

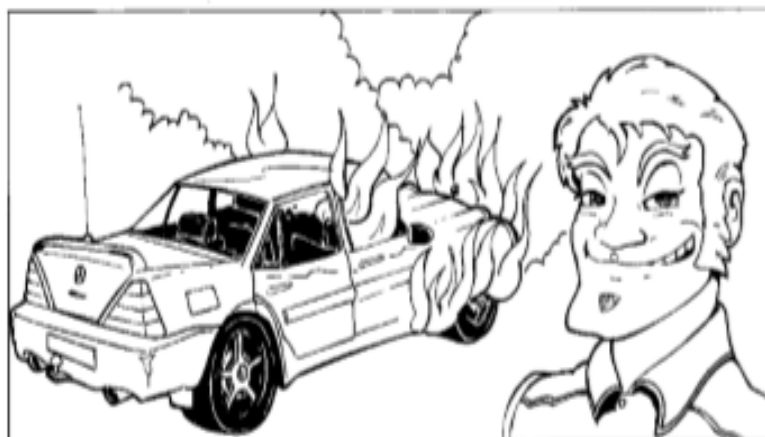
Reading – Task One

## 'You think he torched the car himself for the insurance money?' asked Senior Sergeant Darren Martin.

'Yes, Sir, I do. But I don't know how we're going to prove it,' replied Police Constable Sam Payne. 'It's all too neat and tidy for my liking.'

They were talking about the theft and burning of businessman, Bobby Powell's car. It was a new model Mercedes and very expensive.

busy so I had to park around a corner about two streets away. When I had just about reached the bank I realised I'd left some papers I needed in the car. I went back and saw that my car was missing. I should have called the police straight away, I know, but I took my wife's car and went looking for the Mercedes.



'Let's go over his statement again,' suggested the senior officer.

Constable Payne pulled out the filing cabinet drawer and located the statement that Powell had given the day after the supposed theft. He began reading it aloud.

'Monday, January 22nd, 2006 ... Statement given by Robert Gregory Powell... Yesterday I was going about my business as usual. I typed some letters on my word processor and answered my emails. I work from my office at home. At about 11 o'clock that morning I drove into town. I went into the post office to buy some stamps. After doing this I climbed into my car again and went to the bank. It was quite

'I saw some smoke on a deserted road on the outskirts of town—near the city garbage dump. When I drove down there I saw the remains of my car, still smoking.' End of statement.'

'Say, this bird's got a bit of form with us, hasn't he?' asked Sergeant Martin.

'Yes, Sir,' replied Payne. 'Mostly small time scams. Last year he advertised a sure-fire method of cutting household bills in half.'

'Oh yes, I remember now. People sent him money and he mailed them a pair of scissors. We got him on a similar scam a year earlier.'

'Oh? What was that one, Sir?' asked Payne.

'He ran an ad promising to tell the secret used by wealthy people to be come rich,' said the Senior Sergeant.

'And what did they get for their money, Sir?' enquired Payne.

'They got a single sheet of writing paper with the word 'CHEAT' written on it in bold letters.'

'Anything connected to insurance money before?' asked the young constable.

'Two things. His wife once, supposedly, had some jewels stolen. Powell's story was on the nose but, in the end, the insurance company had to pay out.

'The other time is now. But he won't get away with it this time. He's going to spend some time in jail, making number plates for other people's expensive cars,' said the Senior Sergeant, closing the drawer of the filing cabinet. 'Come on! Let's go and drag him in here now and charge him. The story he told in his statement has to be a lie.'

Use your comprehension and detective skills to find out how the Senior Sergeant knew that Powell was not telling the truth in his statement.

Imagine a cool million in 90 days!

Can you afford to invest? You can't afford not to!  
That's all you need to make your life sweet.  
Send me a cheque today to receive a kit in the mail.  
Guaranteed! P O Box 113 Ceterama 9000

1. Write short answers to the questions below.

(a) What sort of car did Powell have? \_\_\_\_\_

(b) What did Sam Payne think Powell had done to the car? \_\_\_\_\_

(c) What did Senior Sergeant Martin suggest they go over again? \_\_\_\_\_

(d) What was the day of Powell's statement?  
\_\_\_\_\_

(e) On which day did the events take place?  
\_\_\_\_\_

(f) What did Powell say he'd done before going into town?  
\_\_\_\_\_

(g) Where did he go first? \_\_\_\_\_

(h) Where did he go next? \_\_\_\_\_

(i) How far from the bank did he have to park?  
\_\_\_\_\_

(j) Why did he go back to the car? \_\_\_\_\_

(k) What did he do rather than go to the police straight away? \_\_\_\_\_

(l) Where did he find his car? \_\_\_\_\_

(m) What had Powell sent to people to help them cut household bills in half? \_\_\_\_\_

(n) What did he advise people to do to become rich?  
\_\_\_\_\_

(o) On what else had Powell claimed insurance?  
\_\_\_\_\_

(p) What did Senior Sergeant Martin suggest Powell would be making in jail? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Senior Sergeant Martin quickly worked out that Powell was a fraud. He paid special attention to the clues. In a few sentences, tell where Powell went wrong.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Writing – Task Two

Use the ideas below to write a spy story:

**Top secret spies**

Imagine that you turn on your computer, and this email message pops up:

**Subject: Help!**  
**Priority: URGENT**

Have been captured by enemy agents. Go to location X and recover the files immediately. Then come and rescue me. Am being taken to Dead Drop C. Beware: Yellowbelly is a double-agent.

Hurry  
Starfish

Now tell the story of what happens next.




**Questions**

- Where are location X and Dead Drop C?
- What is in the files?
- Do you have a code name?
- Who are you working for or against?
- Who are Starfish and Yellowbelly?
- How does the mission end?

**Global intrigue**

Spies often travel all around the world. That gives you a lot of choice of exciting settings. For example, you could take your characters to an ancient town in North Africa, an elegant cafe in Paris, a secret underground bunker or up to the top of the Empire State Building.

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secret organization

**infiltrate**

**double agent**

**unmask**

computer files

martial arts

**prototype**

secret weapon

**undercover**

follow orders

**Countdown**

self-destruct

**narrow escape**

scuba diving

code word

helicopter

anonymous tip-off

**intelligence**

secret mission

**disguise**

safe house

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