

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



- 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.