



1. PRE-READING

Imagine that after shopping, you return to your car, which is parked in a parking lot. It is nine o'clock at night, and there are only a few people in the parking lot. When you get into your car, a man jumps up from the backseat, holds a gun to your head, and says, "Drive!" What would you do? Check an answer, or write your own answer. Then compare your answer with those of your classmates.

I would . . .

1. scream and yell to get the attention of the people in the parking lot.
2. try to grab the gun.
3. tell the man I'll drive him where he wants to go, but then drive to a police station.
4. drive where the man tells me to go.
5. _____

An Unexpected Adventure

One summer afternoon Jean and Clothilde Lestarquit, an elderly couple, visited their daughter at her home in Lille, France. A few minutes before six o'clock, the Lestarquits decided to leave. They said good-bye to their daughter, walked to their car, and got in. They expected a quiet, uneventful ride home. The ride, however, was anything but quiet and uneventful.

Mr. Lestarquit was about to start the car when a gunman jumped up from the backseat. He held a gun to Mr. Lestarquit's head. "Drive me to Paris!" he demanded.

"All right," Mr. Lestarquit replied. "I'll drive you anywhere you want to go. But first let my wife out of the car."

The gunman agreed to let Mrs. Lestarquit go. After she was safely out of the car, Mr. Lestarquit started the engine, pulled away from the curb, and drove down the street. He was driving slowly, but his mind was racing. Unarmed and 81 years old, he knew he could not fight the gunman. He knew he needed help. Where were the police? As he drove through each intersection, he looked up and down the side streets, hoping to spot a police car. There was none in sight. "Just my luck," he thought. "If I were speeding, there would be a police car on every corner."

Suddenly Mr. Lestarquit realized how he could attract the attention of the police. He pushed his foot down on the accelerator of his Mercedes, and the car sped forward. "What are you doing?" shouted the gunman. "Avoiding the police," Mr. Lestarquit lied. "I thought I saw a police car back there."

Mr. Lestarquit began driving like a madman. He drove 60 miles an hour on side streets, ran red

lights, and drove the wrong way on one-way streets. On two-way streets he drove on the wrong side of the road. Not one police officer saw him.

Obviously, Mr. Lestarquit's plan was not working. He needed a new plan. But what? Suddenly he remembered that the Lille police station was only a few blocks away. "All right," he thought. "If I can't bring the police to my car, I'll bring my car to the police."

He turned a corner and saw the police station ahead. Immediately his heart sank. There was a courtyard in front of the police station, and the two large doors that led to the courtyard were closed. Mr. Lestarquit hesitated for a moment. Then he pushed the accelerator to the floor and steered straight for the doors.

The car crashed through the doors and stopped in the courtyard. Mr. Lestarquit yelled, "Help! He's going to kill me!" Then he reached back to grab the man's gun. Just as he grabbed it, the gunman pulled the trigger. The bullet grazed Mr. Lestarquit's hand and went through the windshield. Before the gunman could pull the trigger again, Mr. Lestarquit opened the car door and fell to the ground. Officers from the police station, who had come running when they heard the crash, quickly captured the gunman. It was 6:30 P.M.—exactly 35 minutes since the Lestarquits had left their daughter's house on a quiet street in Lille.

It seemed to Jean Lestarquit that for those 35 minutes he had stepped out of reality and into an action movie. There were so many things action movies have—a gunman, a hero, a speeding car, and a car crash. Fortunately for Jean Lestarquit, there was one more thing most action movies have: a happy ending.

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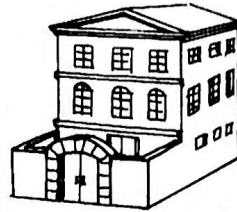
2. VOCABULARY

LOOKING AT THE STORY

Write the correct word on the line.

grazed	windshield	elderly	courtyard	demanded	ran
accelerator	captured	spot	unarmed	hesitated	sped

1. Mr. Lestarquit was 81 years old. He was not young; he was _____.
2. When the gunman spoke to Mr. Lestarquit, he was not polite. "Take me to Paris!" he _____.
3. Mr. Lestarquit did not have a gun. He was _____.
4. Mr. Lestarquit looked for a police car, but there was none in sight. He couldn't _____ one anywhere.
5. Mr. Lestarquit wanted to go fast, so he put his foot down on the _____.
6. Mr. Lestarquit was driving very fast; his car _____ through the streets.
7. Mr. Lestarquit didn't stop at red lights; he _____ the red lights.
8. The building in the picture has a _____.



