READING

1 A You are going to read about a course that trains people to be spies. Read the list and tick the three things that you think are most important for a spy to be able to do.

a) break into a property
b) drive fast without getting into an accident
c) follow someone without getting caught
d) pretend they are someone else
e) use karate or other martial arts
f) win the trust of a stranger

B Read the article. Which three things from the list above are mentioned?

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

SO YOU WANT TO BE A SPY?

1 Despite recent developments in surveillance technology, a camera is no substitute for the human eye and there will always be a need for that most secretive of professions, the spy. In the BBC3 series, Spy, a group of eight volunteers took a two-month crash course in spying. Their trainers were former spies and experts in fields such as psychology and body language.

2 Before they joined the course, the would-be spies were allowed to tell only one person what they were really doing; for everyone else, they had to invent a believable cover story to explain their two-month absence. A couple of them immediately got into trouble when their story of a two-month job in New York resulted in friends promising to visit them.

3 As soon as they arrived at headquarters and before they had time to unpack, the eight 'spies' faced their first challenge: they had just ten minutes to talk their way into the flat of a complete stranger and be seen by their trainers drinking a glass of water on the balcony. It's a great task and one often used by real spy agencies to test their spies' abilities to act under pressure and think up plausible reasons to gain access to places.

4 The recruits learnt about surveillance techniques including how to 'go grey' and disappear into a crowd and also how to organise a surveillance operation on a house. This meant breaking into the property, planting secret cameras and bugs and fixing tracking devices to cars.

5 Another week, the recruits had to go undercover, adopt new identities and take temporary jobs in a gym, a clothes shop and a barber's. They had to convince their co-workers that they were genuine, gain their trust and finally persuade one of them to do something wrong, for example to lie or to sign a false document.

6 At the end of the experience, what qualities did they think were important for being a spy? 'A spy needs to be a quick thinker, work well under pressure and be able to blend in.' It helps to be a woman: 'Sandy, our female trainer, loved to remind us how women made better spies.' So if you are a tall male it's probably not worth applying. And were any of the participants keen to become a spy? Certainly not one married candidate: 'A Service insider told me that there is an exceptionally high divorce rate in the spy business with a lot of agents marrying their secretaries – the only person they can confide in and trust.'

C Match the quotes a)–e) with one of the paragraphs in the article.

a) I had to get right underneath and it was difficult to fix it on securely.
b) I'm a location manager for a TV company and we need a place to film.
c) I'm going on safari and I'll be back in two months.
d) It's just another thing that girls do better than boys!
e) I used to work at a men's clothing store in Soho – that's how I got this job.

D Find words and phrases in the article that match definitions 1–8.

1 can't replace (paragraph 1) *is no substitute for*
2 fast and intensive period of training (paragraph 1) _____
3 someone who wants to be something; potential (paragraph 2) _____
4 believable (paragraph 3) _____
5 become unnoticeable (paragraph 4) _____
6 work secretly with a different identity (paragraph 5) _____
7 look similar to everything around you (paragraph 6) _____
8 tell secrets to (paragraph 6) _____

VOCABULARY

SURVEILLANCE

2 Complete the sentences. The first letters are given.

1 When you *id*_____ someone or something you recognise and correctly name someone or something.
2 People or organisations that are in charge of a particular country or area are called the *au*_____.
3 If something is a *de*_____ to crime, it acts to reduce the chance of it happening.
4 To *st*_____ information is to keep facts in a computer or in a file.
5 To find information on a computer is to *ac*_____ data.
6 Carefully watch something over a period of time, for example a nurse *mo*_____ a patient's condition.
7 Crime *pr*_____ is all about stopping something bad from happening before it occurs.
8 If you *ke*_____ *tr*_____ of someone who is moving, you always know their position.

LIVEWORKSHEETS