

[1F] = item 1, fast-speaking context; [3S] = item 3, slow-speaking context

[D] = direct speech; [I] = indirect speech; [Q] = comprehension question (for Experiment 2 only)

The bold and italic texts in direct and indirect speech quotations are the critical regions.

[1F] It was 11am in the morning when the fire alarm went off. Hearing people running down the corridors, Mary grabbed her jacket and burst into Peter's office next door.

[D] She shouted: "Peter, quick, we have ***to leave immediately because the building is on fire!***"

[I] She urged Peter ***to leave immediately because the building was on fire.***

Confused, Peter replied: "Wasn't there an e-mail about a fire alarm test this morning?"

[Q] Did Mary think it was a real fire?

[1S] It was 11am in the morning when the fire alarm went off. Knowing that this was just a test, Mary put on her jacket and walked into Peter's office next door.

[D] Tongue-in-cheek, she said: "Peter, quick, we have ***to leave immediately because the building is on fire!***"

[I] Tongue-in-cheek, she told Peter ***to leave immediately because the building was on fire.***

Peter just replied: "Very funny – I've seen the e-mail about the fire alarm test as well!"

[Q] Did Mary think it was a real fire?

[2F] It was a Sunday morning during the summer vacation. At the airport, Cheryl and Gareth were boarding the flight to Paris for their honeymoon and there were only 5 minutes left before the plane was taking off. Cheryl started panicking because she couldn't find her passport.

[D] Hastily, she said to Gareth: "Oh no! ***I am pretty sure it was in that sheath, but I cannot find it anymore!***"

[I] Hastily, she said to Gareth that ***she was pretty sure it was in that sheath, but she couldn't find it anymore.***

Gareth went straight back to the duty-free shop, and luckily, he found the passport by the till.

[Q] Did they manage to catch the flight?

[2S] It was a Sunday morning during the summer vacation. Cheryl and Gareth finally found the time to sort some personal documents and other clutter that had been piling up on the kitchen table. Cheryl was looking for her passport and became confused.

[D] She turned to Gareth and said: "Hmm, that's weird. ***I am pretty sure it was in that sheath, but I cannot find it anymore!***"

[I] She turned to Gareth and said that it was weird because ***she was pretty sure it was in that sheath, but she couldn't find it anymore.***

Gareth looked under a pile of bills, and luckily, he found her passport there.

[Q] Did Cheryl need her passport at the time?

[3F] It was a typical British day, rainy and gloomy. Sixteen year-old pianist Bobby was going to play in the quarter-final of a local talent competition. He was extremely nervous before his performance.

[D] His mother encouraged him but he was all shaking and said: "No! I can't do it! ***This is the end of the journey because it is unlikely that I will make it this time.***"

[I] His mother encouraged him but he was all shaking and said that he couldn't do it and that ***it was the end of the journey because it was unlikely that he would make it this time.***

His mother tried to calm him down, saying that it's not the winning that counts, but the taking part.

[Q] Was Connie anxious about her coming performance in the quarter-final?

[3S] It was a typical British day, rainy and gloomy. At Glasgow Royal Infirmary, an old man was dying, and too weak to sit up. His family members were sitting around the bed, feeling sad. He wanted to say something, so his daughter placed a cushion under his head.

[D] Slowly, he looked around and said: "I'm grateful you're all here. ***This is the end of the journey because it is unlikely that I will make it this time.***"

[I] Slowly, he looked around and said that he was grateful for their coming and that ***it was the end of the journey because it was unlikely that he would make it this time.***

Then he closed his eyes and everyone burst into tears.

[Q] Was the man too weak to open his mouth?

[4F] At the beach, William and Phillip were enjoying the sunshine and a fresh sea breeze. Suddenly, William noticed a piece of wood floating on the water with something lying on it that looked like an unconscious person.

[D] Without hesitation, he exclaimed: "Phil, quick! We need ***to call for help because there might be someone in trouble!***"

[I] Without hesitation, he exclaimed that they needed ***to call for help because there might be someone in trouble.*** Phillip immediately grasped his mobile phone and dialled 999.

[Q] Was there a person in danger?

[4S] At the beach, William and Phillip were enjoying the sunshine and a fresh sea breeze. They were discussing the hypothetical case of what to do if they saw someone drowning.

[D] William thought there would be little one could do, but Phil objected: "Look. The most important thing is ***to call for help because there might be someone in trouble.***"

[I] William thought there would be little one could do, but Phil objected that the most important thing would be ***to call for help because there might be someone in trouble.***

After a while, the conversation moved on to a different topic.

[Q] Was there a person in danger?

[5F] It was at that peaceful house in Dumbarton where Mrs. Harris was preparing lunch for her children. Suddenly, the phone rang. It was Mr. Harris's business partner, urgently informing Mrs. Harris that her husband has had a car crash this morning.