9. When Mr. Lestarquit saw that the doors to the courtyard were closed, he stopped to think. He _____ for a moment.
10. The bullet touched the skin on Mr. Lestarquit's hand as it went past. Mr. Lestarquit was not badly hurt because the bullet only _____ his hand.
11. When the bullet went out the front of the car, it broke the glass in the _____.
12. It took only a few minutes for the police to take the gunman and bring him to the police station. The police _____ the gunman quickly.

LOOKING AT SPECIAL EXPRESSIONS

Find the best way to complete each sentence. Write the letter of your answer on the line.

anything but = not at all

1. The ride, however, _____
2. That bridge _____
3. That restaurant _____

- a. is anything but safe.
- b. is anything but inexpensive.
- c. was anything but quiet and uneventful.

about to = to be ready to

4. Mr. Lestarquit was about to start the car _____
5. We were about to play tennis _____
6. I was about to buy a jacket for \$60 _____

- d. when a gunman jumped up from the floor of the backseat.
- e. when I saw a nicer one for \$50.
- f. when it started to rain.

3. COMPREHENSION/READING SKILLS

UNDERSTANDING TIME RELATIONSHIPS

What information is *not* correct? Draw a line through it.

1. About six o'clock Mr. and Mrs. Lestarquit
 - a. decided to leave their daughter's house.
 - b. ~~arrived home safely.~~
 - c. said good-bye to their daughter.
 - d. walked to their car and got in.
2. Mr. Lestarquit was about to start the car when a gunman
 - a. jumped up from the backseat.
 - b. held a gun to Mr. Lestarquit's head.
 - c. demanded that Mr. Lestarquit drive him to Paris.
 - d. pulled the trigger.
3. After Mrs. Lestarquit was out of the car, Mr. Lestarquit
 - a. started the engine.
 - b. pulled away from the curb.
 - c. got into his car.
 - d. tried to spot a police car.

4. After Mr. Lestarquit realized how he could attract the attention of the police, he
 - a. drove 60 miles an hour on side streets.
 - b. ran red lights.
 - c. drove the wrong way on one-way streets.
 - d. said, "Let my wife out of the car."
5. After Mr. Lestarquit crashed through the doors leading to the courtyard,
 - a. the car stopped.
 - b. he grabbed the gun.
 - c. the gunman pulled the trigger.
 - d. the gunman shouted, "What are you doing?"

UNDERSTANDING DETAILS

Read the sentences from the story. One word in each sentence is not correct. Find the word and cross it out. Write the correct word.

1. Jean and Clothilde Lestarquit, an elderly couple, visited their daughter at her home in Lille, Spain.
2. They said good-bye to their daughter and walked to their bicycles.
3. Mr. Lestarquit was about to start the car when a policeman jumped up from the backseat.
4. "Drive me to Barcelona!" the man demanded.
5. Mr. Lestarquit said, "I'll drive you anywhere you want to go, but first let my daughter out of the car."

Now copy three sentences from the story, but change one word in each sentence so that the information is not correct. Give your sentences to a classmate. Your classmate will find the incorrect word in each sentence, cross it out, and write the correct word. When your classmate is finished, check the corrections.

6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

4. DISCUSSION

A. Think about these questions. Discuss your answers with your classmates.

1. Do you think Mr. Lestarquit was brave or foolish? Why?
2. What would you have done if you had been in his place?

B. With a partner or in small groups, talk about what you would do in the following dangerous situations.

1. You are walking down the street when suddenly a big dog runs toward you. The dog is barking.
2. You are walking down a busy street in a big city. A man walks up to you and says, "Give me your money!" He has a knife.
3. It is 11 o'clock at night. You are home alone watching TV. There is a knock at the door. You aren't expecting anyone.
4. You come home late at night. The door to your house or apartment is open. You are sure you locked the door when you left the house. You live alone.
5. You and a friend go to a party in your friend's car. Your friend drinks beer at the party. When it is time to go home, you realize that your friend has had too much to drink.

5. WRITING

A. Write a police report. Imagine that you were one of the police officers at the Lille police station. After capturing the gunman, you asked Mr. Lestarquit what happened and then wrote down what he told you. What is your report?

B. Have you ever had an experience like Jean Lestarquit's? Have you ever been in a dangerous situation where you had to decide what to do? Write about your experience. Here is what one student wrote.

When I was in high school I was in a dangerous situation almost every day.

One day after school, a group of boys surrounded my friends and me. There were about 20 of them. There were three of us. My friends and I had to decide whether to fight or run. We decided to fight. We started to fight, and then fortunately some university students came along and separated us.

