

Unit 14

Interesting Stories

เรื่องที่น่าสนใจให้อ่านในบทนี้ เป็นเรื่องราวต่างๆที่แปลกและน่าสนใจ บางเรื่องอาจเป็นเรื่องที่แปลกแทบไม่น่าเชื่อ บางเรื่องเมื่ออ่านแล้วก็อาจจะไม่แน่ใจว่าเป็นเรื่องที่เกิดขึ้นจริง นักศึกษาต้องอ่านอย่างระมัดระวัง และตัดสินใจให้ได้ว่าเรื่องที่อ่านมีความเป็นไปได้มากน้อยเพียงใด ทั้งนี้ผู้เขียนมีจุดมุ่งหมายต้องการให้นักศึกษาได้แสดงความคิดเห็นของตนเอง และแลกเปลี่ยนความคิดกับเพื่อนๆในชั้นเรียน ประการสุดท้ายต้องการให้นักศึกษาเขียนแสดงความคิดเห็นออกมาเป็นภาษาอังกฤษที่ถูกต้อง

READING 1

Read the following sentences. They are strange but true.

1. About 5,700 stars can be seen on a clear night without telescopes.
2. If you live in a cold house in the country, you may be sharing your house with up to 3,000 animals and insects.
3. Diamonds and cold are made of the same chemical element.
4. During a lifetime, a person's heart pumps enough blood to fill the fuel tanks of 2,100 Boeing 747s.
5. There were ten days in the ancient Egyptian week.
6. The silk made by the spiders is stronger than steel.
7. You get taller when you are sleep.
8. The Museum of Modern Art in New York hung *Le Bateau By Matisse* upside down for 47 days before they discovered their mistake.

READING 2

How £2,000 went up in smoke¹

by Mark Elsdon -Dew

Carrying a plain paper bag containing £2,000 in £20 notes, Mr. Ronald Lawrence walked through his front door at the end of a long day's work. It was close to midnight and he felt exhausted.

Mr. Lawrence had been paid most of the money by a client of his kitchen-design company.

All evening he had been worried about having so much money in his possession, but with all the banks closed, there seemed to be no alternative.

Once at home in Swan Street, West Malling, Kent, all Mr. Lawrence wanted to do was to sit down and relax. Placing the paper bag, his briefcase and the remains of a take-away dinner on the kitchen table, he made straight for the living room and sat down in front of the roaring fire to watch television.

Later, he wandered back into the kitchen and glanced at the table, The paper bag was gone.

He asked his wife, Janice, where she had put it. "Oh, I put it on the tire with the other rubbish," she said.

¹ เรื่องนี้เป็นข่าวจากหนังสือพิมพ์เขียนโดย Mark Elsdon-Dew แต่ Geoffery Land เป็นผู้รวบรวมข่าวต่างๆจากหนังสือพิมพ์นำมารวมกันไว้ภายใต้ชื่อ *Behind the Headlines*, Longman Group UK Limited 1988, P.16

Horrified, Mr. Lawrence desperately tried to beat the fire out. But he was too late—almost all the money was in ashes. He just managed to salvage around £300 in signed £20 notes.

Now he has carefully collected up all the ashes and deposited them with his local branch of the NatWest bank.

Mr. David Threadingham, the sub-manager, said: “Mr. Lawrence came in and told me what had happened. I asked him if a divorce was pending, but he seemed very calm.

How much of the money will Mr. Lawrence get back?

There is no problem with the £300 worth of signed notes he managed to rescue. The ashes of the others will now be examined at the Bank of England’s Newcastle office, which is responsible for valuing ruined notes.

A Bank of England spokesman said: “We will try to establish the value of the notes and compensate accordingly.”

STRANGE

“We know how to identify the chemical composition of the paper. The term are used to dealing with bank notes which have been left in washing machines, eaten by animals, and other strange disasters. Burning notes are not uncommon to them.”

Mr. Lawrence said: “I wouldn’t have minded so much if I hadn’t mentioned earlier that it was really nice to see a fire blazing. It is the first time I have ever taken cash for a job, and it will definitely be the last.”

