

# 8c | Bank robbers

## SPEAKING

- 1 Work in pairs. Discuss these questions.
  - How many different films can you think of in which a robbery takes place?
  - What are the titles of these films in your language?  
*Ocean's Eleven The Italian Job The Pink Panther*
  - What can you remember about these films?

### Bonnie and Clyde

One of the most famous gangster movies of all time, *Bonnie and Clyde*, won two Oscars. The film, starring Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway, tells the story of two young gangsters in 1920s America.



### WARREN BEATTY FAYE DUNAWAY



### BONNIE AND CLYDE.

MICHAEL J. POLLARD GENE HACKMAN ESTELLE PARSONS  
DAVID NEWMAN and ROBERT BENTON Charles Bronson WARREN BEATTY ARTHUR PENN. TECHNOLOGY FROM BATES BROS. OVER ARTS

- 2 Work in pairs, A and B. Read the information about Bonnie and Clyde above. Then practise reading the dialogue from the film.  
A: Turn to page 129. B: Turn to page 132.
- 3 What do you think happens next? Continue the dialogue with your partner.

## VOCABULARY: law & order

- 1 Complete the article with words from the box.

guilty judge police prison stolen thieves

The robbery happened at ten o'clock and more than £10,000 was (1) \_\_\_\_\_. There were many **witnesses** who saw it happen – both customers and bank staff. The (2) \_\_\_\_\_ also had other **evidence** – a bag that the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ had left behind. It did not take them long to **arrest** the criminals. The **trial** began two months later in the High Court. The **jury** found the men (4) \_\_\_\_\_ and the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ **sentenced** the men to ten years in (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

- 2 Match the words in bold in exercise 1 to the definitions 1–7.

- 1 a place where legal decisions are taken
- 2 to catch (a thief)
- 3 information that helps to show who is responsible for a crime
- 4 a group of ordinary members of the public who decide if a person is guilty or innocent
- 5 people who see a crime
- 6 gave a punishment
- 7 the process of deciding if a person is guilty

## READING

- 1 Read the newspaper article on the next page and think of a headline for it.
- 2 Read the article again and answer the questions.
  - 1 Why did the judge have to speak to the jury?
  - 2 Why did the judge say that the robbery was not a joke?
  - 3 Why did the robbers go into a toy shop?
  - 4 Why did they go into a launderette?
  - 5 Why did Michael fall over?
  - 6 Why did no one reply to Laurence's demands?
  - 7 Why did Laurence fall over?
  - 8 When did the police arrest the brothers?
- 3 Do you agree with the judge's sentence? Why or why not?

## GRAMMAR: unreal conditions 2

Earlier today, a judge at the Central Criminal Court sentenced two men to twelve years in prison for attempting to rob a branch of the Chelmsford Savings Bank. During the trial, the judge repeatedly had to ask members of the jury to stop laughing as they listened to the evidence. In his summing-up, the judge said that the robbery was not funny, but he described the men as pathetic. He continued, 'If everything had gone according to plan, this would have been no joke.' He told the jury to find the men guilty.

In January of this year, the two men, brothers Michael (63) and Laurence Parsons (59), took the bus into Chelmsford town centre. They got off just outside the bank but left their bag, containing masks and an old Webley revolver, on the bus. Not wanting to abandon their plans, the men went into a toy shop opposite the bank and bought two clown masks and a toy gun.

The masks were too small and the men had difficulty seeing where they were going. Wearing their masks, they crossed the road, ran into the launderette next to the bank and shouted, 'This is a stick-up!' Surprised customers laughed and suggested that they try next door.

At the second attempt, the men found the bank. Witnesses described how Michael slipped and fell on the polished floor as the two men ran into the bank. Meanwhile, his brother went up to a counter, not realizing that it was unattended, pointed his gun and demanded £5,000. Surprised customers laughed as Laurence repeated his demand. Getting no reply, he decided to give up the attempt, but tripped and fell over his brother who was still on the floor.

Later in the day, the men received treatment in hospital for their injuries. They explained what had happened to the doctors, who then called the police. At first, the police refused to believe the men's story, but arrested them the following day when the missing bag was found.

Use a conditional clause beginning with *if* to imagine situations in the past which are the opposite of what actually happened. Note that you use *had* + past participle in the conditional clause.

*If everything had gone according to plan, ...*

(= but things didn't go according to plan)

*If they hadn't left their bag on the bus, ...*

(= but they left their bag on the bus)

Use *would* ('d) + *have* + past participle to talk about the consequence or the result of the imagined situation.

*If they had had their own masks, they would have seen what they were doing.*

➤ SEE LANGUAGE REFERENCE PAGE 84

1 These sentences all refer to the past. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.

- The sentence \_\_\_\_\_ (*be*) longer if they \_\_\_\_\_ (*steal*) any money.
- If the toy shop \_\_\_\_\_ (*be*) closed, they \_\_\_\_\_ (*go*) home.
- If he \_\_\_\_\_ (*not / run*) into the bank, he \_\_\_\_\_ (*not / fall*) over.
- The customers \_\_\_\_\_ (*be*) frightened if they \_\_\_\_\_ (*think*) it was a real robbery.
- The police \_\_\_\_\_ (*not / believe*) them if they \_\_\_\_\_ (*not / find*) the missing bag.

2 Read the story. Write five sentences about the story with *if* and the past perfect.

*If the owners had been at home, the thief wouldn't have broken into the house.*

One evening, a thief broke into a house in the village of Lachelle. The owners were not there because they had gone to visit some friends. The thief had not eaten all day and was extremely hungry. He found a packet of biscuits in the kitchen and ate them. He then felt thirsty and, finding a bottle of champagne in the fridge, drank that. He now felt sleepy and he decided to have a little rest before robbing the house. Unfortunately, he didn't wake up and the owners of the house found him on their bed when they returned. He was still asleep when the police arrived.

3 Think of five important events in your life. Imagine what would have happened if these events hadn't taken place. Tell a partner.

*If I hadn't got married, I wouldn't have had any children.*