

What do they do all day?

READING 1

This week: forensic artists

Karen Jacobs works as a forensic artist.

Karen, what is a 'forensic artist'? What do you do all day?

In simple words, I draw people! For example, the police contact me when a **witness** sees someone commit a crime. I listen to the description of the criminal and **turn** the description **into** a picture.

So, forensic artists help catch criminals?

In a way, yes! Do you know who Lois Gibson is? She's in the *Guinness Book of World Records* as the world's most **successful** forensic artist. Her pictures help catch lots of criminals – over 1,300 of them so far!

Do you only draw criminals?

No, I also draw historical figures. I do lots of work for TV programmes and museums. At the moment, I'm working on a TV documentary about ancient Egypt. We're making drawings and 3D models of the pharaohs. It's **fascinating**!

Do you use a pencil and paper?

Yes, but we also use computers. These days, technology is developing very quickly. It's really useful, and there are some great computer programs we can use. When a witness says that a person wears glasses, for example, we can **bring up** on screen different styles of glasses for the witness to choose from.

What skills do you need for your job?

Forensic artists do need good drawing skills, of course, but they also need good people skills. We often work with people who are **upset**, so we help them remember clearly and give us enough detail. Perhaps the witness says the criminal has curly hair. We try to find out exactly what they mean by 'curly'. For example, is 'wavy' a better word? A forensic artist also needs to be an **expert** in different hairstyles!

What do you know about faces?

Faces obviously change as we **get older**. But this is interesting: the face of a shy person changes differently to the face of a lively, sociable person! And do you know which part of your face continues to grow all through your life? Your nose!



4 1.01 Read the text again. For each question, choose the correct answer.

- What does Karen Jacobs do regularly?
 - She helps Lois Gibson solve crimes.
 - She meets criminals and draws them.
 - She listens to police officers describing criminals.
 - She draws pictures of criminals and people from the past.
- Karen says she sometimes uses modern technology to
 - find pictures that match someone's description.
 - find pictures of real people online.
 - design different types of glasses.
 - have video calls with witnesses.
- Good people skills help a forensic artist to
 - draw more artistic pictures.
 - learn about different hairstyles.
 - communicate better with witnesses.
 - not get upset while they're working.
- What advice might a forensic artist give to someone interested in the job?

A Find out what criminals often look like, then make all your drawings look like that.

B Make sure you visit a library to read about the history of hairdressing.

C Try to be lively and sociable so that criminals are happy to tell you what they know.

D Learn about how faces change and find out how technology can help you.

5 Complete the sentences with highlighted words or phrases from the text.

- When you _____ something _____ on a computer screen, you make it appear.
- A _____ is someone who sees something happening, such as an accident or a crime.
- If someone is _____, they're very good at something.
- An _____ is a person who knows a lot about a subject.
- When you _____ something _____ something else, you make the first thing become something different.
- 'To _____' is an informal way of saying 'to become older'.
- If something is _____, it's extremely interesting.
- Someone who is _____ is sad, angry or annoyed.

THINK | RESEARCH | CULTURE | LEARN | ME

Choose a person you know and think about how their appearance might change in the future. Describe them as they might be in ten years' time.