

ENGLISH LEARNING FOR CURIOUS MINDS



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Episode #201

The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Robbery

12th Oct, 2021

[00:00:00] Hello, hello hello, and welcome to English Learning for Curious Minds, by Leonardo English.

[00:00:12] The show where you can listen to fascinating stories, and learn weird and wonderful things about the world at the same time as improving your English.

[00:00:21] I'm Alastair Budge, and today is part three of our three-part series on Art Theft.

[00:00:29] In part one we heard about five of the most famous art thefts of all time, from the theft of the Mona Lisa by an Italian [handyman](#)¹ to the time when two university [dropouts](#)² successfully managed to [relieve](#)³ Mexico's National Museum of Anthropology and History of a billion dollars worth of art.

¹ a person who does small repair jobs

² people who have left university before completing their studies

³ rob someone of something



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[00:00:51] Then, in part two we learned about a Frenchman called Stéphane Breitwieser, who by many people's standards was, and still is, the greatest art thief of all time.

[00:01:03] So in today's episode we have saved the best for last, the robbery of The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston.

[00:01:13] It is a story that has **puzzled**⁴ detectives for over 30 years now, and will involve the Irish and Italian **mob**⁵, the FBI, a hippy, a 19th century **socialite**⁶ art collector, the IRA, fake police officers, **dodgy**⁷ art dealers, and more.

[00:01:33] It is quite the story, so let's get right into it.

[00:01:38] For tourists to Boston, Massachusetts, The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum is one of the most popular attractions.

[00:01:47] It was built in 1899, the **brainchild**⁸ of a wealthy American lady called Isabella Stewart Gardner.

[00:01:56] From the outside, it might look like nothing special, a large brick building.

⁴ troubled, caused confusion because they could not understand it

⁵ criminal organisation

⁶ a stylish person who is well known in society

⁷ dishonest or unreliable

⁸ an original idea of a person



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[00:02:03] But upon entering it, visitors are amazed by the interior - it looks like a Venetian palace, complete with a large courtyard and monumental [arches](#)⁹.

[00:02:16] It is filled with the private collection of this wealthy lady, Isabella Stewart Gardner, who wanted what was her house to be turned into a museum open to the public after her death.

[00:02:30] It contains beautiful works of art: Rembrandt, Bellinis, Titians, and more.

[00:02:37] As you [stroll](#)¹⁰ through the rooms, admiring the beautiful works of art, you will notice something even more surprising.

[00:02:46] There are 13 [frames](#)¹¹ that are completely empty, the paintings inside them gone.

[00:02:54] They have been left there as a reminder of the events of March 18th 1990, and what was until recently the largest art robbery of all time.

[00:03:07] March the 17th, as you may know, is St Patrick's Day, an important day of celebration in Ireland, and for people with Irish [ancestry](#)¹².

⁹ structures shaped like an inverted U, used as doorways etc.

¹⁰ walk in a slow, relaxed way

¹¹ structures or borders that surround a painting

¹² origin



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[00:03:19] Boston is one of the cities in the United States with the largest Irish population, and therefore on the evening of the 17th of March there were plenty of [revellers¹³](#), plenty of [partygoers¹⁴](#), out on the streets.

[00:03:35] At 1.20am on March 18th, one of the security guards on duty at the museum, a man called Rich Abath, heard the [buzzer¹⁵](#).

[00:03:46] He went to answer it.

[00:03:48] It's the police, the voices said. We've had reports of a [disturbance¹⁶](#) at the museum, and we have come to investigate.

[00:03:57] OK then, thought the security guard.

[00:04:00] It's St Patrick's Day after all, so perhaps someone has had too much to drink and climbed over the walls. Anything could have happened, so Abath [buzzed¹⁷](#) open the door.

[00:04:14] Sure enough, two men in police uniform came through the door.

¹³ people celebrating in a noisy and lively way

¹⁴ people attending a party

¹⁵ an electronic device that makes an alarming buzzing sound

¹⁶ lawless behaviour

¹⁷ pressed the button that opened the door while making a buzzing sound



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[00:04:20] At this time Abath was sitting behind the security desk, the only place where there was a [panic alarm button](#)¹⁸.

