

10 Reading and Writing

READING

1 Read the article and tick (✓) A, B, or C.

Bank robbers throw it all away

In an unusual car chase in Los Angeles recently, bank robbers who were escaping from the police threw the stolen money out of the car window.

The incident began in a northern suburb of the city where four men had committed an armed bank robbery. The robbers escaped in a stolen vehicle and two of them, who have not yet been caught, managed to jump out of the car.

All along the route, one of the suspects, sitting in the back seat of the car, threw handfuls of bank notes out of the window.

A spokesperson for the police said they thought that the thieves had been trying to encourage people to come out into the street, which, they hoped, would have blocked the path of the patrol cars. And many people did come out to pick up the money that was raining down in their streets. As one delighted witness said, 'It's not every day that robbers give you money, is it?'

The chase continued into downtown Los Angeles, where the vehicle left the main road and drove through the narrow streets of the city's southern areas. Video footage shows the vehicle driving through roadworks to avoid waiting at red traffic lights, and even going up onto the pavement so that terrified pedestrians had to jump out of the way. One officer whose foot was run over was, fortunately, the only person who was hurt in the incident.

It is not clear whether the driver who finally ended the chase did so deliberately. A large pickup truck that turned out of a side street blocked the path of the two bank robbers, which finally forced the criminals to stop.

In a dramatic scene, filmed by TV helicopters, a large crowd gathered as police officers holding guns pulled two men from the getaway vehicle. Several hundred people, many of whom had seen the drama on their TV screens, gathered around the police at the crime scene and city police came to help control the crowds.

The police are urging people to return the stolen money, so far without any success.

Example: The bank robbery took place in the _____ of Los Angeles.

A centre B north C south

1 _____ of the bank robbers have now been caught.

A Two B None C All

- 2 The man in the _____ seat threw money out of the window.
A driver's B back C front
- 3 The robbers threw the money to try to _____.
A confuse people B be kind
C block the police
- 4 A lot of people _____ pick up the money in the streets.
A were happy to B refused to
C told everyone to
- 5 The robbers' car _____ at the traffic lights.
A crashed B waited C didn't stop
- 6 _____ was injured in the chase.
A No one B One police officer
C One witness
- 7 In downtown Los Angeles the car turned into _____.
A the main street B a car park
C a side street
- 8 The bank robbers were _____ in the end.
A let go B attacked C arrested
- 9 A lot of people had watched the chase _____.
A on TV B on the streets
C from their window
- 10 There were _____ of people at the scene of the arrest.
A thousands B a small number
C hundreds

10

2 Read the article again. Mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).

- 1 The bank robbers used their own car to escape. _____
- 2 The bank robbers were stopped by a police car. _____
- 3 Some people nearly got run over by the bank robbers. _____
- 4 The city residents helped to arrest the criminals. _____
- 5 The stolen money has not been given back. _____

5

Reading total 15

Answers

- 1 1A 2B 3C 4A 5C
6B 7C 8C 9A 10C

- 2 1F 2F 3T 4F 5T