

## Internet bank robbery plan foiled (Sat 19 Mar, 2005)

### WARM-UPS

**CHAT:** Talk in pairs or groups about banks / bank robberies / bank robbers / computer hackers / bank accounts / PIN numbers / passwords / Internet security / cyber crime... Change topic / partner frequently to increase conversation.

**INTERNET BRAINSTORM:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'Internet'. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

**BANKING:** In pairs/groups, talk about banking. Do you trust banks? Do you have confidence in Internet banking? Is your PIN number easy to guess? Do you worry about the safety of your credit card? Is Internet banking a good thing? Write down three questions each about banks. Ask them to your partner/group.

**BANK OPINIONS:** In pairs/groups, discuss whether you agree or disagree with the following opinions:

- a. Internet banking is very dangerous. I can't trust my information being sent online.
- b. Computer hackers will always beat bank security systems.
- c. Who cares? If someone steals your money, the bank has to give it back to you.
- d. Keeping your money under the bed is best.
- e. Keeping your money in banks is safer than keeping it in your wallet or purse.
- f. Internet shopping and using your credit card is 100% safe and secure.
- g. PIN numbers are too short. They are easy to guess because many people use their own birthdays!
- h. There will be big problems when cash disappears and everything is e-money.
- i. All big banks have been robbed online. They never tell their customers because it's bad PR.
- j. Hackers will one day erase all of the data from banks' computers. Money will disappear.

## PRE-READING IDEAS

**WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'bank' and 'robberies'.

**TRUE FALSE:** Guess whether the following statements about the article are true or false:

- a. Internet thieves stole millions of dollars from a bank. T / F
- b. Bank robbers planned to send the money to different countries by air mail. T / F
- c. Hackers used software to record the order in which computer keys were pressed. T / F
- d. One member of the gang was thought to be an insider at the bank. T / F
- e. A public relations officer from the bank said a lot of money was stolen. T / F
- f. The bank's IT people guessed something was happening last October. T / F
- g. No one has been arrested yet in connection with the robbery. T / F
- h. Cyber criminals are becoming more and more skilled. T / F

**SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| (a) prevented    | top secret    |
| (b) steal        | office        |
| (c) sequence     | rob           |
| (d) confidential | group         |
| (e) installed    | interrogating |
| (f) branch       | foiled        |
| (g) suspected    | Internet      |
| (h) unit         | guessed       |
| (i) questioning  | set up        |
| (j) cyber        | order         |

**PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article:

- |                                  |                                      |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (a) Police have                  | around the world                     |
| (b) taking                       | relations officer                    |
| (c) different bank accounts      | place over the Internet              |
| (d) confidential                 | extra care                           |
| (e) One member of the gang       | attack                               |
| (f) public                       | information                          |
| (g) no money                     | supposedly worked at Sumitomo        |
| (h) suspected they were under    | prevented a huge online bank robbery |
| (i) arrested a man in connection | had been stolen                      |
| (j) take                         | with the planned robbery             |

## GAP FILL

### Internet bank robbery plan foiled

**BNE:** Police have \_\_\_\_\_ a huge online bank robbery attempt from taking place over the Internet. Thieves \_\_\_\_\_ to steal \$534million from a London branch of Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui bank. The robbers planned to send the money electronically to 10 different bank accounts around the world. They used special hacking software that could \_\_\_\_\_ the sequence of keystrokes that computer users made on their keyboards. This made it easy for the gang to find bank account numbers, passwords, and other \_\_\_\_\_ information to find out which customers had the most money. One member of the gang supposedly worked at Sumitomo and \_\_\_\_\_ the keystroke-reading software onto the bank's computers.

*record          installed          planned          prevented          confidential*

A public relations officer from the Tokyo branch of the bank said no money had been \_\_\_\_\_. He said the bank's IT security staff told British police last October that they \_\_\_\_\_ they were under attack. Detectives from Britain's National Hi-Tech Crime Unit then started \_\_\_\_\_. They arrested a 32-year-old Israeli man yesterday in connection with the planned robbery. Police are \_\_\_\_\_ him now in Tel Aviv and expect to make more \_\_\_\_\_. They have warned all banks and businesses to take extra care of their computer security, as cyber criminals are becoming more and more skilled.

*arrests          investigating          stolen          questioning          suspected*

## DISCUSSION:

- a. What was interesting in this article?
- b. Were you surprised by anything in this article?
- c. Do you trust banks?
- d. Why did you join the bank you use?
- e. Do you ever ask banking staff about the bank's security?
- f. Do you trust online banking?
- g. Do you use a credit card for Internet shopping?
- h. Do you use a credit card for normal shopping (in real stores)?
- i. Is your credit card information safer over a secure Internet connection from Amazon.com, or a telephone modem connection from Joe's bookstore?
- j. Are your passwords / PIN numbers easy to guess?
- k. Do you ever forget your passwords / PIN numbers?
- l. What kind of confidential information do you give out over the Internet?
- m. Do you always complete the fields for address, telephone number, marital status etc?
- n. Is cash safer than electronic money (e-money)?
- o. Are you worried about cyber crime?
- p. Are hackers smarter than IT security experts?
- q. Should banks make us choose more / longer passwords?
- r. Did you like this discussion?
- s. Teacher / Student additional questions.

## HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find information on computer hacking. Share your findings with your class next lesson.

**3. DETECTIVE:** Imagine you are the detective in Tel Aviv. Write down ten questions you want to ask the gang member about the foiled robbery attempt. Use these questions in a role play next class.

**4. CASH OR E-MONEY?:** Write down five pros and five cons for having a society based on cash, and one that only uses e-money.

## TEXT

### Internet bank robbery plan foiled

**BNE:** Police have **prevented** a huge online bank robbery attempt from taking place over the Internet. Thieves **planned** to steal \$534million from a London branch of Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui bank. The robbers planned to send the money electronically to 10 different bank accounts around the world. They used special hacking software that could **record** the sequence of keystrokes that computer users made on their keyboards. This made it easy for the gang to find bank account numbers, passwords, and other **confidential** information to find out which customers had the most money. One member of the gang supposedly worked at Sumitomo and **installed** the keystroke-reading software onto the bank's computers.

A public relations officer from the Tokyo branch of the bank said no money had been **stolen**. He said the bank's IT security staff told British police last October that they **suspected** they were under attack. Detectives from Britain's National Hi-Tech Crime Unit then started **investigating**. They arrested a 32-year-old Israeli man yesterday in connection with the planned robbery. Police are **questioning** him now in Tel Aviv and expect to make more **arrests**. They have warned all banks and businesses to take extra care of their computer security, as cyber criminals are becoming more and more skilled.