

"Crime stories"

A. Read a true crime story and circle the right form of the verb.

Not her best buy

If a man approaches you outside a Best Buy store* with a complicated story about needing money to get home, and a surprisingly cheap iPad for sale, don't believe him!

A woman in Daytona Beach, Florida, ¹ *learnt / was learnt* this the hard way after handing over \$400 for what turned out to be a square piece of wood with a piece of glass stuck to the front. When the man, 39-year-old Torrance Canady, who ² *had / was had* a long criminal record, ³ *later caught / was later caught* by the police, several more fake Apple products ⁴ *found / were found* in his car. There were two MacBooks which ⁵ *had made / had been made* from wood and which were covered in silver tape. An Apple logo ⁶ *had cut / had been cut* out in the middle, and a Best Buy price tag stuck on the back. Canady insisted that he ⁷ *didn't know / wasn't known* the computers were fake and said he'd 'bought them in a nearby town for his girlfriend'. He ⁸ *has charged / has been charged* with selling fake electrical equipment and ⁹ *is holding / is being held* in Volusia County jail.

* Best Buy store = a US store selling electronic equipment

1. What does it advise us to be careful with?

2. What happened to the woman?

B. Listen to another crime story. Answer the questions.

1 Where were the burglaries taking place?

2 What did he steal?

3 What did Cooper do apart from stealing?

4 What did he do if he found people at home?

5 How was he caught?

6 Where did the police find him?

C. Read the stories to check your answers. Fill in the blank below.

And last on our crime news stories from round the world, a burglar who's been fooling even the most intelligent students. The area between Broadway and 9th Street in New York is where students often head to when they're looking for a flat share. This was something well known to Daniel Stewart Cooper, who also knew that students in a shared house often go out and leave the door unlocked, maybe thinking that another flatmate is still inside. This situation suited Cooper perfectly, and he is thought to have committed between 50 and 100 burglaries in the area. It is believed that he was mainly interested in finding drugs, but that if he found electronics or other gadgets lying around, he took those, too. And he didn't just steal things. Cooper is also said to have made himself at home in the houses, helping himself to food from the fridge and even having a shower. Although he normally tried to make sure that the residents were out, if he did meet people, it's thought that he would pretend to know someone there, and so was able to leave without raising suspicions.

However on September 5th, Cooper was finally caught after two students saw him in the area with a laptop and a backpack which he had just stolen from their house. Dylan John, one of the victims, told CBS news that Cooper had taken some food, too. Cooper, who ran off as soon as he realized that the students suspected him, was found by the police hiding behind some nearby bushes.

- 1 ...he is thought _____ between 50 and 100 burglaries in the area.
- 2 It is believed _____ mainly interested in finding drugs...
- 3 Cooper is also said _____ himself at home in the houses.
- 4...it is thought _____ to know someone there.

☞ How is the structure different after *he is thought* and after *it is thought*?

D. Use your observation above to complete a newspaper crime story.

Britain's most polite robber

Police in Stockport in the UK are looking for a man who ¹ _____.
(believe / be Britain's most polite armed robber)

The robber, who always says 'please' and 'thank you' when he orders shop staff to give him the money in the till, ² _____. (say / be a tall man in his early forties)

He wears a mask and washing-up gloves during robberies. It ³ _____
_____ at least four shops in Stockport in recent weeks. (think / he / rob)

A police officer said, 'He ⁴ _____ (report / be polite to his victims), but there is nothing polite about armed robbery. Last week this man used a knife to threaten shop staff. They were terrified. Saying "please" and "thank you" cannot change that.'