

English in Mind Second edition

Level 5 Unit 7
WorksheetThe spying game: The latest
gadgets for spooksTHE  INDEPENDENT

Lead-in

- 1 Look at the title of the article. What are 'spooks'? What do you think the article will be about?
- 2 Look at the list of 'spookware' below. These gadgets are used by spies. Discuss the following questions with a partner.

How might a spy use them?

Could we use them in everyday life? How?

*Night-vision goggles**Spyplane**Deleted SMS Reader**Face Mask**Fake Finger**Artificial Leg*

Vocabulary: in context

- 3 Look at the underlined words in the sentences below. With your partner, discuss and try to guess the general meaning of the words.

- 1 The old man walked with a slow stiff gait.
- 2 The child crawled across the floor.
- 3 The sun shone through the trees, throwing dark tree-shaped shadows on the grass.
- 4 The young man was sentenced to five years' imprisonment for his part in the robbery.
- 5 This is the director's first mainstream Hollywood film. His other films were all foreign language art-house films.
- 6 The children were playing hopscotch in the playground when the teacher called them back in.
- 7 The secret agent made sure that the phone was bugged – he needed to know what was happening.
- 8 Some spy gadgets look innocuous but in fact they are really dangerous.
- 9 British police are supposed to use guns only as a last resort.
- 10 Strong winds hindered the fire-fighters in putting out the fire.

- 4 Now match the words with their meaning. An example has been done for you.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1 gait | a if all other methods or ways fail |
| 2 to crawl | b completely harmless |
| 3 shadow | c to limit your ability to do something |
| 4 imprisonment | d to use a special device that allows you to listen to other people's conversations |
| 5 mainstream | e to move on the ground on your hands and knees |
| 6 hopscotch | f a particular way of walking |
| 7 to bug | g something that is accepted or liked by a lot of people |

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- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 8 <i>innocuous</i> | h <i>a period of item spent in prison</i> |
| 9 <i>a last resort</i> | i <i>an area of darkness that is caused by something blocking the light / sunlight</i> |
| 10 <i>to hinder</i> | j <i>a game children play by throwing a stone and jumping on one leg and then two legs to reach it</i> |

Reading comprehension (1): scan and search reading

5 Now read the article very quickly and find out the answers to the questions you have just discussed.

What are these gadgets?

How does a spy use them?

Underline the answers in your text.

Reading comprehension (2): understanding detail

6 Read the article more carefully and answer the following questions.

- 1 How can you prevent setting off the loud alarm?
- 2 Why could this 'gait recognition' be so dangerous to a spy?
- 3 How can spookware cause a spy problems?
- 4 What is the main difficulty for agents nowadays?
- 5 What could be the main purpose of spy gadgets in the years to come?

Grammar: uses of the verb *get*

7 Look through the text and circle all the examples of phrases and verbs using the word *get*.

Which examples have the following meanings?

- 1 access/reach _____
- 2 take _____
- 3 passive idea _____
- 4 phrasal verb _____
- 5 obtain _____

Grammar: *get* vs *be* passive structures

8 Look at example (3) in Exercise 7. This sentence is in the passive. Look at the passive sentences (a-f) below and then answer the questions that follow. An example has been done for you.

- a I *got lost* when I was sightseeing in New York even though I'd been there several times before.
- b I *got caught* speeding, but I'm sure there weren't any road signs about the speed limit.

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- c Before having breakfast I *got washed* and *dressed*.
- d 'That's a nice photo.' 'Yes, it *was taken* by a professional photographer.'
- e Jane *got kicked out* of school for cheating in her exams.
- f Our house *was built* in 1930.
- 1 In which sentence does the person want to emphasise that something happened but he/she isn't really to blame.
- 2 In which sentence do we think the person is responsible for what has happened?
- 3 In which sentence are we simply emphasising the subject?
- 4 Which sentence suggests the person didn't expect it to happen?
- 5 Which sentence describes an event that took place over a period of time?
- 6 In which sentence is the emphasis on 'things we do ourselves'? c

Now complete the rules with *get* or *be* passive.

We use the _____ passive when:

- speaking informally (usually no 'by' phrase is used)
- the action is unexpected or sudden
- the person wants to place the blame elsewhere (i.e. emphasise his/her passive role)
- we can do the action ourselves

We use the _____ passive when:

- we want to talk about an action without emphasising who or what does/did it. If we want to introduce information about the agent, we can use a 'by' phrase.
- we want to express non-action verb passives, i.e. with verbs such as *need*, *prefer*, *consider*, *believe*.
- we want to talk about longer, more deliberate, planned actions

9 Complete the sentences with the best form of the passive (*be* passive or *get* passive). The first one has been done for you.

- 1 My watch *got broken* (break) while I was playing basketball.
- 2 As I was walking across the road, I almost _____ (hit) by a bike!
- 3 The package _____ (deliver) yesterday but I still have no idea what's in it.
- 4 I _____ (stick) in the snow and almost lost my boots!
- 5 My cousin _____ (engage) to her boyfriend last week.
- 6 The letter _____ (send) last week but it must have got lost. It never arrived.

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10 Without looking back at the text, put the correct verb from the box in the space. You may need to use a different form of the verb (+ *ed*, + *ing*).

buy have come keep trigger

- 1 'Try to walk casually out and several red lights will flicker, _____ an alarm'
- 2 Most spies carry a bug detector. Visitors to the exhibition can _____ a go with one.'
- 3 'If you've got to _____ a low profile, it has a 'vibrate' mode.
- 4 ' Even specialist spy gadgets can be _____ off the shelf for domestic use'
- 5 'The real problem is getting the information but sorting out the great splurge of it that _____ your way'.

Now check your answers in the text.

Discussion

11 Discuss the following questions with your partner:

- Do you think technology is a good or bad thing? Why?
- Can technology ever be dangerous? How?
- What do you think the technology of tomorrow will be? Why?
- What will you never let technology replace? Why?

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