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# GATE ACTIVITY SHEET 4

JANUARY-FEBRUARY GATE 2020

## Real Spies

### LEARNING NEW VOCABULARY

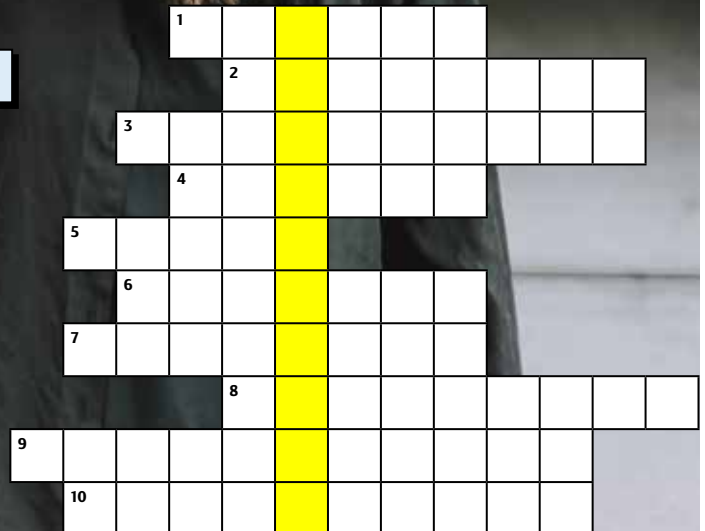
## Hidden word puzzle - and online quiz!

There's a special word for all the skills of a spy. It's hidden in this grid. To find the words, take our screen spies picture quiz - one of the words is in each quiz question. The definitions are below.

Enter this link into your browser or scan the QR code: <https://tinyurl.com/GateScreenSpies>



1. A professional killer
2. (About a man): Older, with greying hair, a bit rough, with the beginning of a beard
3. Two brilliant people who work very well together (2 words)
4. Tough, dangerous and cool
5. Smooth and sophisticated like 007
6. Seen, noticed, recognised (informal)
7. Someone who doesn't follow the rules of an organisation, independent
8. A person with no fear who loves to do dangerous things
9. A beautiful but very dangerous woman who men fall in love with, French expression (2 words)
10. Different from what is usually done or accepted



**PREDICTION - READING  
COMPREHENSION**

# Real Spies

You're going to read about a real-life spy who worked for the CIA. Before you start, see if you can guess the answers to these questions. When you've finished, read the article and check your answers.

- 1** Why are spy agencies like the CIA, MI6, Mossad etc. called "intelligence agencies"?  
A They are the brains of a country.  
B You need to be very intelligent to work there.  
C "Intelligence" also means "information".
- 2** What is "COMINT"?  
A Communications intelligence  
B Community interaction  
C Command integration
- 3** What does an "arms smuggler" sell?  
A Human body parts (for transplants)  
B Illegal weapons (guns, explosives, etc.)  
C Drugs
- 4** Which of these is the best CV for a spy?  
A Decades of training as a soldier, athlete and martial artist  
B A warm, friendly personality and a good eye for detail  
C The ability to let people die when it is necessary



**AFTER-READING ACTIVITY**



Now read the article once more and answer the following questions:

- 1** What is a "covert source"?
- 2** Why is it important for an intelligence officer to have empathy for their sources?
- 3** What was Amaryllis Fox doing at university when the CIA noticed her?
- 4** What did the CIA teach Amaryllis? (*Write 2 things*)  
.....  
.....
- 5** Why does Amaryllis say a "chase scene" would be a disaster for a real spy?
- 6** Why did "Jakab" decide to help Amaryllis?
- 7** What was Amaryllis' biggest fear, and why?



# REAL SPIES



*James Bond.  
Evelyn Salt.  
Jason Bourne.*

*Their on-screen adventures are dramatic, exciting and a lot of nonsense<sup>1</sup>. Secret government<sup>2</sup> agents do exist, but the life of a real spy is a long way from the movies.*

Ex-CIA\* officer Amaryllis Fox is one of a few **former**<sup>3</sup> intelligence officers who has decided to tell people about the real life of a spy. As you will see, the job is difficult and often dangerous, but it's not what you might expect.

## INTELLIGENCE TEST

First, a quick explanation. Intelligence agencies (= tajné služby) **provide**<sup>4</sup> intelligence ("intel") to governments. In this context "intelligence" or "intel" means information, not brains! Most of it comes from public **sources**<sup>5</sup> or from things like hacking computers and phones. This is called communications intelligence, or COMINT.

Spying is called human intelligence, or HUMINT, and the agents are called intelligence officers. They don't get inside enemy organisations themselves. They find people already inside and "turn" them – that is, **convince**<sup>6</sup> them to provide information.

Amaryllis explains the difference between COMINT and HUMINT: "It's like the difference between the friends you follow on social media and the friends you meet once a week for a drink. On social media, you know if they've had a baby, or if they **get engaged**<sup>7</sup>. But if you meet them once a week you know how they feel."

