

INTERMEDIATE UNIT 2

1A Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- 1 Do you know of any famous art robberies? What happened and what was stolen?
- 2 What is the most appropriate punishment for people who steal art?
- 3 Do you know any films or TV programmes about art theft?

B Read about the Kunsthal art heist and answer the questions.

- 1 When did the robbery happen?
- 2 How many paintings were stolen?
- 3 Did the alarms go off?
- 4 Where were the suspected thieves later found?
- 5 What happened to the paintings?

The Kunsthal Art Heist

On 16th October 2012, seven famous paintings were stolen from an exhibition at the Kunsthal Museum in Rotterdam. These included paintings by Monet, Picasso, Gauguin and Matisse, and the paintings were worth tens of millions of euros if sold at auction.

The robbery happened at 3a.m. and the thieves were very fast. The alarms went off but the thieves left before the police arrived.

The suspected thieves were later caught in Romania in July 2013. The mother of one of them claimed she had burnt the paintings to destroy the evidence, but she later denied this. However, forensic evidence from a fireplace shows she most likely did burn the paintings.

2 Watch the DVD. Tick the things which happen.

- 1 Finch drives to the house.
- 2 Finch climbs over the wall into the garden.
- 3 He breaks the lock and opens the door.
- 4 He feeds the guard dog.
- 5 He turns off the alarm.
- 6 He takes the painting off the wall.
- 7 The monkey sees him and screams.
- 8 He drives away from the house.
- 9 Finch checks in at the airport.
- 10 He picks up his bags at the airport.
- 11 Finch meets his contact at the airport.
- 12 An airport security guard stops Finch.
- 13 The customs officers find the stolen painting.

3A Choose the correct alternative to complete the sentences.

- 1 Finch gets into the garden by *climbing over the wall/ breaking open the gate*.
- 2 Before he goes inside the house he *turns off the alarm/ looks around*.
- 3 The painting is *on the wall/in a safe* at the bottom of the stairs.
- 4 He uses *a knife/a laser* to remove the painting.
- 5 When the monkey screams *a door opens/a light comes on*.
- 6 He escapes by *going out the front door/climbing over the wall*.
- 7 At the airport he picks up *a sports bag/a suitcase* and some golf clubs.
- 8 The customs officers search Finch's bags and *car/clothes*.

B Watch the DVD again to check.

4 Complete the sentences with a collocation made from a word in box A and a word in box B.

A

art burglar customs guard loaded security valuable

B

alarm dog guard officer painting thief weapon

- 1 Bobby makes a great _____, but he needs training and plenty of exercise.
- 2 Never point a _____ at another person.
- 3 The _____ was sentenced to fifteen years in prison for his part in the robbery.
- 4 Fiona never realised she had such a _____ in her house until an art dealer offered her £20,000 for it.
- 5 When we arrived in the country the _____ asked us to open our suitcases.
- 6 Before we can go in I need to turn the _____ off, or the police will show up!
- 7 James likes working as a _____ but it can get a bit boring at night.

5A Choose one of the places below and find out the answers to the questions.

- The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston
- National Museum of Anthropology, Mexico City
- Museu de Arte de São Paulo, São Paulo
- Munch Museum, Oslo

- 1 What famous art theft happened here?
- 2 When did it happen?
- 3 What was stolen?
- 4 How did the thieves steal it?
- 5 Were the thieves caught?

B Work in groups. Ask and answer questions about the place you chose.