**4** **Read the article.** 8-02

# THE HATTON GARDEN ROBBERY




In April of 2015, the largest robbery in English legal history took place. Robbers broke into a bank vault and stole over 18 million dollars' worth of valuables. The most surprising thing about the whole scheme, however, was the fact that the robbers were all old men.

It all started on April 1, when a fire broke out in Kingsway in central London. [a] The fire burned for two days. During that time, over a thousand people were evacuated from the area. Then on April 2, the Hatton Garden Safe Deposit Company closed for the Easter weekend. The police said that it was around this time that the robbers, John "Kenny" Collins, Daniel Jones, Terry Perkins, Carl Wood, William Lincoln, Hugh Doyle, Michael Seed, and Brian Reader, began drilling their way into the vault from a building next door.

Since the area was empty, the robbers had an adequate setting in which they could work without worrying about their drills being heard. [b] Over the next few days, police said that the robbers drilled into the vault and carried out stolen items. Finally, on April 5, the robbers finished their robbery and drove away.

On April 7, police publicly announced that the safe deposit facility had been robbed. Then, on April 10, a local newspaper released CCTV footage of the elderly robbers. At the time, the whole thing sounded like nonsense. People asked how old men could be responsible for such a crime. Nevertheless, the police worked hard to solve the case. [c] Finally, on April 19, they stated that they had arrested all of the thieves.

In the end, the robbers were caught. None of them resisted arrest. The police asked them where the stolen items were, and the old men gave up their treasure. This gave courts the authority to send them to jail. Justice was served, or was it?

The strange thing about the robbery is that not all of the stolen items were recovered. Police say that there is still nearly 7.5 million dollars' worth of items out there. [d] People asked themselves what the robbers had done with the rest of the stolen items. Perhaps the robbers stole less than police thought, or maybe they hid some of it for when they get out of jail.



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# Comprehension



## 5 Circle the answers.

1. What is the article mainly about?
   a. elderly robbers
   b. a fire over Easter weekend
   c. a fire at Hatton Garden
   d. construction at a bank

2. How did the men get into the vault?
   a. by climbing in from the ceiling
   b. by starting a fire in the building
   c. by drilling in from another building
   d. by breaking in from across the street

3. What is true about the robbery?
   a. The robbers left the scene on foot.
   b. All of the stolen items were found.
   c. Some of the robbers escaped justice.
   d. All of the robbers were caught.

4. What is NOT true about the crime?
   a. The fire went on for two whole days.
   b. The robbers were caught on video.
   c. Over 18 million dollars have not been recovered.
   d. The robbers drilled through the walls.

5. What can be inferred about the Kingsway fire?
   a. It probably had nothing to do with the robbers.
   b. It prevented the robbers from finishing the robbery.
   c. The police didn't do enough to stop it.
   d. The robbers wouldn't have succeeded without it.

6. Where is the best place to insert the following sentence? *The robbery was so large that police assigned the case to a special team of investigators*
   a. [a] b. [b] c. [c] d. [d]

## 6 Discuss with a partner.

1. Why do you think old men would have risked their freedom to carry out the robbery?
2. The word *heist* means to elaborately steal something. Describe a book or a movie that involves a heist.
3. How can countries reduce criminal activity? How can you protect yourself and your family from criminals?

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