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6 NOT-SO-INTELLIGENT THIEVES!

Police spend a lot of time, effort and money on crime detection. But sometimes, it's the bad guys who help the police, as these six examples of not-so-intelligent criminals clearly show.

1 YouTube thief

In November 2012, 19-year-old Hannah Sabata uploaded an eight-minute video to YouTube. In the video, she bragged about robbing a bank and stealing a car. She even flashed some of the \$6,000 USD she'd stolen. But thanks to her video, which she'd called "Chick Bank robber", the police had a self-made confession which they used to arrest her.

2 Facebook thief

In September 2009, Jonathan G. Parker, a 19-year-old from Pennsylvania, broke into a house and stole two diamond rings. But before he left, he used the victim's computer to check up on his Facebook account. However, he never logged out and police used the information on the computer to track him down.

3 Powder thieves

In July of 2009, three teenagers broke into a vending machine at the Arlington Recreation Center in St Paul (Minnesota). They stole a number of items then fled the scene. However, they left one vital clue: a trail of a mysterious orange powder. The police followed it from the recreation centre to a nearby home, where they found several bags of Cheetos which had been stolen from the machine. Police arrested the three males aged 17, 18 and 19 who lived in the house.

4 Signature criminal

In 2007, Peter Addison, an 18-year-old from Stockport (Ohio) vandalised a children's campsite building. He smashed up pottery vases, set off fire extinguishers, and left the campsite in a complete state of disarray. But before he left, he used a black marker pen to write his name on a wall. With the suspect's name to go on, it wasn't long before police arrested him. Commenting on the case, Inspector Gareth Woods said, "There are some pretty stupid criminals

around, but to leave your own name at the scene of the crime takes the biscuit."

5 Unlucky criminal

In December 2011, Timothy Randall Clark, a 22-year-old from Maryland, tried to shoplift more than \$500 worth of video games. However, he chose the wrong day to do it. At the time, there were 50 police officers in the store as part of a national charity annual event called "Shop With A Cop", which is intended to strengthen relations between law enforcement officials and local youths.

6 Warning

In 2008, Daniel Glen of Windsor (Ontario), called a convenience store to ask the clerk how much money there was in the cash register. He told the clerk to put it all into a bag and to have it ready for him as he'd be coming over later on. Immediately after hanging up, the clerk alerted the police, who arrived at the scene shortly afterwards. They arrested Glen after he committed the robbery.

Now, how dumb is that? ☹

1 Reading I

Read the article once. Which thief/thieves are the least intelligent? Why?

2 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions without referring back to the article.

- What mistake did Hannah Sabata make?
- What did Johnathan forget to do?
- How did the police locate the three teens who broke into a vending machine?
- How did Peter help police locate him?
- What was wrong with the day that Timothy chose to do a bit of shoplifting?
- How did the police know that Daniel was going to rob a convenience store?



Language Structures: Synonyms & Antonyms

A synonym is a word that has the same meaning as another word. For example, *big* and *large* are synonyms – both being adjectives meaning “of great size”.

Other examples of synonyms include: *to start-to begin*; *sad-upset*; *adore-love*; *leave-depart*

However, words that appear to be similar often aren't used in the same way. For example, we can say: “Mr Getty paid a **large** amount of money for the Picasso painting.” But we don't say “**a big** amount of money”.

This is because the words **big** and **amount** don't collocate – meaning we don't use them together, and it sounds wrong and unnatural if we do.

Words can be used in different contexts too. For example, look at this sentence. Which word is correct?: “Can you tell me where the **lift / elevator** is, please?”

Both words are correct, but the British tend to use *lift*; whereas Americans use the word *elevator*.

When making a note of any new vocabulary, you should always write words down in sentences so you can see which words they collocate with.

Antonyms

An “antonym” of a word is the opposite of that word. For example: *easy-difficult*; *fat-thin*; *tall-short*.

However, not all antonyms are quite so straightforward. Many words can have different meanings. For example:

- a) I met an **old** man. (the opposite would be *young*)
- b) I bought an **old** car. (the opposite would be *new*)

Sometimes, we use suffixes and prefixes to show opposites. For example: *polite-impolite*; *accurate-inaccurate*; *responsible-irresponsible*...

Top tip

When learning a new word, write it out in a full sentence so you can see which words it collocates with. Also, write down any opposite forms of the word.

Word choice

What's the synonym of each word or expression in bold? Choose from the options a, b, c.

1. When I'm on holiday I like to **wind down**.
a) relax b) be outside c) sleep
2. It was a **rip-off**.
a) bargain b) con c) discount
3. It's **highly unlikely** that they'll accept our offer.
a) extremely probable b) likely c) not probable
4. **On the whole**, I don't think it's too bad.
a) sometimes b) occasionally c) mostly
5. **Actually**, I'm French, although I speak with an Italian accent because...

- a) right now b) at the moment c) in fact
6. The course was **pretty tough**.
a) quite difficult b) quite easy c) very basic
7. You can come back to my **place**.
a) computer b) car c) home

Matching

Match the words in bold (1 to 8) to the definitions (a-h).

