

6 Not-so-intelligent thieves

UNIT 10 In the News!

READ & RESPOND

Peter Addison 'vuz 'ere



6 NOT-SO-INTELLIGENT THIEVES!

Police spend a lot of time, effort and money on crime detection. But sometimes, it's the bad guys who help the police, as these six examples of not-so-intelligent criminals clearly show.

1 Reading I

Read the article once. Which thief/thieves are the least intelligent? Why?

2 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions without referring back to the article.

1. What mistake did Hannah Sabata make?
2. What did Johnathan forget to do?
3. How did the police locate the three teens who broke into a vending machine?
4. How did Peter help police locate him?
5. What was wrong with the day that Timothy chose to do a bit of shoplifting?
6. How did the police know that Daniel was going to rob a convenience store?

3 YouTube thief

In November 2012, 19-year-old Hannah Sabata uploaded an eight-minute video to YouTube. In the video, she bragged about robbing a bank and stealing a car. She even flashed some of the \$6,000 USD she'd stolen. But thanks to her video, which she'd called "Chick Bank robber", the police had a self-made confession which they used to arrest her.

4 Facebook thief

In September 2009, Jonathan G. Parker, a 19-year-old from Pennsylvania, broke into a house and stole two diamond rings. But before he left, he used the victim's computer to check up on his Facebook account. However, he never logged out and police used the information on the computer to track him down.

5 Powder thieves

In July of 2009, three teenagers broke into a vending machine at the Arlington Recreation Center in St Paul (Minnesota). They stole a number of items then fled the scene. However, they left one vital clue: a trail of a mysterious orange powder. The police followed it from the recreation centre to a nearby home, where they found several bags of Cheetos which had been stolen from the machine. Police arrested the three males aged 17, 18 and 19 who lived in the house.

6 Signature criminal

In 2007, Peter Addison, an 18-year-old from Stockport (Ohio) vandalised a children's campsite building. He smashed up pottery vases, set off fire extinguishers, and left the campsite in a complete state of disarray. But before he left, he used a black marker pen to write his name on a wall. With the suspect's name to go on, it wasn't long before police arrested him. Commenting on the case, Inspector Gareth Woods said, "There are some pretty stupid criminals

around, but to leave your own name at the scene of the crime takes the biscuit."

7 Unlucky criminal

In December 2011, Timothy Randall Clark, a 22-year-old from Maryland, tried to shoplift more than \$500 worth of video games. However, he chose the wrong day to do it. At the time, there were 50 police officers in the store as part of a national charity annual event called "Shop With A Cop", which is intended to strengthen relations between law enforcement officials and local youths.

8 Warning

In 2008, Daniel Glen of Windsor (Ontario), called a convenience store to ask the clerk how much money there was in the cash register. He told the clerk to put it all into a bag and to have it ready for him as he'd be coming over later on. Immediately after hanging up, the clerk alerted the police, who arrived at the scene shortly afterwards. They arrested Glen after he committed the robbery.

Now, how dumb is that? ◻