

Crime and suspense

1 Language in use: Waitress inherits \$50,000

Read the text about a waitress who received \$50,000 in a will. Some words are missing. Change the word in brackets to form the missing word for each gap (1–10). Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Amber Bowman, a ... (0 **wait**) who works in a truck stop restaurant on interstate 10 just west of El Paso, Texas, received \$50,000 in a will. Mr Robotham, the deceased, had been a regular customer of Amber's for the last ten years. He was 70 when he started ... (1 **eat**) breakfast there.

Mr Robotham was a ... (2 **skin**), bald guy. He wore old glasses, and he was ... (3 **miss**) one of his front teeth. He drove a 1980 Cadillac that looked like it hadn't been washed since 1981. Most waitresses thought he was a little weird. Each of them hoped he wouldn't sit in her section. He usually sat at a four-person booth all by himself. He often spilled food onto the table and seat. To make matters worse, he didn't give large tips – one dollar was it, even though he ... (4 **usual**) had several free refills of black coffee. "Oh, he's just a ... (5 **harm**), lonely old guy," said Amber.

Mr Robotham had begun to like ... (6 **help**) Amber. After the first couple of months of eating at the restaurant, he made it a point to sit in her section. Whenever the other waitresses saw Mr Robotham pulling up in his old car, they would tell Amber that her "boyfriend" had ... (7 **arrive**). They teased Amber about the day the elderly Mr Robotham would propose to her.

Mr Robotham continued to visit the Do-Drop-In ... (8 **regular**), but never proposed to Amber. The last time he ate breakfast there, he told her he was not feeling well. That's why he didn't finish the pancakes, he said. And he had only one refill of coffee. For the first time ever, he left the ... (9 **surprise**) Amber a two-dollar tip. She tried to return one dollar, figuring that he had made a mistake. He said no, she had earned that second dollar. She thanked him.

In his will, Mr Robotham left a dollar each to the Republican and Democratic parties; the rest of his money, \$50,000, he left to Amber. He noted in his will that Amber's ... (10 **friend**) smile was the "syrup on my pancakes".



0 waitress ✓

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2 Language in use: Died in a murder-suicide

Read the text about the murder-suicide of a couple. Some words are missing. Change the word in brackets to form the missing word for each gap (1–10). Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Last night, a man and a woman died in an apparent murder-suicide in Altadena. The man was 74-year-old Alfred Vittorio. The woman was his 70-year-old wife, Patricia.

The couple had been married for 50 years. In fact, their 50th anniversary occurred just a month ago, according to their next-door neighbour, Mrs Kray. The couple was ... (0 **child**) and had no close friends. Mr Vittorio was a ... (1 **retire**) carpenter who was blind in one eye because of a cataract. His wife was a diabetic who had already had one foot amputated because of complications from the disease. Her eyesight was almost ... (2 **complete**) gone.



“They were such a nice couple,” said Mrs Kray. “I’ve lived next to them for the last 20 years or so. I’m widowed, and Alf ... (3 **regular**) used to help me with things like changing light bulbs and repairing things like the washing machine. They had no kids, but they were always friendly to the neighbourhood kids. Every Halloween they handed out tons of candy and fresh fruit. But about eight years ago Patsy came down with diabetes, and things just haven’t been the same for her or Alf. They used to be so ... (4 **friend**) and full of life, and then they just seemed to get quieter and quieter.

“She used to come over to my place once or ... (5 **two**) a week, and we would talk about all kinds of things and have the nicest time. But that happened less and less as she got sicker. So I would go over to her house about once a week and we would talk. But the conversations steadily got ... (6 **short**), and she seemed to lose interest in ... (7 **listen**) and in talking. She didn’t say it, but you could tell she was in a lot of pain.”

Mrs Kray said she hadn’t even talked to either of the Vittorios in almost a year. They never came out. Even food was ... (8 **deliver**) to them by a local agency. She said she heard two gunshots last night. “It scared me half to death!” She ... (9 **immediate**) called the police. “Such a sad ending for such nice people,” she said. “Together in ... (10 **sick**), but alone in the world.”

0 childless ✓

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| 1 _____ | 6 _____ |
| 2 _____ | 7 _____ |
| 3 _____ | 8 _____ |
| 4 _____ | 9 _____ |
| 5 _____ | 10 _____ |

Key**1** Language in use: Waitress inherits \$50,000

- 0: waitress
- 1: eating
- 2: skinny
- 3: missing
- 4: usually
- 5: harmless
- 6: helpful
- 7: arrived
- 8: regularly
- 9: surprised
- 10: friendly

2 Language in use: Died in a murder-suicide

- 0: childless
- 1: retired
- 2: completely
- 3: regularly
- 4: friendly
- 5: twice
- 6: shorter
- 7: listening
- 8: delivered
- 9: immediately
- 10: sickness