[00:04:29] The two men asked Abath if anyone else was in the museum. Abath responded that his colleague was upstairs, and the men asked Abath to use his radio to call his colleague down to them.

[00:04:45] At this point one of the policemen said that Abath looked familiar, and that there was a [warrant](#)¹⁹ out for his [arrest](#)²⁰. He asked Abath to come out from behind the desk and to show him his ID.

[00:05:00] Abath had noticed that one of the policemen had a moustache, but it was hanging at a strange angle, almost as if it were fake.

[00:05:12] In any case, Abath came out from behind the desk, approached the men, one of whom pushed him against the wall and put [handcuffs](#)²¹ on him, as if he was being [arrested](#)²².

¹⁸ a button that is used to call for help in a dangerous situation

¹⁹ an official document that would allow the policemen to catch him

²⁰ the act of catching and holding someone under the authority of law

²¹ two metal rings connected with a chain that are used to lock the wrists together

²² caught and held under the authority of law



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[00:05:25] Shortly after, the other guard, a man called Hestand, entered the room, and was immediately pushed against the wall and [handcuffed](#)²³.

[00:05:34] Then, one of the police officers announced calmly, “Gentlemen, this is a robbery.”

[00:05:42] They covered the two guards in [duct-tape](#)²⁴, that very strong sellotape, so that they couldn’t speak or see what was happening, and secured them to a downstairs [radiator](#)²⁵, so they couldn't move.

[00:05:58] Over the course of the next 81 minutes the thieves stole thirteen different pieces of art, which experts [estimate](#)²⁶ would be worth up to \$600 million.

[00:06:11] Until the robbery of royal jewels at the Dresden Green Vault in 2019, it was the largest museum theft in terms of value of the stolen items.

[00:06:23] So, who did it, why, how did they get away with it, and what happened to these stolen works of art?

[00:06:32] Well, this is where it gets really interesting.

²³ secured or bound by using handcuffs

²⁴ a strong type of sticky cloth used to bind things together, a very strong sellotape

²⁵ a device used for heating or cooling

²⁶ guess or calculate the value of something



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[00:06:35] The short answer is, apart from people who were directly involved, nobody knows for sure.

[00:06:43] [The plot thickens](#)²⁷, it becomes even more mysterious, when you realise that a large [proportion](#)²⁸ of the people who have been accused of being involved with the theft, and knowing where the paintings were taken, are now dead.

[00:06:59] So, let's go through some of the evidence, and you can decide for yourself who you think might have been responsible for it.

[00:07:08] One of the first things that the police look at after any art theft is what was actually stolen.

[00:07:16] And with this particular theft, what was stolen, and how it was stolen was confusing.

[00:07:24] The thieves were evidently well prepared. They knew what they were doing, this wasn't an [opportunist](#)²⁹ crime.

[00:07:32] They immediately went to a room in the museum called The Dutch Room, where some of the museum's most valuable, and most famous paintings were kept.

²⁷ the situation becomes more mysterious and complicated

²⁸ number

²⁹ someone who tries to take advantage of a situation



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[00:07:44] The most valuable painting they took was a Vermeer called The Concert, which experts value at around \$250 million dollars. It's one of only 34 Vermeer paintings, and is thought to be the most expensive stolen piece of art in the world.

[00:08:04] They also took a Rembrandt painting called The Storm on the Sea of Galilee, which was his only [seascape³⁰](#), his only painting of a sea scene, and worth around \$100 million.

[00:08:18] Alongside these two incredibly valuable paintings, they took some other significantly less valuable works, including a Chinese bronze [vase³¹](#) estimated to be worth only a few thousand dollars.

[00:08:33] They also left behind some of the museum's most valuable items, including works by Michaelangelo, Raphael, and Botticelli.

[00:08:43] It was strange because, on the one hand, they knew exactly where the Dutch Room was and went straight to it, but they left behind some of the museum's most valuable works.

