3 Strange crimes  Level 4, Module 6

1 Reading

Work with a classmate. Read the words from the headlines and discuss what you think each story will be about. Then read the articles and check.

1 Old man gives biscuits stole 50 years

2 Criminals arrange bank robbery phone

3 Police hunt prisoners escape sheep

1 A pensioner has returned a packet of biscuits he stole when he was a fifteen-year-old schoolboy half a century ago. The man took the biscuits while he was working at a café in Yorkshire, England. He said he had always felt bad about it. Finally, 50 years later, he bought another packet of biscuits and went back to the café.

The owner, who said he didn’t know the boy had stolen the biscuits, was astonished when his old employee, now in his 60s, arrived at his café the previous day. ‘We had a good laugh about it!’ he said.

2 US police have arrested two men who tried to rob a bank. The men made the mistake of phoning the bank and asking the staff to have the money ready for them to collect. The pair threatened the staff and said there would be trouble if the money wasn’t ready. The staff then phoned the police.

Ten minutes later the two would-be robbers arrived, only to find the police waiting for them instead of the money.

3 Two Argentinean criminals, who escaped from prison, have disappeared. All the police know is that they are disguised as sheep. The two men, who were put in prison for robbing a bank, stole the sheep skins from a local farm.

A farm worker said he had seen the men running through the fields at night.

‘They were wearing grey clothes, but had sheep skins, including the sheep’s heads, over their heads and backs.’ The police have already spent over a week looking for the men.
2 Comprehension

Read again and choose the correct answers.

1 When was the packet of biscuits stolen?
   a recently
   b 15 years ago
   c more than 15 years ago
   d the previous day

2 Why did the thief decide to return the biscuits?
   a Because he hadn’t eaten them yet.
   b Because it took him 50 years to find the same biscuits in a shop.
   c Because the café owner felt bad about it.
   d Because the thief felt bad about it.

3 What was the bank robbers’ mistake?
   a They shouldn’t have threatened the staff.
   b They shouldn’t have phoned to say they were coming.
   c They arrived too early.
   d They phoned the police by mistake.

4 How did the Argentinian criminals hide from police?
   a They robbed a bank.
   b They escaped from prison.
   c They dressed as sheep.
   d They ran around the hills.

5 How do the police know the criminals are dressed as sheep?
   a Someone who works at the farm has seen them in sheep skins.
   b The farmer has lost two sheep.
   c Because the police would have found them if they weren’t dressed as sheep.
   d Because a farmer has counted two sheep that don’t belong to him.

3 Vocabulary

Find words in the articles with these meanings.

Article 1
   a someone who has stopped working because he has reached a certain age
      pensioner
   b very surprised and shocked

Article 2
   c promised to do something bad to someone
   d trying to become

Article 3
   e dressed so that nobody knows the real identity

4 Writing

a) Choose one of the articles from Activity 1 and imagine what happened next. Make notes to answer these questions.

   Article 1
   What did the café owner say to the thief? What did they do with the biscuits?

   Article 2
   What did the robbers do when they arrived at the bank? What did the police do?

   Article 3
   Did the police find the prisoners? If not, why not? If so, how and where did they find them?

b) Write the last paragraph of the article you chose. Use your notes from Activity 4a.
3 Strange crimes  Teacher’s notes

Aim
In this lesson, students read and discuss three newspaper articles about strange crimes. (The stories are all based on real events.) They also predict and write about what happened next.

1 Reading
- Put the students in pairs and ask them to read the words from the newspaper headlines. Ask them to discuss what they think each story will be about.
- Ask a few students to share their ideas with the class.
- Students then read the newspaper articles and check their answers.

**Answers**
1  An old man gives back biscuits that he stole fifty years ago.
2  Criminals arrange a bank robbery by phone.
3  Police are hunting for prisoners who escaped and are dressed as sheep.

2 Comprehension
- Ask the students to read the articles again and choose the correct answer to each question.
- Ask the students to compare answers in pairs before checking them with the class.

**Answers**
1c  2d  3b  4c  5a

3 Vocabulary
- Ask students to find words in articles 1–3 which match definitions a–e.
- Ask the students to compare answers in pairs before checking them with the class.
- Ask students to translate the words into their own language and make a note of them.

**Answers**
a  pensioner  
b  astonished  
c  threatened  
d  would-be  
e  disguised

4 Writing
- Ask students to choose one of the articles from Activity 1 and think about what happened next. They should look at the questions for their article and make notes to answer them.
- They then use their notes to write the final paragraph of the article they have chosen.
- **Note:** The writing stage of this activity could be set for homework.