

CPI1 NEWS MEDIA

Your Own Version

When writing or telling a news story you need to include relevant details in order to make the story come to life.

Here is a news story with no detail included.

“A youth was sentenced for driving a stolen car. He was spotted and chased by police and finally caught and arrested.”

Answer the following questions with your own ideas and write your own, more exciting version of the news story.

- 1) How old was the youth?
- 2) Where did he come from?
- 3) Where was he sentenced?
- 4) Where did he steal the car from?
- 5) When did he steal the car?
- 6) What kind of car was it?
- 7) What was he doing when the police spotted him?
- 8) Was he with anyone?
- 9) How many police spotted him?
- 10) What did he do when he saw the police?
- 11) How fast did he drive the stolen car?
- 12) How did the police catch him?
- 13) Did the police catch anyone else connected to the incident?
- 14) What did the youth say in court?
- 15) What did the judge say about him?
- 16) Did he get fined for anything?
- 17) How long was he sentenced for?

Original News Story

Compare your story with the original

Youth Sentenced After Car Chase

A teenager, who was chased by police while driving a stolen car, was sentenced yesterday to 10 months detention.

The youth stood in the dock, hanging his head in shame, as the jury heard how the 16-year-old, from Abingdon, Oxfordshire, had stolen car keys to a thirty thousand pound Lexus, during a burglary that took place in February this year.

The young offender was having lunch with three friends in a Banbury fast food establishment, when police spotted the stolen vehicle parked on double yellow lines nearby. Detective sergeant Squires and Officer Dibble, of the local Banbury police force, waited opposite the stolen automobile in their unmarked police car until the gang returned, at which point they got out of their blue Rover in order to question the driver. On seeing the police, however, the four boys jumped into the hot sports car and sped off, travelling at speeds of up to 70 mph in 30 mph zones, before pulling into a lay by where all four juveniles got out and sprinted off in different directions.

After a short chase on foot the youngster who had been driving the car, was caught and arrested. Police are still searching for the other three passengers.

The young man admitted to dangerous driving, burglary and handling stolen goods.

Judge Albert Trump described him as a young tear-away and sentenced him to 10 months at a detention centre. The lad was fined £40 for parking on a double yellow line.

Language Analysis

How does a journalist write a good story?

A) In this story the journalist tries to keep his readers' interest by avoiding repetition of the same vocabulary.

1) Underline all the words he uses as an alternative to the word "youth"

2) Underline all the words he uses as an alternative to the word "car"

3) Underline all the words he uses as an alternative to the word "the youth's friends"

B) The journalist makes his writing style more concise (shorter and clearer) by using some passive sentences. There are two main grammatical patterns which the writer follows.

The sentences either:

1. Omit the subject because it is already known.

Or

2. Put the object first because it is more relevant to the story.

Transform the following active sentences into more concise passive sentences.

1) The crown court tries such cases.

2) The police will arrest his friends.

3) The judge is going to sentence him.

4) The police were chasing him for fifteen minutes before they caught him.

5) The judge sentenced him to 10 months detention.

6) He had stolen the car in February.

Is each of the above sentences passive for reason one or reason two?