[00:08:56] The robbery lasted 81 minutes, so they certainly weren't in a rush.

[00:09:02] Did they just not know the value of the other works, or was there some other reason for leaving them behind?

³⁰ a painting of a sea scene

³¹ a container used for decoration or holding flowers



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[00:09:10] What's more, when taking the paintings, they cut them out of their **frames**, damaging and **devaluing**³² them.

[00:09:18] A more **sophisticated**³³ thief would have known how to remove the painting causing minimal damage, and whether your **intention**³⁴ is to sell them yourself, or deliver them to a private collector, you want them to remain in as good a condition as possible.

[00:09:37] So, this was slightly confusing.

[00:09:41] The next confusing, and perhaps **suspicious**³⁵, element of the case was the behaviour of the guards on the night.

[00:09:49] Both of the security guards on watch that night were young, inexperienced, students. The museum was short of money, and it would try to **cut corners**³⁶, to save costs, wherever it could.

[00:10:04] This included employing security guards who were inexperienced and, **to put it bluntly**³⁷, not very good at their jobs.

³² reducing their value

³³ experienced and having a great knowledge and understanding of things

³⁴ plan

³⁵ making someone feel that something is wrong

³⁶ save costs

³⁷ used when saying something honest but unpleasant



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[00:10:13] **Suspicion**³⁸ immediately fell on one of the guards, Rich Abath, the one who had initially **buzzed** the thieves in after they had said they were policemen.

[00:10:24] **For starters**³⁹, he shouldn't have let them into the museum.

[00:10:28] Neither he nor his colleague had called the police, so the first reaction when they arrived should have been to call the police station to check that the officers were **legitimate**⁴⁰, that they were real police officers.

[00:10:42] Secondly, his behaviour on the night shortly before the robbery was **suspicious**. After walking around the gallery he went to a side door, a door to the street, and opened and closed it.

[00:10:57] Why? Was he **signalling**⁴¹ to the thieves who were waiting nearby?

[00:11:03] When Abath was questioned about this he said that this was something he did every night to make sure the alarm was working, but firstly this was against **protocol**⁴², he shouldn't have done it, and secondly there are no records of him having done this before.

³⁸ a feeling or belief that someone is guilty

³⁹ to begin with

⁴⁰ allowed by law

⁴¹ communicating or making something known using an action or a sound

⁴² the system of rules used in an organisation



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[00:11:21] And thirdly, there was one work of art, a Manet, that went missing from a room called The Blue Room.

[00:11:29] The [motion sensors](#)⁴³ in the room don't have any record of the two thieves entering that room; the only person who entered that room on the night of the robbery was...Abath.

[00:11:42] Most museum or gallery robberies have a person on the inside, an employee who helps with the theft, and the police thought this must have been Abath.

[00:11:53] But he was never actually [arrested](#). To this day he maintains his innocence, he lives a quiet life with his wife and kids, and just says he was [targeted](#)⁴⁴ because he was a hippy.

[00:12:07] So, who actually were the thieves, and why did they do it?

[00:12:12] Fingers were immediately pointed at Boston's organised crime families, both Italian and Irish.

[00:12:19] They would have had the resources to pull a crime like this off, and the underground network to move the stolen works of art afterwards.

[00:12:30] They had plenty of reasons to commit this sort of crime.

⁴³ devices that detect physical movement

⁴⁴ was treated as a person of attention



[00:12:34] They could have simply wanted to sell it, for a quick [infusion](#)⁴⁵ of money to buy drugs, weapons, or something like that.

[00:12:44] They might have wanted to use the works of art as a sort of [get-out-of-jail-free card](#)⁴⁶, so that when a boss was charged with other crimes he could use these stolen works of art as a [bargaining chip](#)⁴⁷ in exchange for [immunity](#)⁴⁸.

[00:13:00] However the fact that nobody has ever used this [get-out-of-jail-free card](#), despite plenty of [suspects](#)⁴⁹ in the crime being put in jail, it suggests that this wasn't the [motive](#)⁵⁰.