## GETTING CLOSE TO THE SOURCE

The people who speak to intelligence officers are called **covert**<sup>8</sup> sources. A covert source could be someone who works for a government (like Robert Hanssen, a top FBI agent who sold thousands of secrets to the KGB for millions of dollars).

Getting information from terrorist organisations and from **arms smugglers**<sup>9</sup> is far more difficult. People in such groups often have very complicated feelings about what they're doing. They usually have reasons to not trust British or American officers. If they get caught, they may be put in prison, **tortured**<sup>10</sup> or killed, so the ideal is to have a lot of trust and empathy for your sources.

## THE PERFECT SPY

When the CIA noticed Amaryllis, at the age of 20, she wasn't a **special forces**<sup>11</sup> soldier, highly skilled thief or a fan of extreme sports. She had skills that were much more useful. In her teens, she had worked in a **refugee camp**<sup>12</sup> in Thailand.



Then, at university, she spent hundreds of hours finding data on historical terrorist attacks and looking for new **patterns**<sup>13</sup>. She loved and cared about people, and she was good at doing careful, boring research. A million miles from James Bond, and exactly what the CIA wanted.

## AGENT SKILLS

Some of the skills the CIA taught her were like those in the movies, such as how to shoot and how not to give away any information if tortured, but mostly the lessons were in how to be **invisible**<sup>14</sup>. For the 90 % of the time you're not on a job, she says, you're being as boring as possible. "All that roof-jumping and gun-juggling<sup>15</sup> in the movies? One **chase**<sup>16</sup> scene and it's finished. You're either out of the country or you're in jail." James Bond, in other words, would be a terrible agent.

## THE KILLER WHO TURNED

One of Amaryllis' successes was "turning" an illegal **arms dealer**<sup>17</sup>. "Jakab" was a scary and dangerous criminal from a former communist country. She learned that he thought that selling weapons to terrorists was OK because they were used to fight against bad governments. Slowly, she helped him see how terrorist attacks give bad governments the excuse for bad **acts**<sup>18</sup>. At last, he decided to help her and she was able to stop a plan to use a radiation bomb in Karachi, Pakistan. "That's the work that human intelligence officers do," she says, "and it's very quiet and it takes a long time."

## LIVING UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

As an intelligence agent, Amaryllis had a **fake**<sup>19</sup> identity and a fake job as an art dealer in Shanghai. This gave her good reasons to travel and meet people. She and her husband lived in a house with a cleaner. Sounds nice? Well, the cleaner was a Chinese spy.

The CIA once showed her a photo of herself alone in her bedroom. It had been taken by the Chinese spy, then stolen from the Chinese by the Americans. This was one of the biggest stresses of the job. Being watched the whole time means you can never be yourself. "In that situation it's very lonely," she says.

Her biggest fear was whether she was really saving lives **in the long term**<sup>20</sup>. "You might know you've saved lives in the short term by killing a terrorist leader, but it could mean more deaths in the future because you've made a new enemy. We all worry about that all the time."

### Discuss

Find in the text the skills and personal qualities you need to be a good intelligence officer.

What are some challenges of the job?

Do you think you would make a good agent? Why / Why not?

### \*Glossary

**CIA (Central Intelligence Agency)** – US government agency that collects information about other countries

### Vocabulary

- <sup>1</sup> **nonsense** ['nɒnsns] – nesmysl
- <sup>2</sup> **government** ['gʌvnmənt] – vláda, vládní
- <sup>3</sup> **former** ['fɔ:mə(r)] – bývalý
- <sup>4</sup> **to provide** [prə'vaɪd] – poskytnout
- <sup>5</sup> **source** [sɔ:s] – zdroj
- <sup>6</sup> **to convince** [kən'vɪns] – přesvědčit
- <sup>7</sup> **to get engaged** [ɪn'geɪdʒd] – zasnoubit se
- <sup>8</sup> **covert** ['kɒvət] – tajný
- <sup>9</sup> **arms smuggler** [ɑ:mz 'smʌglə(r)] – pašerák zbraní
- <sup>10</sup> **to torture** ['tɔ:tʃə(r)] – týrat
- <sup>11</sup> **special forces** ['speʃl 'fɔ:sɪz] – zvláštní jednotky
- <sup>12</sup> **refugee camp** [refju'dʒi: kæmp] – uprchlický tábor
- <sup>13</sup> **pattern** ['pætn] – model
- <sup>14</sup> **invisible** [ɪn'vɪzəbl] – neviditelný
- <sup>15</sup> **to juggle** ['dʒʌgl] – žonglovat
- <sup>16</sup> **chase** [tʃeɪs] – honička
- <sup>17</sup> **arms dealer** [ɑ:mz 'di:lə(r)] – obchodník se zbraněmi
- <sup>18</sup> **act** [ækt] – jednání
- <sup>19</sup> **fake** [feɪk] – falešný
- <sup>20</sup> **in the long term** – dlouhodobě

