

1 Choose the correct alternatives to complete the article.

Cardboard cops against crime

We all know that speed can cause terrible accidents where people get ¹*broken into/badly hurt*. In Edinburgh, there's a new police officer in town,

holding a speed camera, to try and get drivers to drive more slowly. But, this police officer is ²*locked/trapped* to a pole by a chain – he's made of cardboard!

Scotland isn't the only place where these cut-out police officers are used. A few years ago, British police in England and Wales bought 750 cardboard cut-outs which were worth £50,000.

But are these cut-outs actually helpful in stopping ³*criminals/jails*? Some authorities claim that they make people feel safer, and one supermarket reported that there were 75 percent fewer ⁴*trials/thefts*. Others argue that the cut-out police officers are useless in preventing ⁵*victims/attacks*, and that money would be better spent on real emergency services jobs.

Last year, the police cut-outs became ⁶*robbers/victims*. A ⁷*gang/witness* broke in to a shopping centre and stole 20 cardboard cut-outs. It seems they got away with it because the thieves were never ⁸*arrested/attacked*. The only witnesses were the cut-out police themselves.

2 Match the sentence halves.

- 1 Thieves broke into
 - 2 There was a car crash, but
 - 3 They took a painting that was worth
 - 4 When she saw the fire, she
 - 5 The thief claimed that he
 - 6 The witness reported
 - 7 He managed to escape from jail,
 - 8 She used to belong to a criminal
- a more than a \$100,000.
 - b called the emergency services.
 - c the house and stole valuable jewellery.
 - d but was caught and arrested three days later.
 - e the crime at their local police station.
 - f luckily no one was badly hurt.
 - g gang, but she has changed her life completely and now helps victims of crime.
 - h had been somewhere else at the time.

3 Work in groups and discuss the questions.

- 1 Do you think cardboard police officers would be effective where you live?
- 2 What other ways can you think of to help reduce crime?