[00:13:15] It might even have been a "[to order](#)⁵¹" job by an art-loving senior member of an organised crime family, but the [clumsy](#)⁵² nature of the theft, and the fact that the

⁴⁵ grab, possession

⁴⁶ something that is used as an insurance in order to avoid an unpleasant situation, like going to jail. (A reference to the board game Monopoly, in which this card allows players to leave the jail space without missing a turn.)

⁴⁷ something that you are prepared to give up in order to reach an agreement and get what you want

⁴⁸ a situation in which someone is protected from legal action

⁴⁹ people thought to be guilty

⁵⁰ reason for doing something

⁵¹ done after someone else ordered it

⁵² careless and without skill



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paintings would have been damaged when they were stolen, suggests this probably wasn't the [motive](#) either.

[00:13:35] So, the FBI believes the [motive](#) was financial in some shape or form.

[00:13:42] But to this date, none of the paintings have been recovered.

[00:13:47] Immediately after the theft there was a large [reward⁵³](#) for any information that led to their recovery.

[00:13:54] It started as a million dollars, then was increased to 5 million in 1997, and it currently stands at 10 million dollars.

[00:14:05] A pretty [tempting⁵⁴ reward](#).

[00:14:08] Plus, the Statute of Limitations law means that the crime happened too long ago for the thieves to be [prosecuted⁵⁵](#).

[00:14:17] So someone could [come forward⁵⁶](#) today, tell the FBI what happened and where the paintings are, and assuming that they were able to be recovered, they would collect \$10 million dollars as a [reward](#), and they might not have to spend a day in jail.

[00:14:36] But nobody has.

⁵³ something given in exchange of good work

⁵⁴ making someone want to do something

⁵⁵ officially brought to a law court to face judgement

⁵⁶ offer to give information



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[00:14:39] Over the years there have been hundreds of [leads](#)⁵⁷, [clues](#)⁵⁸ as to the [whereabouts](#)⁵⁹ of the paintings and the identity of the people behind the robbery.

[00:14:50] In 1994, four years after the robbery, the director of the museum received an [anonymous](#)⁶⁰ message from someone wanting to [negotiate](#)⁶¹ the return of the artwork.

In this letter they provided information that only the museum and the FBI knew about: that the uniforms the thieves had worn as [disguises](#)⁶² had not actually been those of police officers but rather of security guards.

[00:15:20] It seemed [credible](#)⁶³, it seemed believable.

[00:15:23] The author of the letter said that they were not the thief, and they didn't know who actually did it. All they wanted was a [resolution](#)⁶⁴ to the problem, and to be paid \$2.6 million dollars as a [reward](#).

⁵⁷ pieces of information that helped find the answer to the mystery

⁵⁸ information that helped find the answer to the mystery

⁵⁹ the place where something is

⁶⁰ without making their name known

⁶¹ have discussions in order to reach an agreement about something

⁶² fake appearances

⁶³ believable

⁶⁴ the action of solving a problem



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[00:15:39] As a condition of cooperation, they wanted investigators to stop looking into it while [negotiations](#)⁶⁵ were taking place.

[00:15:48] If the museum accepted these [terms](#)⁶⁶, it needed to send a coded message to the author of the letter via the Boston Globe, a newspaper.

[00:16:00] The author gave specific instructions about how to do this: the number “1” needed to be inserted into the box with currency exchanges, the box specifying how many British pounds, Japanese yen, and Italian lira you would get for a US dollar.

[00:16:19] The museum decided to cooperate, and federal agents [stood down](#)⁶⁷ while this was all taking place, they said they would pause their investigations.

[00:16:30] The editor of The Boston Globe agreed to help, and sure enough, it published this number “1” in the currency box, [indicating](#)⁶⁸ that the museum was willing to negotiate.

[00:16:43] The author of the letter saw the secret message in the newspaper, and sent another letter to the gallery.