Mrs. Lawrence said: “It’s not that we’re a couple of numbskulls—it was very late at night and we were both very tired. I’ve had enough embarrassment about this.”

(from the Sunday Express)

Wordy Study

exhausted (adj.)	= extremely tired
client (n)	= a customer
remains (n. pl)	= what is left after part has been used, destroyed , etc.
wander (v)	= move or go about aimlessly
rubbish (n)	= trash; any material thrown away
horrify (v)	= shock; to cause to feel horror
beat the fire out	= put the fire out by striking the burning flame
salvage (v)	= to save; rescue from fire shipwreck, flood, etc.
deposit (v)	= to put (money) in a bank
divorce (n)	= legal and formal dissolution of marriage
pending (adj.)	= not decided; about to happen; during the process of
compensate (v)	= give a person something to make up for loss
identify (v)	= prove
numbskull (n)	= fools; empty head

Vocabulary Exercise

Find the word or phrases that are used in the story to give the following meanings:

1. very tired indeed = _____
2. slightly burned = _____
3. idiots = _____
4. to save = _____
5. going to happen in the near future = _____
6. I would not have been so upset. = _____
7. a cooked meal bought from a shop but not eaten there = _____

Comprehension Questions

1. What should be the best explanation of the headline?
 1. A building burns although £2,000 was spent on a new fire alarm system.
 2. £2,000 spent on tobacco and cigarettes.
 3. A valuable picture is destroyed by fire.
 4. Two thousand people go up a mountain.
 5. A lot of bank notes are destroyed by fire.

2. Answer these questions as briefly as possible-not more than *two or three words* for each other.

1. What work does Mr. Lawrence do? _____

2. What time did he go home? _____

3. What was he carrying _____

4. Where did he put the paper bag? _____

5. Does Mr. Lawrence often carry large sums of money? _____

6. Did he tell his wife what was in the bag? _____

7. Where did she put it? _____

8. Why? _____

9. How many notes was Mr. Lawrence able to rescue from the fire?

10. What did he take to his bank? _____

11. Is there a chance that he will be able to recover some of the money?

Grammar Point

Sentence Structure : Participial Modifiers, + Simple sentence.

การเขียนประโยค simple sentence โดยใช้วลีที่ขึ้นต้นด้วย V-ing และ V-3 ในฐานะ
เป็นวลีขยายประธานของประโยค ดังประโยคที่ปรากฏในเรื่องที่อ่านคือ

- A. Carrying a plain paper bag containing £2,000 in £20 notes, Mr. Lawrence walked through his front door at the end of a long day's work.
- B. Horrified, Mr. Lawrence desperately tried to beat the fire out.

ข้อความที่ขีดเส้นใต้ คือ present participial phrases ทำหน้าที่ขยายคำที่เป็นประธาน คือ Mr. Lawrence

V-ing (present participle) ในข้อ A ขยายประธานว่าเป็นผู้ทำกริยา carrying...

V-3 (past participle) ในข้อ B ขยายประธานว่าเป็นผู้ที่ถูกกระทำกริยา horrified ความหมายของประโยคนี้คือ Mr. Lawrence ซึ่งเป็นผู้ที่ถูกทำให้เกิดความตระหนกตกใจเป็นอย่างมากนั้น ได้พยายามตีเปลวไฟให้ดับทั้งที่หมดหวังแล้ว

Activity 1

Now combine two ideas into a single sentence:

Example

A. Mr. Lawrence carried a plain paper bag. He walked through his front door.

Carrying a plain paper bag, he walked through his front door

B. Mr. Lawrence was horrified. He desperately tried to beat the fire out.

Horrified, Mr. Lawrence desperately tried to beat the fire out.

1. Mary walked through the park. She met a little girl.

2. She saw that the little girl was upset. She asked her what was wrong.

3. The little girl was crying bitterly. She told Mary she had hurt her knee.

4. Mary was moved by her tears. Mary opened her handbag.

5. She took out her handkerchief. She dried the little girl's eyes.

6. She thanked Mary. She ran off towards the shops.
