News

Exercise 1: Warm-Up

Select your response for each question before you listen:

1. Have you ever followed a breaking news story about a major crime online?
   Yes No

2. Which news format do you prefer for urgent updates?
   Television / Radio broadcast Social media / Digital news feed

3. 'Wealthy individuals should invest in private security rather than rely solely on police.'
   Agree Disagree

Exercise 2: Introductory B2 Vocabulary

Match each B2 vocabulary item from the news report (1-5) with its correct definition (A-E) by choosing the corresponding letter from the dropdown list.

Word / Phrase	Definition
1. tycoon (noun)	A. Tied up securely and prevented from speaking with a cloth over the mouth
2. mansion (noun)	B. An extremely wealthy and powerful businessperson or magnate
3. bound and gagged (phrase)	C. A deep, jagged cut or surgical wound to the skin
4. gash (noun)	D. An impressive, very large and imposing residential house
5. in connection with (prepositional phrase)	E. In relation to or associated with a suspected event or crime

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Exercise 3: Listening Strategy & Comprehension Check

Listening Strategy Tip: Keyword Identification & Paraphrasing

Before clicking 'Play', scan every question stem and option. Identify the core content words (nouns, main action verbs, adjectives, negatives, and time/place markers). Anticipate synonyms and paraphrases you might hear instead of the exact written words (e.g. *stole jewellery* might be phrased as *took valuable items*).



Part 3A: Clickable Keyword Selection

Select the two or three essential keywords in each question stem below to focus your listening:

1. When did the attackers strike the mansion property?
2. What weapon was used to assault Mr Caudwell?
3. How did the perpetrators escape from the scene?
4. Why were police officers using metal detectors yesterday?

Part 3B: Multiple Choice

Listen to Audio 1 and choose the correct option (A, B, C, or D) for each question:

Audio News

1. When did the attackers strike the mansion property?
   - A) At 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday evening
   - B) At 8.15 p.m. on Monday evening
   - C) In the early hours of Tuesday morning
   - D) At 8.15 a.m. on Wednesday morning

2. What weapon was used to assault Mr Caudwell?
   - A) A heavy wooden club
   - B) An iron bar from a window
   - C) A crowbar
   - D) A firearm

3. How did the perpetrators escape from the scene?
   - A) In a stolen luxury saloon parked nearby
   - B) On foot across fields situated behind the house
   - C) Along a secluded rural country lane on motorbikes
   - D) By boat along a local canal network

4. Why were police officers using metal detectors yesterday?
   - A) To find weapons discarded in nearby woodland
   - B) To recover the stolen jewellery
   - C) To search for clues in the grounds surrounding the house
   - D) To locate stolen cash buried under topsoil

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Exercise 4: Targeted Fill-in-the-Gaps

Gap-Fill Listening Tip: Grammatical Prediction

Inspect the words immediately before and after each blank before you listen. Identify the required part of speech (noun, verb, adjective, or number) and look for agreement clues such as articles (*a, an, the*), auxiliary verbs, and prepositions to narrow down your prediction.



Audio: News

Listen to the broadcast and complete the summary. Type one or two words from the recording into each gap:

1. Hugh Kernoid opened the news broadcast on Wednesday 31st October at **[1]** _____ (*number / time*).

2. John Caudwell, a well-known mobile phone **[2]** _____ (*noun*), sustained injuries during an assault at his home near Eccleshall.

3. The armed intruders wore dark clothing and **[3]** _____ (*plural noun*) to conceal their identities while carrying out the robbery.

4. The victims, who care for their **[4]** _____ (*hyphenated compound adjective / age*) son, received initial treatment from paramedics before transfer to hospital.

5. Medical staff confirmed that Mr Caudwell had suffered bruising to his arms alongside a severe **[5]** _____ (*noun*) to his forehead.

6. Within forty-eight hours of the incident, detectives confirmed that a suspect aged **[6]** _____ (*number / age*) had been detained in connection with the crime.

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