1. The price of petrol has been **fluctuating** a lot recently.
 2. It's **inevitable** that these things will happen when you're trying to do so much.
 3. They offered additional bonuses as an **incentive** for surpassing their sales targets.
 4. The situation was **chaotic** as no one was in charge.
 5. I can't believe he fell for that trick! He's just so **naïve** at times.
 6. They were just about ready to give up, but we persuaded them to **carry on**.
 7. As it was raining so heavily, they decided to **put** the game **off** until the next day.
 8. There was a fire in the kitchen but we managed to **put** it **out**.
- a. continue
 - b. extinguish
 - c. certain
 - d. confused / confusing
 - e. changing
 - f. innocent
 - g. a stimulus; an action to motivate
 - h. postpone

Word selection

Complete the news stories with the correct words. When you've finished, make sentences with three of the words that you didn't use. Make sure they collocate correctly.

TRIPPING VISITOR

A 32-year-old man destroyed a set of (1) **priceless** / **wealthy** vases in a museum in Cambridge yesterday afternoon after crashing into a display cabinet. Among the best-known (2) **artefacts** / **concoctions** at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, the 300-year-old pieces were from the Qing Dynasty and had been on (3) **spectacle** / **display** on a staircase window sill for 40 years. (4) **Squashing** / **Squatting** down to tie his shoe lace, the visitor is said to have slipped and fallen down the staircase, bringing the vases crashing down as he tried to (5) **steady** / **equal** himself. Not wanting to identify the man, the museum described the (6) **casualty** / **accident** as “unfortunate” and “regrettable”. In a message to the press, Margaret Greeves, the museum's assistant director, added, “The vases are now in very, very small pieces, but we are (7) **confident** / **determined** to put them back together.”



**CAT BURGLAR**

A young woman from Brighton made an unusual discovery in her home two nights ago. After (8) **hearing / listening** a noise at night, the 43-year-old decided to investigate. Arming herself with a baseball bat, she went downstairs to discover a whole new (9) **meaning / signify** to the word "cat burglar". On entering the kitchen, she saw the head and one arm of a man (10) **sticking / pulling** out of the cat-flap. "He was clearly in a lot of pain as his head was (11) **congested / jammed** in," she explained. The police were called immediately. When asked what he was doing there, the (12) **burglar / burger** said that he was looking for his cat.

**4 Word choice**

Choose the correct options (a-d) for each word in bold.

FROM THE JAWS OF DEATH

A Sunday morning (1) _____ turned a neighbour into a hero. Barry Moore was walking his 9-month-old bulldog when the pooch ran ahead to the edge of a pond in South Florida. Suddenly, Moore heard the dog cry. (2) _____ ahead, he saw that his dog's head was inside an alligator's mouth. Without a second thought, Moore (3) _____ in the water and started hitting the gator with his fist.

With the dog still in its mouth, the alligator started to slowly (4) _____ under the water. Refusing to let go, it started rolling in the water. "It was about 3 metres long, and I thought my dog was dead," Moore later said. "But (5) _____ open the gator's mouth, he managed to pull out his dog. Minutes later, an ambulance (6) _____ and paramedics rushed the dog to hospital. Once there, doctors treated it for cuts and puncture wounds. It is now recovering at home.

1. a) walk b) journal c) march d) tour
2. a) flowing b) dispatching c) rushing d) streaming
3. a) cantered b) jumped c) mashed d) wavered
4. a) disappear b) dissolve c) melt d) fade
5. a) bar b) prising c) swallow d) pinch
6. a) turned up b) displayed c) arrived up d) took up

Your turn!

Write a short newspaper report on an incident.

5 Language identification

In newspaper stories, writers often pack as much information into the first sentence as possible. They try to use as many of the 5 Ws (**who, what, where, when, why**) and H (**how**) as

possible. Read over the following newspaper leads and try to identify the **who, what, where, when, why** and **how** (in some cases, not all the information is included).

Newspaper leads (also spelt "ledes")

1. A British skier was injured during an avalanche at a ski resort in eastern France yesterday afternoon.



2. A young man was driving his father's Mercedes near Bristol on Saturday night when he collided with a tree.
3. A commercial jet en route to Alaska had to make an emergency landing in Chicago yesterday afternoon after one of the in-flight lavatories started flooding.



4. Two shopkeepers in Barsdale were sentenced to six months in jail yesterday after being convicted of cheating a lottery winner out of his winnings.
5. A report out today shows that sales of green tea in the UK rose by 1.5 percent last year, beating all previous records.
6. A study published this week in the UK shows that nearly half of Britons admit to cancelling friends at the last minute when a more attractive social engagement comes up.

For example:

- a) Who = British skier
- b) What = he was injured
- c) Where = at a ski resort in eastern France
- d) When = yesterday afternoon
- e) How = there was an avalanche

Your turn!

Write two article leads of your own. Try to include as much information as you can in each sentence.