⁶⁵ discussions in order to reach an agreement about something

⁶⁶ conditions that are part of an agreement

⁶⁷ stopped their investigations

⁶⁸ showing



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[00:16:50] They were **encouraged**⁶⁹ that the museum wanted to cooperate, but said that investigators hadn't actually **stepped down**⁷⁰, they were in fact looking into the case more **intently**⁷¹.

[00:17:04] The author would need more time to think, and would contact the museum again.

[00:17:09] But that was the last the museum ever heard from them.

[00:17:14] In another **hot lead**⁷², a journalist from the Boston Herald was called up in the middle of the night by a man called William P. Youngworth, an antiques dealer with links to organised criminals.

[00:17:29] Youngworth told the journalist that he knew where the paintings were, and could prove it to him.

[00:17:35] In the middle of the night they went to a storage unit, and he pulled out a **canvas**⁷³ from inside a tube.

[00:17:44] It was dark, and the journalist didn't get a proper look at it, but it seemed to be The Storm on the Sea of Galilee, the Rembrandt valued at \$100 million. The edges of

⁶⁹ given confidence or hope

⁷⁰ stopped their investigations

⁷¹ with great attention

⁷² important information that helped find answers

⁷³ a heavy fabric on which a painting is done



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the painting were [frayed](#)⁷⁴, as if it had been cut from a [frame](#)⁷⁵, and the paint was [cracking](#)⁷⁶.

[00:18:05] It certainly seemed like it could be one of the stolen paintings.

[00:18:10] Youngworth also provided [chips](#)⁷⁷ of paint to analyse, [chips](#) that he said would prove this was the Rembrandt.

[00:18:19] The [chips](#) were taken to the [lab](#)⁷⁸.

[00:18:22] They were indeed from the 17th century when the painting was done, but they weren't from The Storm on the Sea of Galilee.

[00:18:30] It wasn't a match.

[00:18:32] But, they could have been from The Concert, the Vermeer painting valued at \$250 million, the colours were [consistent](#)⁷⁹ with part of that painting.

⁷⁴ damaged along the edges

⁷⁵ structure or border that surrounds a painting

⁷⁶ breaking without complete separation of the parts

⁷⁷ small broken or cut off pieces

⁷⁸ laboratory, a room or building equipped for scientific experimentation or examination

⁷⁹ in agreement or compatible



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[00:18:44] Youngworth said he would only **cooperate**⁸⁰ with the authorities if he was offered full **immunity** for himself, and the release from jail of another art thief.

[00:18:56] The FBI wouldn't accept this, and **negotiations stalled**⁸¹.

[00:19:02] They managed to find the location of the storage unit a few months after, but after it was **raided**⁸² nothing was found. Youngworth has now completely stopped **cooperating**⁸³ with the police.

[00:19:15] In 2013 though, there seemed to be a **breakthrough**⁸⁴. The FBI announced that they believed they knew the identities of the people who had robbed the museum, but they had both died shortly after the theft, and they were relatively low level thieves, they would have been acting on the orders of someone else.

[00:19:37] And, most importantly, that the paintings were still nowhere to be found.

[00:19:43] Another factor that has complicated the **inquiry**⁸⁵ was **corruption**⁸⁶ within the Boston police.

⁸⁰ act or work together

⁸¹ stopped making progress

⁸² suddenly entered in order for them to find and remove the valuables

⁸³ acting or working together

⁸⁴ an important discovery that helped improve their situation

⁸⁵ investigation

⁸⁶ illegal behaviour by those in power



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[00:19:50] It was revealed in the late 1990s that one of Boston's most **infamous**⁸⁷ crime bosses, a man called Whitey Bulger, had been providing information to the FBI about his rival crime bosses since the mid 1970s. He was both an FBI **informant**⁸⁸ and a major crime boss.

[00:20:11] He had also managed to **corrupt**⁸⁹ several FBI officers, meaning that he was being provided with information about ongoing investigations, including the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Robbery.

[00:20:25] If he was involved in the robbery, and he is believed to have been involved by multiple investigators, he would always have been one step ahead of the authorities, he would have known what the police were doing.

