If you were Debra Newell, what would you do?

1.Listen and fill the gaps with verb forms

The Private Detective _____ Debra Newell to _____ certain precautions: she should _____ hotels every few nights; she should _____ the crowd when she _____ the room; she should _____ behind her to see if she was _____ _____; _____ new places to eat; _____ her routine; _____ her car; _____ a dark wig to _____ her conspicuous blond hair; _____ her stylish outfits for bland ones; _____ in.

2.Listen to the snippet and fill the gaps with prepositions _____:

She had more than 300 pages of documents she had taken _____ her husband John's home office and _____ the frantic weeks of early 2015, she was poring _____ them trying to determine the scope of his criminal past – every line, deep _____ her fear.

John was ____ the hospital, but she feared he might get _____ any day and come _____ her. So, she followed the Private Eye's instructions ____ making herself a difficult target. But one suggestion she didn't follow. One thing she refused to do. That was to arm herself. She hated guns.

> **What to Know**
> As a verb, *pore* means "to gaze intently" or "to reflect or meditate steadily." The verb *pour* has meanings referring to the falling or streaming of liquid (or things that move like liquid). *Pour over* is occasionally found where *pore over* is called for, but is still considered a usage error.

3.Using these key phrases try to report Shad Vickers' words _____:

Take physical retaliation on us

catching up on him

had managed again and again to avoid punishment

case dismissed

Oh my Gosh!

once we went through all that, I knew she was never getting back together

4.Listen, drag and drop _____

a streak of sadism and single-minded vindictiveness

used to blackmail them

would be too benign

who defied his will

LIVEWORKSHEETS

a sickening repetitiveness pick up women on dating web-sites

he claimed victim after victim

There was _____ to the stories about John Meehan. From 2005 to 2014, from about the time he got out of prison in Michigan for drug theft to the time he met Debra Newell in California, _____. The Laguna Beach police counted eight of them. Running through the stories was _____ . They showed a man taking pleasure in the mechanics of the dark craft he had mastered. It seemed to go beyond just the money. He seemed obsessed with humiliating anyone _____.

To call him a con man _____. He was that, but he was a lot more too. John would _____ , often he used Match.com and PlentyOfFish. On dates he would wear medical scrubs and pretend to be a doctor. He would induce women to send him intimate photos of themselves which he then _____ . He sent them to their families; he sent them to their kids' school.

5.Listen to the three snippets and mark the chunks with either Irv (Irvine) or PR (Porter Ranch) or LB (Laguna Beach):

Irv:_____ **PR:** _____ **LB:** _____

to ruin your surgically implanted life _____

asking a restraining order on her _____

she balked _____

calling her a slut and a home-wrecker _____

awoke to find John standing over her bed _____

cut and pasted her photo _____

sent flyers to her neighbors _____

he wrote her an anonymous letter _____

He told her to transfer her money into his account _____

insinuating he had raped her while she was unconscious _____

claimed she had been stealing from him _____

6.Listen and try to get nouns for the following definitions _____ **:**

a person confined to an institution such as a prison or hospital _____

people who see an event, typically a crime or accident, take place (pl)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

a formal examination of evidence by a judge, typically before a jury, in order to decide guilt in a case of criminal or civil proceedings _____

a person who gives information to another _____

the act of asking for or trying to obtain something from someone _____

Now put the words you've just figured out into the gaps in this transcript. Listen again and check.

There had been another chilling twist in the Laguna Beach case. As John awaited trial in the Orange County jail in late 2013, an _____ reported that John was offering money for murders of two Laguna Beach detectives, plus five other potential _____ against him including several ex-girlfriends and his ex-wife. John's price? $10 000 a body. John's philosophy? With no witnesses, there's no _____ .

The threat felt real enough that detectives requested still another restraining order against him. And one wrote, "I regard him as a ticking bomb, capable of unpredictable violence and I fear respondent will violently lash out and physically harm me." But the jail _____ refused to be a witness. No charges were filed for murder _____ and the restraining order was denied."

7.Join the words below with their definitions.

pledged	make someone seem guilty
eager	informer
to frame	promised seriously to do something
snitch	expressing or feeling sincere regret and remorse
repentant	wanting to do or have something very much

Read the snippet from the LA Times web-site, imagine you were Debra and ask John proper questions about every part in *bold italics*:

John kept texting her, pleading with her to visit him in the hospital. She wanted to look him in the eye and ask why he had lied to her. Also, she felt guilty about just abandoning him. "For better or for worse," she had pledged. So she went.

He had explanations.

He had hidden his criminal record ***because he knew she would never have given an ex-con a chance***.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

He had pretended to be an anesthesiologist ***because he had been so eager to impress her*** — she was such an impressive high-powered businesswoman herself.

He could explain why police had found cyanide capsules in his desert storage unit. ***He had multiple sclerosis, and kept the poison in case he needed a quick exit.***

He could explain his cruel, threatening texts to her. ***It was the hospital drugs.***

The restraining orders? ***Those were other John Meehans.***

His arrest for stealing surgical drugs in the Midwest? ***His then-wife was trying to frame him and get custody of the kids.***

The claim that he solicited the murders of cops and witnesses from the Orange County jail? ***The fantasy of a jailhouse snitch***.

His nickname, Dirty John? ***A mistake. He had no idea where that came from***.

The idea of returning to him seemed crazy, and then less crazy, and finally a real possibility. He had her doubting what she had read — it seemed so at odds with the repentant, vulnerable John who kept writing to her in late March 2015.

"I will do whatever it takes to make your life easier," he wrote. "I can travel with you and be there for you. No more lonely nights and no more being alone. I am your husband. That means forever. There is nothing to debate. This is going to work. Forever means forever."

Now listen to Debra herself _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS