

FAMOUS CRIMINALS

NAME: _____

Read the article below.

What do these three men have in common? All are, or were, incredibly rich at some point in their lives. However, there's little to admire in their apparent success – they all got their money in deeply dishonest ways.

One of the most common ways of stealing money these days is to steal it from your company. It's called embezzlement and **Dennis Kozlowski** was very good at it! Kozlowski was a top manager at an American company named Tyco a few years ago. (Ironically, one of the company's most recognised brands is ADT Home Security.) Kozlowski and another senior manager decided to help themselves to the company's money. It was a lot of money, and Kozlowski wasn't afraid to spend it! He bought a house costing \$19 million and an apartment in New York for \$18 million. He even spent \$2 million on a private concert from the singer Jimmy Buffet. Altogether, he managed to steal \$600 million before someone noticed. He's now in prison and has a lot of time to think about his 'success'.

Ronald Biggs was involved in the Great Train Robbery of 1963. Early one morning, a gang of men stopped a train in the British countryside.



They hit the train driver over the head and drove the train towards a bridge. A lorry was waiting underneath, and they dropped 120 mailbags of money from the train into it. They then drove to a farm nearby and shared out the money. Biggs got £147,000, which was a fortune at the time. When the police later found the farm, Biggs's fingerprints were all over the place. He was caught and sent to prison, but escaped after fifteen months. Biggs avoided British justice for almost 40 years, living in Australia and then in Brazil. He returned to Britain in 2001 because of bad health and died in 2013.

American **Albert Gonzalez**, also called 'The Hacker', worked for the US Secret Service in the early 2000s, trying to catch cybercriminals. But he didn't stay on that side of the law for long, and soon formed his own gang of hackers. They planned to make millions, and they did. The gang hacked into the computer networks of huge retail stores. They managed to steal the details of 140 million credit cards, and sold them to criminal organisations in other countries. They were successful for some time, but an international police operation finally tracked them down. Gonzalez was sentenced to 20 years in prison, but his victims had lost millions of dollars.

Answer the questions below.

1. How did Dennis Kozlowski get his money?

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2. How did he spend it?

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3. How did Ronnie Biggs get his money?

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4. How did Albert Gonzalez get his money?

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5. What prison sentence did he get?

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