your appearance so that people cannot recognise you
 - f. not what somebody claims it is; appearing to be something it is not
 - g. a thin layer of a substance that covers a surface
 - h. a person whose job involves preventing people from going into places without permission or protecting goods from being stolen





Part B: Complete the dialogue below with ten of the words and phrases from the above exercise. You may need to change the tense of the word or phrase. After completing the dialogue, read it out with a partner, focusing on pronouncing the key vocabulary correctly.

- Travis:** I had an interesting time at work last night.
- Hannah:** What happened?
- Travis:** Well, I told you that I took that _____¹ job, right? I'm working in a gallery, and we recently received a new _____². It's a very famous sculpture by a local artist.
- Hannah:** I think I've heard about that.
- Travis:** They wanted to put it up for _____³, but I don't think they'll be doing that anymore.
- Hannah:** Why not?
- Travis:** Well, it was almost closing time, and this guy came in. He was wearing a suit and told us he was a famous artist. We didn't believe him, and sure enough, we found out that he was just _____⁴ an artist to try and get into the gallery.
- Hannah:** So, he wanted to steal the sculpture?
- Travis:** That's what we thought at first. Then, while we were waiting for the police, the alarm went off. All of the guards were there in one room with this guy who claimed to be an artist – all of us except Natasha, who started on the same day as me. Apparently, Natasha was a thief _____⁵ as a guard, and while we were talking to the 'artist', she was trying to steal the sculpture.
- Hannah:** Did she manage to _____ it _____⁶?
- Travis:** Well, she _____⁷ the _____⁸ of our alarm system, and broke the glass _____⁹, but unfortunately, she broke the sculpture too. We found her standing over the pieces, looking confused. She didn't seem scared or surprised when we arrived. Instead, she held the pieces of the sculpture up and said "you know it's _____¹⁰, right?"
- Hannah:** You mean it wasn't even the real thing?
- Travis:** It wasn't! If Natasha hadn't tried to steal it, nobody would have known it wasn't real.



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Reading for general understanding

You are going to read a short story told by an art thief. Scan the text quickly and match the items mentioned with the correct paragraphs. One item cannot be matched to any of the paragraphs and should be marked 'Not given' (NG).

- a. A security system: _____
- b. A poster: _____
- c. A charity: _____
- d. An injury: _____
- e. News headlines: _____
- f. A storm: _____

The art thief

My name is Reynard, and I'm a former art thief ...

1. Today, I'd like to talk about my greatest crime: the theft of *Madame Renne*, one of Da Vinci's most interesting paintings. The artwork itself was only discovered in the late 20th century in a dusty old building, which, as you can imagine, generated headlines around the world. An auction was quickly arranged, and the painting was shown to the public for a brief period. Very brief, actually, because I stole it from a high-security museum on the second day of the exhibition. Here's my story of how I pulled the burglary off.
2. I went to visit the exhibit on the first day, with a plan already in mind. I posed as a member of the public. There were cameras all around the room, which was roughly square-shaped, and the *Madame Renne* was being held in a glass display case in the centre of the room. On the walls I could see signs of high-tech alarms, the kind of security system that triggers if you step past a sensor. How would I steal the painting?
3. In truth, I was lucky. The next night, a storm was due to hit the city. I disguised myself with the help of a worker's uniform, and, using a forged ID card, got access to the basement of the museum. I found a small cupboard to hide in, and waited until the evening. When I heard the storm begin outside, I went over to the fuse box. With the right tools, you can make an object seem like it has been damaged by a lightning strike. I created a small fire in the box, cutting off power for quite some time – enough time, I hoped, to steal the painting. With the power out, I walked quietly upstairs to the gallery floor.
4. Of course, I had to put my lockpicking skills to use on the doors, but they weren't difficult to open. I thought I was in trouble when two security guards hurried down the stairs towards the basement, but luckily, I managed to hide behind a door before they could see me. I made it to the main gallery with four minutes to spare – the time I had calculated that it would take the guards to fix the fuse box. Working quickly, I removed *Madame Renne* from its case and frame, and replaced the painting with a poster I'd bought in the gift shop. With the right coating, the poster looked just like the real painting. A trick I stole from the Mr Bean movie! I placed the fake *Madame Renne* back into its case, and went down the stairs, leaving through the back door of the museum.
5. It's been almost four years, now, and nobody has noticed that Da Vinci's *Madame Renne* is really a poster. The police, the guy who organised the auction, the new owner – an art collector from America – none of them have any idea! I ended up selling the original on the black market for nearly €40 million, enough to retire from the world of crime for good. I've since set up a charity with the money, and use it to help homeless children around the world. In case you were wondering, Reynard isn't my real name, and I hope that my true identity is never discovered, so that I can continue to help those who need it.



7

Reading comprehension

Read the article again. Complete the sentences with between ONE to THREE words from the article.

1. Reynard describes the target of his crime as one of Da Vinci's _____ artworks.
2. He stole the painting from a museum while it was being shown to the _____.
3. The security system in the room in which the painting was being held could be triggered if you stepped _____ a sensor.
4. With the help of a worker's _____, Reynard disguised himself and managed to access the basement of the museum.
5. He damaged the fuse box in a way that made it look like it had been hit by lightning, _____ the power so that the alarms wouldn't be triggered.
6. He was almost caught by two security guards, but _____ behind a door.
7. In order to complete the crime, he _____ the Madame Renne with a poster he'd bought in the gift shop.
8. The money Reynard made from selling the painting has allowed him to retire from the _____, and focus on setting up a charity to help homeless kids.

8

Optional task: vocabulary extension

Using the text on page for reference, complete the definitions of the crime words and phrases below by filling in the gaps with the correct words and phrases from the list.

building

carefully

copy

goods

key

1. **burglary**: the crime of entering a _____ illegally and stealing things from it
2. **lockpicking**: the practice of opening a lock without using a _____, often with a special tool
3. **black market**: an illegal trade of _____ that are not allowed to be bought and sold
4. **high-security**: describing a building or place that is very _____ locked and guarded
5. **forged**: describing an illegal _____ of something that is made in order to cheat people

Now, complete the sentences with the correct word or phrase from above.

1. The thieves broke into the _____ bank during a storm.
2. Jake was arrested after he was caught with a _____ passport.
3. There have been many _____ in our neighbourhood, recently.
4. Thieves often sell stolen items on the _____.
5. Samantha learnt _____ while in prison.



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Talking point

In pairs or small groups, discuss the following questions.

A

1. Do you believe that Reynard's story is true? Why/why not?
2. Why do you think some paintings sell for such high figures?
3. Thieves are the main characters for many films or novels and are often shown in a positive way. Why do you think this is?

B

1. Do you think Reynard should be punished for his crime? Why/why not?
2. Do you think that many world-famous paintings are actually fakes? Can we ever know for sure?
3. What do you think the most unbelievable part of Reynard's story is?