

Lemon juice robber thought he was invisible

Have you ever used invisible ink?

Vocabulary

1. overestimate 2. abilities 3. invisible 4. inspire 5. arrested 6. robbed

True Story

In 1995, McArthur Wheeler _____ two banks in Pittsburgh, USA, without wearing a mask. He believed lemon juice would make his face _____ to security cameras because it is used as invisible ink.

Before the robberies, he reportedly tested his idea by putting lemon juice on his face and taking a photograph with a Polaroid camera. The story says the test went wrong, but Wheeler believed it had worked.

When police _____ him, he was shocked to discover that the cameras had recorded his face clearly. His strange mistake later became famous and helped _____ research into why people sometimes _____ their own knowledge and _____.

Quiz

1. What did McArthur Wheeler rob?
2. What did he use on his face?
3. What type of camera did he use to test his idea?
4. How did he feel when he was arrested?

True or False

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. McArthur Wheeler wore a mask during the robberies. | True False |
| 2. He thought lemon juice made him invisible. | True False |
| 3. Wheeler's mistake inspired research into overconfidence. | True False |

Conversation

- A: Did you hear about the man who used lemon juice to hide from security cameras?
- B: What? How was that supposed to work?
- A: He thought it would make him invisible!
- B: Seriously? Didn't he test it first?
- A: He did, but he thought it had worked!
- B: Oh, no! I bet he felt pretty stupid!

Discussion

1. What do you think of this story?
2. What are you really good at?
3. Can you think of a celebrity who seems very confident?
4. How can you become more confident in speaking English?