There were other dangerous situations, too, but that is one I remember very well.

Challenge

Read the following stories about men who, like Mr. Lestarquit, had unexpected adventures. Would you do what Charles Gardner did? What Mark Thomas did? What Mr. Lestarquit did?

His Pride and Joy

It was not a new car—it was a 1988 model—but the car was new to Charles Gardner, and it was his pride and joy. It was a black and gray Chevrolet Suburban—a large, boxy station wagon. Charles had bought it two months ago from a used car dealer in Chicago. How Charles loved that car!



So, when Charles came out of a friend's house and saw two teenaged boys standing near his car, he was concerned. Were the boys thinking about stealing his beloved Chevy? Then Charles realized that the car's engine was running. They *were* going to steal his car! They had already started the engine!

When the boys saw Charles, they jumped into the Chevy and pulled away. Charles ran after the car and jumped on its roof. With his right hand, Charles hung on to the luggage rack on the top of the car. With his left hand, he reached into the window and grabbed the driver's neck, yelling at him to stop.

The driver wasn't about to stop. He and his buddy wanted the Chevy. They had the car. Now all they needed to do was to get its owner off the roof.

The driver saw a steel light post ahead, and he aimed for it. If he crashed into the light post, surely the man on the roof would fall off, and the car would be his. He hit the light post with such force that the post fell, and live electrical wires landed on Charles's right arm, giving him first degree burns. Still, Charles hung on.

When the driver realized that Charles was still on top of the car, he headed for Chicago's busiest expressway, an eight-lane highway that runs through the heart of the city. Crashing the car into the light post hadn't knocked Charles off the roof. Maybe high speeds would.

When the car turned onto the entrance ramp to the

expressway, Charles lay down flat and held on tightly to the luggage rack. The driver pushed the accelerator to the floor, and the car sped down the expressway at 80 miles an hour. Each time the driver swerved around a car, the boxy Chevy rocked. Still, Charles hung on.

By this time, Charles's wild ride had attracted the attention of the police.

Charles heard sirens and

looked behind him. At least a dozen Chicago police cars had joined the chase, lights flashing, sirens wailing. Suddenly Charles had the feeling that this was not real life; it was a scene from a movie. This would actually be exciting, Charles thought, if only I weren't afraid of getting killed.

The driver heard the sirens, too. Now he had to get rid of not only Charles, but the police as well. He exited the expressway and headed for a neighborhood he knew like the back of his hand. Maybe here he could get the police off his trail and Charles off the roof of the car. He sped down alleys and drove on sidewalks. He crossed parking lots and cut through parks. He crashed into garbage cans and drove through fences. Still, Charles hung on.

Finally, the young thieves realized that, although they wanted the Chevy, Charles wanted it more. The driver stopped the car, and both boys jumped out and ran. The police caught them after a short chase on foot.

Charles climbed down from the roof and checked his car over. The front end was badly dented, but a good body shop could probably fix it.

Later, Charles was asked why he had risked his life for his car. He replied, "It was just a reaction, I guess. I wasn't trying to be a hero or anything. I was just trying to get my car back. I mean, it's my car."

A Wild Ride

Fourteen dollars of unleaded regular nearly cost gas station owner Mark Thomas his life.

Police say he clung to the hood of a car driven by a customer who tried to run him over after a dispute over how much gas he pumped. The wild ride lasted for six miles as the woman repeatedly sped up and slammed on the brakes, trying to dislodge him from the front of her vehicle.

It started Tuesday morning when a woman pulled into the Amoco Station on Long Beach Boulevard, the main street that runs the length of Long Beach Island.

Thomas said the woman ordered a fill-up, which came to \$14. But she said she only had \$5, and had only asked for that much gas. When she asked if she could pay the rest next week, Thomas said no.

She started to drive away, but he reached inside and switched off the ignition.

He was standing in front of the car trying to

memorize its license plate number when she started it up again and came straight at him, police said. He jumped onto the hood to avoid being run over, he said.

"I was holding onto the windshield wiper and the radio antenna," Thomas said. "She tried to shake me off by turning on the windshield wiper. Then she turned on the windshield washer spray."

Police said the ride ended without injury when the woman drove past a police officer, who pulled her over. She was charged with robbery and aggravated assault, and was released on \$15,000 bail.

While clinging to the hood at speeds he estimated at 75 to 85 miles an hour, Thomas was thinking two things.

"I was thinking, 'How am I going to get off of here?' I was also thinking I should have let her pay next week."