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.

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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.

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