

ROLE PLAY: REPORTING A THEFT

A2-B1 | Teens / Adults | Speaking + Functional Language | 35-45 minutes

1. USEFUL PHRASES

Person reporting

I'd like to report a theft.
My phone was stolen.
It happened near ...
I last saw it at ...
I'm not sure exactly when it happened.
Could I have a copy of the report?
What information do you need?

Police officer

When did it happen?
Could you describe the item?
What was inside the bag?
Did you see anyone take it?
Do you have any identification?
Let's go through what happened.
We'll give you a report number.

2. MODEL CONVERSATIONS

A. A STOLEN PHONE

Visitor: Hello. **I'd like to report a theft.** Someone took my phone while I was in a cafe.

Officer: I'm sorry to hear that. **When did it happen?**

Visitor: About half an hour ago. I was at the cafe beside the station.

Officer: **Could you describe the item?**

Visitor: It's a black phone with a blue case. There's a small crack on the back.

Officer: **Did you see anyone take it?**

Visitor: Yes. Someone picked it up from my table and ran out before I could stop them.

Officer: Can you tell me what you remember about the person?

Visitor: A grey jacket and a red cap, but I didn't get a clear look at their face.

Officer: That's useful. **Do you have any identification?**

Visitor: Yes, my passport. **Could I have a copy of the report** when it's ready?

Officer: Yes. **We'll give you a report number** and explain how to get a copy.

B. A BAG THAT MAY BE LOST

Visitor: I can't find my bag. I'm worried it was stolen, but I didn't see anyone take it.

Officer: All right. **Let's go through what happened.** Where did you last have it?

Visitor: On the airport bus. I put it on the seat beside me.

Officer: Did you notice it was missing while you were on the bus or after you got off?

Visitor: After I got off. I might have left it on the seat.

Officer: Then we'll record what you know without assuming it was stolen. **What was inside the bag?**

Visitor: Some clothes, my keys and a small camera. My wallet is still with me.

Officer: Can you describe the bag and tell me which bus you used?

Visitor: It's green with a yellow strap. It was the number thirty bus at about eleven.

Officer: Have you contacted the bus company's lost-property office?

Visitor: Not yet. Could you help me find their contact details?

Officer: Yes. You can ask whether it's been handed in while we note the information you've given us.

Notice how the speakers give details, ask follow-up questions and respond to each other.

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3. ROLE-PLAY CARDS

Work in pairs. Read only your own role. Decide what to say; don't write a full script. Find a solution, then swap roles and change one detail.

ROLE PLAY 1: A STOLEN WALLET

Student A - Person reporting

Someone took your wallet from your open bag at a market. You noticed the person running away, but didn't see their face clearly. Describe the wallet, what was inside and when it happened. Separate facts from guesses.

Student B - Police officer

Ask where and when it happened, what the person saw and what was in the wallet. Ask about bank cards and suggest contacting the bank promptly. Explain that you'll record the details and provide a reference number.

ROLE PLAY 2: LOST OR STOLEN?

Student A - Person reporting

Your bag is missing after a bus journey. You remember having it before you sat down, but not when you left. You don't know whether someone took it. Ask what information to provide and where else to check.

Student B - Police officer

Ask when the bag was last seen, which bus was used and how it looks. Don't treat theft as certain. Explain how to contact the bus company's lost-property office and record what the visitor actually knows.

ROLE PLAY 3: A REPORT FOR INSURANCE

Student A - Person reporting

Your camera is missing from your hotel room. You don't know when it disappeared. The hotel has checked its lost-property desk. Explain the situation and ask how to obtain a report reference for your insurer.

Student B - Police officer

Ask for the hotel name, the time the camera was last seen, a description and any identifying number. Explain that a report reference records the report; it doesn't guarantee recovery or an insurance payment. Check a contact method.

After each role play: Say what you agreed and which phrase helped. Repeat with one new detail.

Teacher note: Prepare for 2-3 minutes and speak for 3-4 minutes. Encourage follow-up questions, not memorised scripts. Prices, times and service rules in this lesson are fictional.