[00:20:39] One theory has it that he either organised the entire robbery or bought the paintings from the thieves for a reduced price, and then arranged for the paintings to be sent to western Ireland, perhaps even to be guarded by the IRA, the Irish Republican Army.

[00:20:59] He might have **intended**⁹⁰ for them to be used as a **bargaining chip**, as something to use in **negotiations** with the police, or even it might have been a present

⁸⁷ famous for something bad

⁸⁸ someone who gives information to an organisation

⁸⁹ caused them to behave in a dishonest or illegal way

⁹⁰ planned



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to the IRA after a weapons shipment he had sent them was [intercepted](#)⁹¹ by the Irish army in 1994.

[00:21:16] If Bulger was involved, he took his secret to the [grave](#)⁹² with him.

[00:21:22] He had been in prison since 2011, and then in 2019, hours after being transferred to another prison, and aged 89 he was violently murdered by [inmates](#)⁹³ linked to an Italian crime family.

[00:21:39] Indeed, almost all of the people who have been [implicated](#)⁹⁴ in the crime have now died, most of them of unnatural causes, they have all been murdered.

[00:21:51] One, however, remains.

[00:21:53] A man called Robert Gentile, another Boston crime boss, was accused of having been given the paintings [for safekeeping](#)⁹⁵, to look after.

[00:22:03] He was questioned by police, but has always [denied](#)⁹⁶ their existence.

⁹¹ caught before being able to reach its destination

⁹² a place in the ground where a dead person is buried

⁹³ people who are kept in prison

⁹⁴ involved

⁹⁵ to look after

⁹⁶ refused to accept



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[00:22:09] The police didn't believe him, and **raided** his house. They dug up his garden, looked everywhere, but the only sign they found was a list of the paintings, complete with their estimated value next to them.

[00:22:24] Obviously, this did nothing to help **persuade**⁹⁷ investigators of his innocence.

[00:22:30] Gentile is now 84 years old, and his **health is failing**⁹⁸.

[00:22:35] He still **denies**⁹⁹ any involvement, and investigators are **fearful**¹⁰⁰ that he will take the secret of The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Robbery to the **grave** with him.

[00:22:47] That being said, the investigations are still open, the **reward** is still \$10 million, and investigators are hopeful that this will be enough to attract someone, somewhere, to come forward and **spill the beans**¹⁰¹, to reveal the location of the stolen artwork.

[00:23:06] If and when they do, the good news is that the **frames** at the museum are still there, in exactly the same position as the night of the robbery, almost as if they were waiting for the paintings to return.

⁹⁷ make them believe him by talking to them

⁹⁸ health is getting worse

⁹⁹ refuses to accept

¹⁰⁰ afraid or worried

¹⁰¹ give secret information



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[00:23:21] Ok then, there we have it, the mystery of The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Robbery, one of the greatest art thefts of all time.

[00:23:32] I hope it's been an interesting one, that you've learnt something new, and perhaps you've listened to this and decided you might know who is behind this robbery.

[00:23:41] Who knows, by the time you listen to this episode, perhaps the case might even be solved.

[00:23:47] As always, I would love to know what you thought of this episode.

[00:23:51] Who do you think was behind it? Do you think the pieces will ever be returned?

[00:23:56] And what did you think of this mini-series on Art Theft?

[00:24:00] I would love to know, so let's get the discussion started.

[00:24:04] The place for that is our community forum, which is at community.leonardoenglish.com.

[00:24:10] You've been listening to English Learning for Curious Minds, by Leonardo English.

[00:24:15] I'm Alastair Budge, you stay safe, and I'll catch you in the next episode.



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[END OF EPISODE]



Key vocabulary

Word	Definition
Handyman	a person who does small repair jobs
Dropouts	people who have left university before completing their studies
Relieve	rob someone of something
Puzzled	troubled, caused confusion because they could not understand it
Mob	criminal organisation
Socialite	a stylish person who is well known in society
Dodgy	dishonest or unreliable
Brainchild	an original idea of a person
Arches	structures shaped like an inverted U, used as doorways etc.
Stroll	walk in a slow, relaxed way
Frames	structures or borders that surround a painting
Ancestry	origin



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Revellers	people celebrating in a noisy and lively way
Partygoers	people attending a party
Buzzer	an electronic device that makes an alarming buzzing sound
Disturbance	lawless behaviour
Buzzed	pressed the button that opened the door while making a buzzing sound
Panic alarm button	a button that is used to call for help in a dangerous situation
Warrant	an official document that would allow the policemen to catch him
Arrest	the act of catching and holding someone under the authority of law
Handcuffs	two metal rings connected with a chain that are used to lock the wrists together
Arrested	caught and held under the authority of law
Handcuffed	secured or bound by using handcuffs
Duct-tape	a strong type of sticky cloth used to bind things together, a very strong sellotape
Radiator	a device used for heating or cooling



Estimate	guess or calculate the value of something
The plot thickens	the situation becomes more mysterious and complicated
Proportion	number
Opportunist	someone who tries to take advantage of a situation
Seascape	a painting of a sea scene
Vase	a container used for decoration or holding flowers
Devaluing	reducing their value
Sophisticated	experienced and having a great knowledge and understanding of things
Intention	plan
Suspicious	making someone feel that something is wrong
Cut corners	save costs
To put it bluntly	used when saying something honest but unpleasant
Suspicion	a feeling or belief that someone is guilty
For starters	to begin with
Legitimate	allowed by law



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Signalling	communicating or making something known using an action or a sound
Protocol	the system of rules used in an organisation
Motion sensors	devices that detect physical movement
Targeted	was treated as a person of attention
Infusion	grab, possession
Get-out-of-jail-free card	something that is used as an insurance in order to avoid an unpleasant situation, like going to jail. (A reference to the board game Monopoly, in which this card allows players to leave the jail space without missing a turn.)
Bargaining chip	something that you are prepared to give up in order to reach an agreement and get what you want
Immunity	a situation in which someone is protected from legal action
Suspects	people thought to be guilty
Motive	reason for doing something
To order	done after someone else ordered it
Clumsy	careless and without skill



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Reward	something given in exchange of good work
Tempting	making someone want to do something
Prosecuted	officially brought to a law court to face judgement
Come forward	offer to give information
Leads	pieces of information that helped find the answer to the mystery
Clues	information that helped find the answer to the mystery
Whereabouts	the place where something is
Anonymous	without making their name known
Negotiate	have discussions in order to reach an agreement about something
Disguises	fake appearances
Credible	believable
Resolution	the action of solving a problem
Negotiations	discussions in order to reach an agreement about something
Terms	conditions that are part of an agreement
Stood down	stopped their investigations



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Indicating	showing
Encouraged	given confidence or hope
Stepped down	stopped their investigations
Intently	with great attention
Hot lead	important information that helped find answers
Canvas	a heavy fabric on which a painting is done
Frayed	damaged along the edges
Frame	structure or border that surrounds a painting
Cracking	breaking without complete separation of the parts
Chips	small broken or cut off pieces
Lab	laboratory, a room or building equipped for scientific experimentation or examination
Consistent	in agreement or compatible
Cooperate	act or work together
Stalled	stopped making progress
Raided	suddenly entered in order for them to find and remove the valuables



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Cooperating	acting or working together
Breakthrough	an important discovery that helped them improve their situation
Inquiry	investigation
Corruption	illegal behaviour by those in power
Infamous	famous for something bad
Informant	someone who gives information to an organisation
Corrupt	caused them to behave in a dishonest or illegal way
Intended	planned
Intercepted	caught before being able to reach its destination
Grave	a place in the ground where a dead person is buried
Inmates	people who are kept in prison
Implicated	involved
For safekeeping	to look after
Denied	refused to accept
Persuade	make them believe him by talking to them



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Health is failing health is getting worse

Denies refuses to accept

Fearful afraid or worried

Spill the beans give secret information

We'd love to get your feedback on this episode.

What did you like? What could we do better?

What did you struggle to understand?

Let us know in the forum community.leonardoenglish.com

