

# 5a Reading

- 1 Do you watch crime drama series on TV? If yes, what's your favourite? Why? If not, what's your favourite TV series? What is it about?
- 2 Check these words in the Word List. How are they related to a forensic photographer?  
• Listen, read and check. What is the author's purpose?
  - document a crime scene • murder cases • brief on the crime • photograph the victim • fatal road accident
  - scene of a crime • used as evidence • aid investigations
  - take an overall view • focus on individual details
  - close-up images • clear eye

## STUDY SKILLS

### Paragraph main ideas

The first sentence in a paragraph usually introduces the topic, and helps us to understand the main idea of the paragraph.

## The camera never lies

Crime drama has always held a fascination for the public; now TV viewers have made forensics drama CSI the most watched TV show in the world. But what is it really like to work in forensics? Forensic photographer Robert Mars provides some clues ...

**A** I see forensic photography as a way to show the truth. Whatever the story, a photograph can document a crime scene far better than anyone could describe it in court. But the job isn't always the way it appears on TV: I don't only deal with murder cases. During the course of one day I could be photographing anything from the scene of a robbery, a recovered stolen car, a burnt out house or a fatal road accident.

**B** I usually work from 8 until 4 every weekday, but I'm on call 7 days a week. All the incidents I need to cover are gathered together at the Police Communications Centre and then sent over to me. The officer-in-charge will have briefed me on the crime before I begin my work at the scene. All the evidence must be photographed before Police officers can take it away. If it's a murder investigation, I also photograph the victim before the body is removed by the medical examiner.

**C** My photos are used to aid investigations and as evidence in court so every detail must be clearly visible to provide an accurate picture. I start by illuminating the scene with key lights and usually I use a flash. If I'm photographing a room, I work with a wide angle lens on my camera to take an overall view from each corner and also from overhead. Then, using a zoom lens, I focus on individual details in context. For example, the distance between a discarded knife and a table could be crucial in

### Check these words

- hold a fascination • public • clue • crime scene
- deal with • course of a day • fatal • gather
- officer-in-charge • brief • evidence • victim
- aid • illuminate the scene • wide angle lens
- overall view • crucial • detached • stay focused

**3** Read the first sentence in each paragraph. What is each paragraph about?

**4** Read the text and for questions 1-6 choose the best answer A, B, C or D. Justify your answers.

- 1 Robert usually works ...
  - A Monday to Friday. C in the morning only.
  - B seven days a week. D four to eight hours a day.
- 2 The officer-in-charge gives Robert ...
  - A essential information before he goes to a crime scene.
  - B all the incidents gathered at the Police Communications Centre.
  - C all the evidence that must be photographed.
  - D a photo of the victim before a murder investigation.

3 To capture the relationship between objects in a room, Robert uses ...

- A key lights. C a flash.
  - B a wide angle lens. D a zoom lens.
- 4 Enthusiasm for the practical skills of photography ...
- A encouraged Robert to become a forensic photographer.
  - B keeps Robert focused on presenting facts.
  - C allows Robert to experiment with his images.
  - D requires that Robert keeps a clear eye.

5 Robert feels this job ...

- A is only for tough people.
- B leaves no room for emotions.
- C can affect one's feelings.
- D causes psychological problems.

6 A career in forensics is most suited to a person who ...

- A is prepared for the unexpected.
- B likes excitement.
- C already has an advanced knowledge of photography.
- D likes having a routine.

**5** Answer the questions in your own words. Base your answers on the information in the text.

- 1 Why does Robert consider his job as "a way to show the truth"?
- 2 How can this job affect a person emotionally?
- 3 What qualities should someone have to do this job?

**6** a) Find words in the text whose antonyms are:

- not exact (para C) <sup>accurate</sup>
- underneath (para C) <sup>overhead</sup>
- easy (para D) <sup>tough</sup>
- uneasy (para E) <sup>calm</sup>

b) Explain the highlighted words.

a murder investigation. Finally, I take close-up images of key pieces of evidence. Each photograph gets listed in a photo log which includes a description of the object and the time and date the photo was taken.

**D** I was inspired to follow this career because of my interest in the technical side of photography. However, because I'm focused on showing facts, there's no room for experimentation with images. A clear eye is always required and that's a big challenge because this job can be very tough on a personal level. For my peace of mind, I must be as detached as possible from what I witness. At times, though, it's essential to talk about the emotional impact this work can have and all the photographers on our team are encouraged to talk to a psychologist every three months.

**E** Forensic photography is a specialist field, and there are only a small number of opportunities made available each year. Anyone who's interested in forensics must have had previous experience as a police officer. I'm pleased to have learnt so much more about photography in this job. If you can stay calm and focused while dealing with the unpredictable, then this could be a job to consider. You never get bored. Only don't expect it to be like CSI every day!

**Speaking**

Imagine you are Robert Mars and your partner is interviewing you. Use the information in the text to act out your interview.



**Writing**

**THINK!** Imagine you are a forensic photographer for a day. Describe your day and your feelings. Does this job match your personality? Why/Why not? In three minutes write a few sentences. Tell the class.

## unit 5a

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3. clue:
4. crime scene:
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6. course of a day:
7. fatal:
8. gather:
9. officer-in-charge:
10. brief:
11. evidence:
12. victim:
13. aid:
14. illuminate the scene:
15. wide angle lens:
16. overall view:
17. crucial:
18. detached:
19. stay focused:
20. on call:
21. visible:
22. accurate:
23. focus on:
24. discarded:
25. witness:
26. impact:
27. unpredictable:

