

NEWSPAPER SHORT ARTICLES

READ AND MATCH THE PARAGRAPH WITH THE PICTURE

A)

Oops! It's opera

A company director from Kent was stopped by police last week for playing a Mozart opera 'too loudly'. Mr Sands said: "It went from ludicrous to unbelievable. The police officer definitely had a **bee in his bonnet** about something. I even had the car windows closed." "In the end he reluctantly admitted that I hadn't committed an offence, but still took a note of all my details. Personally, I just think he was just bored and decided to stop me for something to do."

B)

Councils 'dig their heels in'

Despite the public outcry over yet another council tax increase – the second this year – local councils are **digging their heels in** and insisting that the increases are necessary to cover bigger overheads such as rising fuel costs. "We're being conned", said pensioner Fred Blakeney, "our rubbish bins are now only emptied once every two weeks, instead of weekly, yet councillors in our area have just accepted a 6% pay rise. We're not getting value for money."

C)

Rift over

The well-publicised hostilities between the Deery twins are over at last. The rift between the successful investment banking duo is rumoured to have started over a relatively trivial matter, escalating to a point where the two would not attend the same functions as each other – something very difficult to sustain in the close-knit London banking scene. Common sense, however, prevailed, when a mutual friend acted as intermediary. "Water goes under the bridge quite quickly in the banking world," a colleague commented.

D)

Simplify the small print

It's happened to all of us. You sign up for a seemingly lucrative savings account, only to find that there are a host of little surcharges, penalty fees and other restrictions which were not drawn to your attention at the time of opening the account. Of course, the banks are covered – 'you should have read the small print!' they declare smugly. However, it is very annoying that they never seem to **bend over backwards** to simplify things for the customer.

E)

Environmental criticism unjustified, say airlines

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), pollution from the aviation industry accounts for only 2% of global greenhouse gas emissions, a view which is supported by airlines. However, the media gives the impression that environmental damage from this industry is double that amount. The major carriers continue to refute this, although many critics think that they are trying to **sweep** the true figures **under the carpet**.

F)

Time to speed up switching

Want a better broadband deal? Changing your service provider is not as easy as you may think. Many customers find it complicated comparing 'like for like' deals. To make matters worse, once they have chosen to change, if the service request is not correctly logged for any reason, they can end up **back at square one**. Too many people report having no service at all for anything up to two weeks, especially if they are classed as a 'domestic' user, as opposed to a 'business' one.

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