



The Sneak Thief



27

Inspector Anderson was off duty. He had just arrived at the train station to meet some friends, but their train was running an hour late. As he walked slowly across the main **terminal** (platform), a man with the restless eyes attracted his attention. Then he was lost in the crowd of passengers.

A few minutes later, the inspector **spotted** (found located) the man, he was entering the station's coffee shop. Now he was carrying a leather briefcase. The man sat down at a **vacant** (empty) corner table, placing the briefcase between his chair and the wall.

What do you suspect about this man ?

The inspector followed him and sat at his table and asked him to come over to the Station Master's office to answer a few questions about the ownership of the briefcase that he had with him. The man claimed angrily that the briefcase was his, but he agreed to go along.

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In the Station Master's office the briefcase lay open on the desk, **revealing** (showing) a file of papers and an envelop containing about \$. 20,000. "Oh, this is not my briefcase." shouted Mr. Fink.

"Before we opened this briefcase, Mr. Fink," began the Inspector, "you told us it was definitely yours and that it contained only a couple of magazines. Now you **deny** (say 'no') that you are the owner. How do you explain that?"

Mr. Fink looked **puzzled** (confused). "This definitely isn't the briefcase I handed in at the clockroom this morning," he said. "They must have given me someone else's. It looks exactly like mine, but I can see it isn't. My briefcase was locked and it had only some magazines. I was reading on the train. The owner of this briefcase shouldn't have left it open with all this money in it. If he got mine by mistake, he isn't going to be very happy about it."

"I'm sure he won't be," said the Inspector. I also wonder why anyone would give a briefcase for safe keeping that had only a couple of magazines in it."

"That's easy to explain," said Mr. Fink. "I came to town this morning just before noon on one of those one-day round-trip **excursion** (a short trip for fun) tickets. I was reading the magazines on the train. I brought my briefcase because I was hoping to find some secondhand books, but I didn't get to the bookstores because I met an old friend who invited me over to his house."

"So that's when you checked your briefcase?"

"That's right," continued Mr. Fink. "I didn't want to carry it around with me, so I left it here and went with my friend. Got my taxi fare paid both ways.... had a great time."

Did you notice something illogical (अलुकि) in Mr. Fink's explanations ? What is it ? "

"Lucky you," said the Inspector. "Now would you mind emptying out all your pockets and placing their contents on this desk?"

"I don't mind at all," said Mr. Fink, "I've got nothing to hide. The sooner you're satisfied, the sooner I can get going. I have to take this

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briefcase back to the clockroom and see if mine is still there."

Mr. Fink's statement and the contents of his pockets were enough to tell Anderson whether or not the **suspect** (શંકાસ્પદ વ્યક્તિ) was telling the truth.

Is this suspect a criminal ? How can you say so ?

If you haven't been able to decide yet, look at the CLUES.... or some pointers to the clues that helped the inspector make up his mind.

CLUES

There is a clue in each of the following statements:

1. "My briefcase was locked."
2. "I got to town this morning just before noon on one of those one-day round-trip excursion tickets-"
3. "I was hoping to find some secondhand books."

SOLUTION

The contents of the suspect's pockets do not include :

A key to the briefcase

The "return" part of the ticket.

Enough cash (and no other way of paying) for buying books.

Fink was arrested and **charged** (આરોપ મૂકવામાં આવ્યો). It was easy to find the owner of the briefcase. It turned out that he had put his briefcase down while buying a newspaper, and **just in a wink** (આંખના પલકારામાં) it had disappeared. The bag picker **cooked up** (fabricated, બનાવી કાઢી) a very good story but he forgot to match things in the bag with the things in his pocket.

