

**I. AN INTERVIEW WITH A BORDER PATROL AGENT**

**In our studio, today we have border patrol agent Kate Smith, who works on the Mexico-United States border. First, tell me what it's like being one of the few women in the Border Patrol?**

We need to be at the same level as men; that's why I take training seriously. But I haven't felt that there's a difference.

**What are the working conditions like there?**

It isn't easy to work in the desert. There's limited or no communication with the outside world. Shifts are long and exhausting. And the heat is brutal in the summer.

**Why did you choose the Border Patrol?**

When I left the Army, I came here. I didn't know much about the Border Patrol, but what interested me was being outside and not in an office.

**Is the border really a 'war zone'?**

No, definitely not. But the Tucson region is a "hot zone" because of the undocumented immigrants, and the smuggling of drugs and weapons.

**What is it like when you arrest an undocumented immigrant?**

It's always a professional relationship. They're treated with respect. We talk to them and try to get information on how they crossed the border, and who they made arrangements with.

**Are there more undocumented immigrants or drug smugglers?**

In this area, there are many people who just bring food in their backpacks, but there're a lot who bring drugs. I think I've had more people with personal items than drugs.

**Are you afraid to go out alone to patrol?**

That fear's always going to be there, but it's something I take positively, and makes me more alert.

**Do you have a story that's made an impression on you?**

I remember a girl who was severely dehydrated. We got her an ambulance and her life was saved.

**Have you been attacked because of your job?**

Some people have thrown rocks, there's been a lot of cursing, a lot of disrespect.

**So after a while do you lose empathy for the pain of others?**

I'm still not immune to the pain of others and I never forget that those who cross the border are human too. They want to come for a better life.

(1959n)

**Listen to the interview with a border patrol agent and answer the questions as in the example below.**

**0. Who is Kate Smith?**

*She's a border patrol agent who works on the Mexico--US border.*

**1. Why does she take training seriously? (1)**

(1) They need to be at the same level as men.

**2. What are her working conditions like? (3)**

(2) There's limited or no communication with the outside world.

- (3) Shifts are long and exhausting.  
(4) The heat is brutal in the summer.
- 3. Why is the Tucson region considered to be a hot zone? (2)**  
(5) Because of the undocumented immigrants  
(6) and the smuggling of drugs and weapons.
- 4. How are undocumented immigrants treated? (1)**  
(7) With respect.
- 5. What kind of information do they try to get when they arrest an undocumented immigrant? (2)**  
(8) On how they crossed the border,  
(9) and who they made arrangements with.
- 6. According to her, are there more undocumented immigrants or drug smugglers? (1)**  
(10) She's had more people with personal items than drugs.
- 7. How does fear affect her behaviour when she is patrolling? (1)**  
(11) Fear makes her more alert.
- 8. What story made an impression on her? (1)**  
(12) They saved the life of a severely dehydrated girl once.
- 9. What negative experiences has she had during her work? (2)**  
(13) Some people have thrown rocks,  
(14) there's been a lot of cursing and disrespect.
- 10. How does she feel about the pain of others in the end? (1)**  
(15) She's still not immune to their pain.

## **II. SCHOOL ARSON FIRES**

**Maximum score: 10**

School arson fires are costly. Last year arson attacks cost £74 million in terms of insurance alone. Taking into consideration disruption and inconvenience factors, the real cost approaches £115 million.

Who are the arsonists? Fires in schools are most likely to be started by pupils, ex-pupils or their close friends. The common factor is a basic knowledge of the school, its grounds and its daily routines.

The most popular target for a 'school-time arsonist' is the cloakroom; the second most popular is the classroom and finally the storage rooms. Most school-time arson incidents occur during, or just after, lunchtime breaks.

What immediate preventative measures can we take?

- All doors and windows should be closed at the end of the day.
- All corridors should be kept clear of combustible materials.

- All stores in and around the school containing combustible materials should be made secure and preferably padlocked.
- All waste bins should be located away from buildings to prevent fire spreading, preferably in locked compounds and, if necessary, the lids padlocked.

And what about long term prevention?

- Establish a School Watch. Provide neighbours with a contact number if they see anything they consider to be suspicious.
- Unwanted calls such as malicious 999 calls and system faults should be treated seriously and recorded.

(1338n)

**Listen to the news item on school arson fires and put an X in the right column as in the example (0)**

	<i>TRUE</i>	<i>FALSE</i>	<i>NOT MENTIONED</i>
<i>0. Insurance cost of arson attacks last year cost £ 74 billion.</i>	X		
1. Fires in schools are occasionally started by pupils.		X	
2. 'School-time arsonists' usually set fire to the cloakroom.	X		
3. The most common cause for school arson fires is revenge.			X
4. Most school arson incidents occur during the night.		X	
5. Smoking should be banned in schools.			X
6. When school is over, doors and windows should be left open.		X	
7. Combustible materials must not be stored on the school grounds.			X
8. The lids of all waste bins should be locked if necessary.	X		
9. Students and their parents should be provided with a contact number they can call if they see anything they consider to be suspicious.		X	
10. System faults should be properly investigated.	X		