

## A True Crime Story

In 1990 Mark Brown \_\_\_\_\_(go) on holiday to America for two months where he \_\_\_\_\_(spend) over £1,200 more than he \_\_\_\_\_(plan). His mother \_\_\_\_\_(send) him money from England by mail to cover his expenses. He \_\_\_\_\_(injure) himself before going to America and so he \_\_\_\_\_(decide) on the last day to go to the police and say he \_\_\_\_\_(be) robbed, and with the report from the police he could claim the money back from the insurance company.

He \_\_\_\_\_(be) so afraid about just happily walking into the police station that he \_\_\_\_\_(decide) that the most convincing way \_\_\_\_\_(be) to fake the robbery in the street. He \_\_\_\_\_(leave) all his bags in the hotel and \_\_\_\_\_(go) to a rather dangerous part of New York. After walking up and down the street for half an hour deciding what to do, he \_\_\_\_\_(stand) in front of a cigarette machine and \_\_\_\_\_(buy) a pack of cigarettes. Suddenly he \_\_\_\_\_(scream), 'Help, someone, my bag has been stolen'. To his surprise several people \_\_\_\_\_(stop) and one man \_\_\_\_\_(tell) him to cross the street to where a policeman was standing.

All the people \_\_\_\_\_(follow) him across the road and he \_\_\_\_\_(be) now very nervous but he \_\_\_\_\_(know) he had to continue with his story. He \_\_\_\_\_(tell) the policeman that he \_\_\_\_\_(leave) his bag on the floor while buying a pack of cigarettes and that when he looked down it \_\_\_\_\_(disappear). He then \_\_\_\_\_(begin) to describe all the things that were in the bag. He \_\_\_\_\_(practice) this in the afternoon. He \_\_\_\_\_(tell) the police he \_\_\_\_\_(lose) a video camera, jewellery, money and clothes. He wasn't nervous at all. He \_\_\_\_\_(always/like) acting and totally convinced the police. He \_\_\_\_\_(give) a description of a man he \_\_\_\_\_(see) following him and was told to go to the police station later that day to collect a report for his insurance company.

When he \_\_\_\_\_(get) back to England he \_\_\_\_\_(send) the police report to the insurance company who \_\_\_\_\_(tell) him that every item over £100 required a receipt. He busily \_\_\_\_\_(spend) the next weeks collecting receipts from all the people he knew. He then \_\_\_\_\_(send) the receipts off to the company and \_\_\_\_\_(wait). After about five weeks he was sent another letter from the insurance company telling him that he \_\_\_\_\_(not/take) enough care of his bag and that they would not pay any money.

Mark couldn't really complain, after all the story was all a fabrication. However, two days later he \_\_\_\_\_(receive) a telegram from the police in New York telling him that a bag that fitted his description had been found in the house of a recently convicted criminal and that some of the contents had also been found. Two weeks later he \_\_\_\_\_(receive) a video camera, clothes and jewellery from the police in New York. None of it was, of course, his.