

7 Things

Reading

1 Read the introduction to the article on page 47. When do people go to a lost property office? Tick (✓) the two correct options.

- a when they lose something
- b when they are lost
- c when they find something

2 Scan the article for the numbers below. Match the numbers (1–5) with the information (a–e).

- 1 1933 _____
- 2 more than sixty _____
- 3 49,077 _____
- 4 more than 900,000 _____
- 5 about 3,000 _____

- a the number of lost bags the London lost property office had in one year
- b the number of lost items in the Tokyo Lost Property Office
- c the year the London Lost Property Depot opened
- d the number of workers in the London Lost Property Depot
- e the number of lost umbrellas the police in Tokyo receive on a rainy day

3 Read the article. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Only two big cities have a lost property office. _____
- 2 The London Lost Property Depot doesn't receive items every day. _____
- 3 The Tokyo Lost Property Office is bigger than the London Lost Property Depot. _____
- 4 People don't often take money to the Tokyo Lost Property Office. _____
- 5 Many people are happy when they leave the Tokyo Lost Property Office. _____

4 Read the article again. Complete these sentences with a word.

- 1 People lose _____ of possessions every year.
- 2 The London Lost Property Depot received just over 14,000 _____ in one twelve-month period.
- 3 At the Tokyo Lost Property Office, there is one room for _____.
- 4 It's common for people to take _____ objects to the Lost Property Office in Tokyo.

5 Read the article again. Which two conclusions can we draw from the article?

- a Most people in London aren't interested in finding their lost items. _____
- b People in Tokyo are probably quite honest. _____
- c The London Lost Property Depot is only interested in making money. _____
- d People in Tokyo don't care about their possessions. _____

Look at the Learning to learn box. Then do the task.

LEARNING TO LEARN: READING

Practising scanning outside the classroom

In Exercise 2, you practised scanning for numbers. Scanning is an important reading skill. We often use scanning in everyday life, for example, when we look for information on a website. You can practise scanning outside class with these two ideas:

- 1 Go to a website. For example, a shopping website. Practise moving your eyes across the page quickly to find numbers.
- 2 Find an article online, in a newspaper or in a magazine. Practise moving your eyes across the page quickly to find numbers.

Try the ideas from the box. Make notes for the question below.

Do the ideas help you? How do they help you?

Lost and found

Every year, people lose thousands of possessions. Many big cities have lost property offices. If you find something, you can take it to this place. And if you lose something, you can go to the lost property office and look for it. Here we look at two of the biggest lost property offices in the world: in London and Tokyo.



The Transport for London Lost Property Depot

The Transport for London Lost Property Depot opened in 1933. It is the biggest lost property office in Europe. More than sixty people work there. They look through thousands of lost items each day. For example, during one twelve-month period, the lost property depot received 14,069 keys, 36,742 mobile phones, 49,077 bags and 7,646 umbrellas. One interesting fact? Nobody comes to collect the majority of items, and after three months, the Lost Property Depot sells the lost objects, recycles them or gives them to charity.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Police Lost Property Office

Tokyo, Japan is home to the biggest lost property office in the world. It is part of the city's police department and contains more than 900,000 lost items. There's even a room just for umbrellas – the police receive about 3,000 umbrellas on a typical rainy day. It's very common for people to take items to the Lost Property Office, even expensive things like necklaces and watches or money. So, if you lose something in Tokyo, you have a good chance of finding it there. Every day, there are stories of happy people at the building. They are finding their lost objects again.

