

## Read the following statements and decide which are true (T) and which are false (F).

- 1. **F** Three people were killed during the bank robbery.
- 2. **F** Activists destroyed a priceless work of art.
- 3. **F** Scientists from Japan and Finland share Nobel Prize.
- 4. **T** Cause of fire not yet known.
- 5. **F** Searchers hopeful after weather improves.

## Fill in the gaps with vocabulary from the headlines (pay attention to the verb form!).

blaze to detain to hamper initial	devastating innovative	to flee to launch
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The **devastating** wildfire forced thousands **to flee** their homes as firefighters battled the **blaze**. Strong winds continued **to hamper** containment efforts, while authorities worked **to launch** a relief operation. Police managed **to detain** suspects linked to the fire, and experts proposed **innovative** solutions to prevent future disasters. Despite the chaos, the **initial** response saved many lives.

bold	breakthrough	to hail	heated
manhunt	to spark	underway	violation

A **bold** new medical discovery has **sparked** excitement in the scientific community, as researchers announce a **breakthrough** in cancer treatment. The clinical trials, already **underway** have shown promising results, leading experts **to hail** the innovation as a gamechanger. However, a **heated** debate has emerged over potential safety concerns, with critics arguing that rushed approvals could result in a **violation** of ethical standards. Meanwhile, a global **manhunt** is ongoing for a fraudulent researcher accused of falsifying data in past studies.

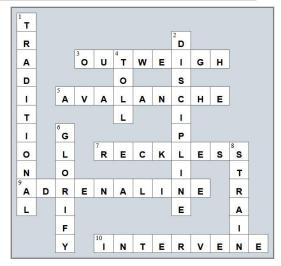
### Complete the crossword puzzle with vocabulary from the discussion.

#### **ACROSS**

- **3** To be more significant or important than something else.
- **5** A sudden, massive slide of snow, ice, or debris down a slope.
- **7** Acting without thinking about consequences.
- **9** A hormone that increases alertness and energy during stress.
- 10 To step in to help or change a situation.

### **DOWN**

- 1 Based on long-established customs or practices.
- 2 Controlled behavior or training to achieve goals.
- 4 A charge, or the cost/damage caused by an event.
- 6 To praise or represent something as better than it is.
- **8** Physical or mental pressure or tension.



### Fill in the gaps with have/has, have/has got, or had.

The city's infrastructure **had** serious issues until the end of last year. While the local government still **has/has got** numerous outstanding complaints about outdated transport systems and failing utilities, the situation has improved considerably. Currently city officials **have/have got** an ambitious redevelopment plan, but skepticism remains. Some residents argue that they **had** plenty of opportunities in the past to address these problems but failed to take decisive action.

## Fill in the gaps with who, that, or which.

My best friend, **who** I have known for more than 20 years, recently started working for a company **that/which** produces electronic equipment for the music industry. The man **who/that** hired him has since been fired for undisclosed reasons. An article about the man's dismissal, **which** appeared in yesterday's newspaper, has been circulating among employees via social media.

# Answer the following questions about "The Speckled Band".

- 1. During which season did Helen's sister Julia meet her fiancé? winter
- 2. How did the two sisters know that Dr. Roylott was still awake? smell of cigars
- 3. Why did the two sisters lock their bedroom doors at night? cheetah and baboon
- 4. How was the weather the night that Julia died? windy and rainy
- 5. What did Helen's sister say before she died? It was the band. The speckled band.

### **Jokes**

Do you know any knock knock jokes? If you do, write them down.