The man who sold the Eiffel Tower

Have you ever been to Paris?

Vocabulary

1. con artist 2. bribe 3. scams 4. scrap 5. fled 6. pretended

True Story

In 1925, Victor Lustig arrived in Paris with a bold plan. He _____ to be a government official and told six _____ metal dealers that the Eiffel Tower would soon be taken down and sold as scrap. One businessman, André Poisson, believed him and paid a large _____ to win the deal. Lustig took the money and disappeared.

A year later, he tried the same trick again! This time, the police found out, and he _____ to America. Lustig was a brilliant _____ who spoke five languages and fooled many people. His story remains one of the most daring _____ in history.

Quiz

1. What year did Victor Lustig arrive in Paris?
2. Who believed Lustig's story about the Eiffel Tower?
3. What did Lustig do after getting the money from André Poisson?
4. How many languages could Victor Lustig speak?

True or False

1. Victor Lustig sold the Eiffel Tower to a businessman. True | False
2. Lustig was caught by the police in Paris. True | False
3. Lustig was able to speak five languages. True | False

Conversation

A: Hello, Mr. Poisson. I'm with the government.
B: Oh, really? What can I do for you?
A: We're selling the Eiffel Tower as scrap metal. Interested?
B: Wow! Yes, that sounds like a great opportunity.
A: Excellent. Of course, to make sure you get the deal, a little... extra payment is necessary. ;)
B: I understand. Here's the money. I can't wait to start!

Discussion

1. Would you like to live in Paris?
2. Has someone ever tried to scam you?
3. What kind of scams have you heard about?
4. Do you think there is bribery in politics in your country? Can you think of any examples?
5. Do you think you could trick someone in your family? How?

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