

# THIEVES THOUGHT BRUEGEL WAS RUBBISH

Read the text and write in the correct word.

Many stolen paintings have a strange history. But (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of the strangest was that of a painting by the famous sixteenth-century painter Bruegel, stolen from the Courtauld Institute in London in the Eighties. It had fallen (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the hands of four thieves in London, (3) \_\_\_\_\_ were trying to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ a quick profit. Until they showed the painting to an art expert, (5) \_\_\_\_\_, they had no idea how much it was worth. One of (6) \_\_\_\_\_ said: "We've got this old chap to come in and (7) \_\_\_\_\_ a look at the painting. He was talking about something, then turned (8) \_\_\_\_\_, saw the painting and fainted. So I thought it was probably valuable."

"Two months later, the gang telephoned (9) \_\_\_\_\_ art expert. This expert told them that the painting was worth £2-3 million. They immediately hung up. They then tried to sell the painting back to the gallery from (10) \_\_\_\_\_ it had been stolen. The gallery contacted the police and a meeting (11) \_\_\_\_\_ arranged. The gang asked (12) \_\_\_\_\_ the money to be brought in two suitcases in unmarked banknotes. (13) \_\_\_\_\_ the meeting did in fact take place, the deal fell through and no money changed hands.

A short (14) \_\_\_\_\_ later the four were arrested. The police found the painting on (15) \_\_\_\_\_ of a wardrobe. When the gang were told they were (16) \_\_\_\_\_ arrested in connect with the Bruegel, one of them said: "What's a Bruegel? I thought it was rubbish".