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Do it Yourself

Q.1 (A) Give one word for :

1. a person who steals but tries to avoid being seen :
→ S_____T_____ (10 letters)
2. a person who steals from people's pockets :
→ P____P_____T (10 letters)
3. a person who breaks into a house to steal :
→ B_____R (7 letters)
4. a person who takes someone by force and hold then capture :
→ K__N_____R (9 letters)
5. a person who steals property from a person :
→ R_____R (6 letters)

(B) Write a small imaginary (કલ્પનિક) story using the following words or phrases. You can change their order and form :

dark night - under a bridge - a big knife - just in a wink - disappeared - suspect - police inspector - scream - purse and ornaments - arrested - spotted a man -

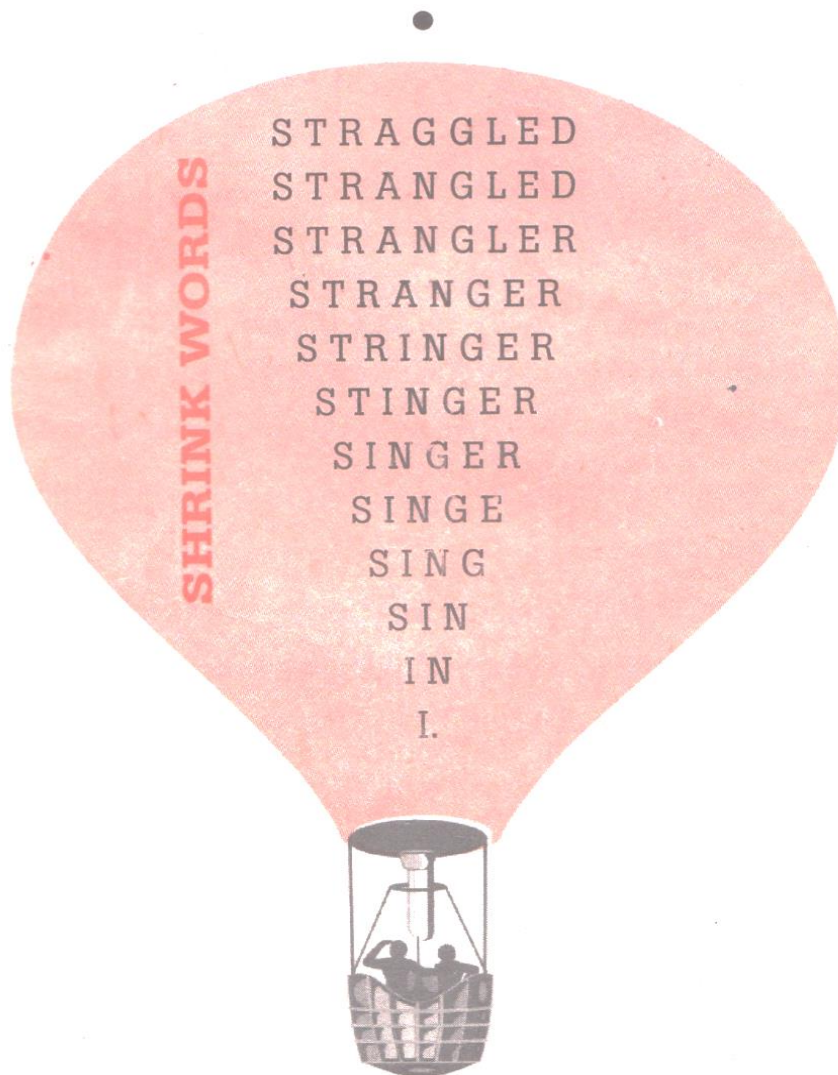
Q.2 (A) Which of these statements made by the sneak thief are strongly doubtful ? Put D in the box.

1. This is not my briefcase. ☐
2. My briefcase has some magazines in it. ☐
3. I have got nothing to hide. ☐
4. My briefcase was locked. ☐
5. If the owner of this briefcase has got mine by mistake he is not going to be happy about it. ☐
6. I was reading magazines on the train. ☐
7. But I didn't get to the bookstore. ☐

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(B) Answer these questions :

1. Why did the Inspector Anderson arrive at the railway station ?
2. Why did Anderson suspect the man ?
3. What was found in the briefcase ?
4. Mr. Fink looked puzzled. Give reasons for it.
5. There were enough proof found from the pockets of Fink. What were they ?
6. How did Fink sneak the briefcase ?
7. Why was Fink arrested ?



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