

ВАРИАНТ 1

ДА СЕ ПОЛЗВА ЕДИНСТВЕНО ОТ УЧИТЕЛЯ-КОНСУЛТАНТ ПРИ НЕОБХОДИМОСТ!

Учителят-консултант изчита на глас и инструкцията, и съответния текст, според указанията в инструкцията.

**Directions:** *You will hear a text about a **diamond show** twice. Before you listen to it, you have **2 minutes** to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have **4 minutes** to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing among **A, B, C or D**. Then you will hear the text again and will have **1 minute** to check your answers.*

The diamond show was staged on the ground floor of the Carlton Intercontinental Hotel in Cannes. Nobody had thought to tell the police about the tens of millions of dollars in jewels on display for more than a month. Only a few unarmed guards, hired by the jeweller, provided security in the hotel showroom where the robber struck on Sunday. A single thief with a handgun managed to leave with a total of \$136 million in jewels without firing a shot. The gunman went in through the French doors and went out less than a minute after the holdup.

Private security guards are generally not licensed to carry weapons in France and Switzerland – that's reserved for police officers – but exceptions can be made when high-value objects are involved.

'It can't be standard procedure when you have that kind of value. This is an extraordinary amount of value to have in one place,' said John Kennedy, president of the New York-based Jewellers Security Alliance. 'In the United States those shows are limited. You need to have an ID and a pass. It's not open to the public. Certain hotels don't want jewellery shows at all because they're dangerous. If you couldn't have it with armed guards, I'd say you have a most serious problem.'

That's not a popular view on this side of the Atlantic. There is a difference of opinion about the right to carry guns in the European Union and in the United States.

'Between losing several millions of euros and killing someone, Europeans' choice has been that we'd rather lose several million euros,' said a leading French criminologist and security expert. 'The idea that more firearms means more security isn't convincing in Europe.'

It was the second time in a week that unarmed guards had been attacked by jewel thieves. At a Swiss prison near the French border, a member of the notorious 'Pink Panther' gang escaped after his accomplices broke a gate and overpowered the unarmed guards with bursts from Kalashnikovs in the air.

The police in Cannes haven't drawn any specific links between Cannes and that escape.

**Directions:** *You will hear a text about a **Mr Pitt** twice. Before you listen to it, you have **2 minutes** to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have **4 minutes** to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing among **A, B, C or D**. Then you will hear the text again and will have **1 minute** to check your answers.*

Mr Pitt never paid attention to the neighbours on his city block until a middle-aged widow moved in two doors down from him. She was pretty, with sparkling eyes, and she always wore dark gloves on her hands, even indoors.

They often bumped into each other in the street and stood talking. One day, as she brushed the hair back from her forehead, Mr Pitt caught a glimpse of gold under the glove on her right hand. When he asked her about it, she told him that she had lost one hand a few years back and now wore a gold hand in its place. At that moment, a terrible desire woke in his heart to possess the solid gold hand.

He won the widow's heart and within a month, they were married. Within another month, he was a widower and buried his wife – without her gold hand. It had been so easy. A slow poison, added to her tea daily to look like a wasting disease. No one suspected anything. And the night after the funeral, he slept with the gold hand under his pillow.

It was a dark night. Mr Pitt was asleep when the door to his room slammed open with a loud bang. He sat up and his pulse began to beat faster when he saw a greenish-white light by his bed. Before his eyes, the light slowly grew larger and took on the shape of his dead wife. She was missing one arm. 'Where is my gold hand?' she whispered, her dark eyes blazing with red fire. 'Give me my gold hand!'

He leaned back against his pillows, and the hard shape of the gold hand pressed against his back. And then he felt it move under him. He tried to scream but the world went black.

The next morning, when the housemaid came into the room with her master's morning cup of tea, she found Mr Pitt lying dead on the floor, with the gold hand around his throat.

**Directions:** *You will hear a text about **Niagara Falls** twice. Before you listen to it, you have **1 minute** to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions*

*and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have **3 minutes** to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing among **A, B** or **C**. Then you will hear the text again and will have **1 minute** to check your answers.*

### **Niagara Falls Freeze As Polar Current Moves North**

Ice chunks spread over the famous waterfalls and cascading water was turned into icicles as temperatures fell well below freezing. Tourists who were brave enough to go out in the record low temperatures to visit Niagara Falls have been treated to a spectacular sight – a grand naturally-formed ice sculpture – and many took the unique chance to record that on their photo and video cameras.

Water turned to ice as it plunged over the 34-metre-high American Falls – one of three waterfalls which form the popular tourist attraction on the border between the United States and Canada. Long icicles were left hanging above the frozen Niagara River below.

This unusual sight is the result of a polar current that gripped the US for four days, dropping temperatures to  $-37^{\circ}\text{C}$  and leaving at least 21 people dead. The crippling cold and the strong polar winds also affected more than half the US population as they spread from the Midwest to the East and South. Today the cold is finally beginning to ease its grip and is moving back northwards, leaving warmer weather and calmer winds behind.