1 **a** Read the short story quickly and choose the best title.

1 The Swiss Burglar
2 Driving in Milan
3 The Disastrous Holiday



Kirsten and Dieter were very excited about their driving holiday in Italy. They packed their car with three suitcases and set off from their home early in the morning. The weather was warm and, as they drove across the Swiss border into Italy, they lowered the roof and enjoyed the pleasant sensation of the warm spring air rushing past their heads.

By the middle of the afternoon they had reached Milan. Kirsten wasn't very good at map-reading but she was sure they could make their way to the centre of the city, find a parking space and enjoy a delicious late lunch at a local restaurant. As they drove into one of the city's quiet suburbs they suddenly heard a loud bang and felt something crash into the back of their car. Turning around they saw a small motorbike lying on its side behind their car with two young men sprawled on the road beside it. Dieter stopped the car and jumped out to see if he could help. One of the young men was groaning loudly. Kirsten knew how to give first aid so she opened her door and approached the groaning man. Suddenly the two men jumped up and rushed towards the car. In less than two seconds they had leapt into the car and driven off at high speed, leaving Dieter and Kirsten standing in the street.

Dieter started shouting for help in German. But there was no one around to hear him. At first Kirsten wasn't too worried. She couldn't speak Italian either, but she was sure they'd manage to find a police station nearby. After half an hour of walking they had still failed to find a police officer or anyone to help them and they began to get more worried. Their passports, credit cards, mobile phones and money had all been in the car and Dieter was worried that the thieves might be using his credit cards to go on a massive spending spree.

About 20 minutes later they saw a police car driving along the street and they rushed into the road to flag it down. Dieter tried to explain what had happened to the police officer. But the officer couldn't understand German and decided to take the two Swiss tourists back to the police station. He was sure one of his colleagues would be able to translate for them. Unfortunately as he was driving back to the police station there was an emergency call on his radio and he was instructed to drive to the scene of a serious accident. Dieter and Kirsten were forced to sit in the back of the police car for another two hours while the officer dealt with the emergency.

By the time they arrived at the local police station it was eight o'clock in the evening and they were exhausted. Using the police station's phone, Dieter succeeded in contacting his credit card company to cancel his cards. Once they'd done this they decided the best thing was to get home as quickly as possible. A police officer drove them to the railway station and lent them the money to buy two tickets. They just managed to catch the last train – the slow overnight service back home.

Relieved to be on their way home, the couple soon fell asleep. They woke at seven in the morning as the train pulled into the station. With no money for a taxi, they were forced to walk back to their house. Just as they turned into their street they saw a large removal truck leaving. Kirsten was surprised; she didn't think any of their neighbours were moving house. As they approached their house they noticed the front door was open. Running into the house, Dieter gasped with shock. The house was completely empty. Then he remembered. Their house keys had been on the same ring as the car key …

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b Read the story again and number the events (a–l) in the correct order.

a Two Italian men drive off. ☐
b They have to wait while the police officer deals with an accident. ☐
c They catch the slow train back home. ☐
d Dieter and Kirsten leave. ☐
e They get into an Italian police car. ☐
f Dieter and Kirsten get back to their house. ☐
g They get out of their car to see what has happened. ☐
h The Italian men steal everything from their house and drive away in a van. ☐
i They walk around trying to find a police station. ☐
j The police take Dieter and Kirsten to the railway station. ☐
k They drive into the suburbs of Milan. ☐
l A motorbike crashes into the back of their car. ☐

c Match words and phrases in the story to the meanings (1–10).

1 a car with an opening roof _____
2 left on a journey _____
3 moving quickly _____
4 lying with legs and arms spread out _____
5 making noises as if in pain _____
6 spending a large amount of money at one time _____
7 signal a car or taxi to stop _____
8 very tired _____
9 gave something to somebody but they have to repay it later _____
10 a large vehicle used to move furniture _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS