

7

Rules

7.1 Finders keepers?

GOALS ■ Talk about crime and justice ■ Use present modal verbs

Vocabulary crime and justice

- 1a Look at the photos. Can you think of two things all the objects might have in common?



- b 7.1))) Listen to four short news items and check your ideas.
- 2 7.1))) Listen again. Which story do you find the most surprising? Why?

- 3a Look at the following extracts from the listening. What word class is each of the underlined words? A noun, a verb or an adjective?

A bag containing \$200,000 worth of diamonds has been returned to its grateful owner.

It is estimated that the coins are worth around \$10 million.

- b Work with a partner. Look at the following extracts and decide what part of speech in brackets each underlined word is. Then write a new sentence using the underlined word as the other part of speech.
- 1 He has received a reward from the dealer. (verb or noun?)
He was rewarded for his honesty.
 - 2 A scrap metal dealer has made a profit of more than \$32 million. (verb or noun?)
 - 3 He found a news report about the eight Fabergé eggs still missing. (verb or noun?)
 - 4 They claim ownership of the coins found on their property. (verb or noun?)
 - 5 They have still had to hand the coins over to an official while a decision is made. (noun or adjective?)
 - 6 The police now suspect that the thieves must have abandoned the valuable paintings. (verb or noun?)

Finders keepers?

'Finders keepers, losers weepers' goes the old playground chant. And it seems that a lot of people use the saying to **justify** keeping money and other **valuables** that they find. But really, is it that simple?

A local couple have recently been given an eleven-month **suspended sentence** for claiming the money on a winning lottery ticket which they found on the floor of a shop. ¹They also have to give the money back. The couple assumed that the money was theirs to keep, but in most countries it is actually **illegal** to keep any **lost property** you come across unless you are unable to find the owner.

It does depend on the **circumstances**, of course. Often, if you find a small amount of money, legally, ²you don't have to



- 4a** Read the blog post at the bottom of the page, then choose the sentence which best summarizes the writer's view.
- If people are stupid enough to lose something, it's their own fault if someone else keeps it.
 - If something doesn't belong to you, it is almost never OK to keep it.
- b** Do you agree with the writer's view? Discuss with a partner.
- 5** Match the highlighted words in the blog post to meanings 1–8.
- things that people have left in a public place by accident
 - against the law
 - give or be a good reason for something
 - the facts and events that affect what happens in a particular situation
 - a court sentence – where you will go to jail only if you commit another crime within a specified time
 - by chance, not planned
 - left and no longer wanted or needed
 - small things that you own which are worth a lot of money
- 6** Complete the sentences about the couple who found the gold coins, using vocabulary from exercises 3 and 5.
- According to the _____, the coins are two hundred years old, so the owner must be dead.
 - The coins were lost or _____ two hundred years ago and were only found _____.
 - The coins may be from a bank robbery or something else _____.
 - In these _____, the coins ought to be in a museum.
 - It wouldn't matter if the coins were only _____ a small amount, but they're very valuable.
 - The couple should get a _____ instead of getting to keep the coins.

report it, as it would be very difficult to find the owner.

³And you can usually keep anything which the owner has clearly **abandoned**. But if you find anything which ⁴could be identified, ⁵you can't just keep it.

However, even if legally ⁶you don't need to find the owner, shouldn't we do the right thing anyway? Another story I read recently told of some students who found \$40,000 stuffed into an old sofa. The sofa had been given to a charity shop, so perhaps they had a right to keep the money. But they found the original owner and discovered that her children had **accidentally** lost the money by giving the sofa away while she was in hospital. The students had no idea that she kept her life's savings in it, and that in fact she and her family needed the money badly.

So, is 'finders keepers, losers weepers' fair enough? No, in my opinion, it's just theft.

Tags: blog, opinion, money

Grammar present modal verbs

- 7** Read the Grammar focus box and add underlined examples 1–6 from the blog post in exercise 4a.

GRAMMAR FOCUS present modal verbs

Strong obligation

Use *have to/must* to talk about things that are necessary or are an obligation.

You must try to be tidier.

a _____

Lack of obligation/necessity

Use *don't have to/don't need to/needn't* where there is no obligation or necessity.

We needn't get any more milk – we have plenty.

b _____

c _____

Prohibition

mustn't can't

Use *mustn't/can't* to say something is not allowed.

You mustn't ever leave that door unlocked.

d _____

Permission

Use *can/may* to ask for or give permission and say something is allowed.

May I leave the room?

e _____

Possibility and probability

Use *could/might/may* to talk about things that are possible or probable.

I think that might belong to Julie.

f _____

→ Grammar Reference page 148

- 8** With a partner, discuss which *two* options are possible in each sentence. Does the meaning change between the possible two options?
- The law about keeping lost property *might / can / could* be different in different countries.
 - You *can't / mustn't / have to* keep a lottery ticket if you find one.
 - If you find a small amount of money, you *don't have to / mustn't / needn't* hand it in.
 - You *are unable to / should / could* go back and look for your wallet, it *can / might / may* still be there.
 - You *may / mustn't / can* leave your bag here, it will be safe.
 - I *ought to / have to / can* be more careful with my valuables in future.
- 9** **TASK** Work with a partner. Turn to page 129 and follow the instructions.