[D] He spoke hastily: "Mrs. Harris, please come immediately! Your husband **was involved in a collision with a heavy goods vehicle and is now in hospital!**"

[I] He hastily told Mrs. Harris to come immediately because Mr. Harris **was involved in a collision with a heavy goods vehicle and was now in hospital.**

Mrs. Harris was shocked, and headed for the hospital right away.

[Q] Was Mr. Harris dead?

[5S] It was at that peaceful house in Bristol where PCs Bryce and Rawlinson had some sad news to impart. The owner of the house, Mr. Harris, was killed in a car crash earlier this morning. Paramedics had rushed on the scene in time, but they couldn't save him.

[D] With sorrow, Bryce told Mrs. Harris: "Mrs. Harris, I am afraid that your husband **was involved in a collision with a heavy goods vehicle and he is now in hospital.**"

[I] With sorrow, Bryce told Mrs. Harris that her husband **was involved in a collision with a heavy goods vehicle and was now in hospital.**

Mrs. Harris sobbed. Apparently, she could not believe it.

[Q] Was Mr. Harris dead?

[6F] On Valentine's Day, Simon at long last worked up the courage to propose to Emma. Yet to his horror, she refused. He felt humiliated and blamed Emma for her brusque reply.

[D] Emma fought back: "Come on, Simon! How could you blame me for this? **I am simply not ready for such a commitment!**"

[I] Emma fought back, saying that Simon could not really blame her for that and that **she was simply not ready for such a commitment.**

Simon was speechless, realising that he was humiliating himself.

[Q] Was Simon's proposal successful?

[6S] On Valentine's Day, Simon at long last worked up the courage to propose to Emma. Yet to his horror, she refused.

[D] He asked for the reason and Emma replied calmly: "You are a really nice bloke, Simon, but **I am simply not ready for such a commitment.**"

[I] He asked for the reason and Emma replied calmly that although she thought he was a really nice bloke, **she was simply not ready for such a commitment.**

Simon was upset for a moment but determined not to give up.

[Q] Was Simon's proposal successful?

[7F] Alice was looking for pheasant paintings for her art history dissertation. Today her boyfriend John bumped into a weird-looking man with greasy hair and thick glasses who, amazingly, claimed to possess a sizeable collection of what Alice was looking for.

[D] John was excited and phoned Alice immediately: "Alice, you wouldn't believe it!.. I just met **one of the world's keenest collectors of pheasant paintings!**"

[I] John was excited and phoned Alice immediately, saying that he just met **one of the world's keenest collectors of pheasant paintings.**

"Really?!" Alice couldn't believe her ears.

[Q] Was the man interested in pheasant paintings?

[7S] Alice was selling paintings in a small shop downtown. One day, a weird-looking man with greasy hair and thick glasses came into her shop.

[D] He looked around and said nonchalantly: "You may be surprised to learn that I am **one of the world's keenest collectors of pheasant paintings.**"

[I] He looked around and said nonchalantly that she might be surprised to learn that he was **one of the world's keenest collectors of pheasant paintings.**

Alice replied: "Uhm.. I don't think we have any at the moment."

[Q] Was the man interested in pheasant paintings?

[8F] On the train to London, Olivia was very nervous about her upcoming job interview. Looking through the window, she reached for a cigarette without thinking, just to calm herself down.

[D] Instantly, a middle-aged man next to her complained: "Oi! Stop it! **Smoking on public transport is illegal!**"

[I] Instantly, a middle-aged man next to her complained that she should stop that because **smoking on public transport was illegal.**

Olivia put the cigarette back into the box and felt even more stressed after this incident.

[Q] Did Olivia smoke on the train?

[8S] Olivia and her 5 year old daughter were on a train to London. Looking through the window, a thoughtless youth lit a cigarette and was immediately reprimanded by other passengers. Olivia's daughter was curious and asked why one cannot smoke on the train.

[D] Olivia smiled and answered: "Well, since it may harm other passengers' health, **smoking on public transport is illegal.**"

[I] Olivia smiled and answered that since it may harm other passengers' health, **smoking on public transport is illegal.**

The girl thought for a second and said: "Why can't they just hold their breath?"

[Q] Did Olivia answer her daughter patiently?

[9F] PhD student Ella was summoned to her supervisor Jim's office to give a report on her current progress. Ella asked for an extension but Jim looked rather impatient.

[D] Hastily, he said: "No way! We really need **to have those data in by next month for that conference!**"

[I] Hastily, he said that they really needed **to have those data in by next month for that conference.**

Ella was gutted because it meant that she would have to work like mad over the following weeks.

[Q] Was Ella's request for an extension rejected immediately?

[9S] PhD student Ella was summoned to her supervisor Jim's office to give a report on her current progress. Ella asked for an extension but Jim seemed to have a better idea.

[D] He said: "Actually..., it might be good **to have those data in by next month for that conference.**"

[I] He said that it might be good **to have those data in by next month for that conference.**

Ella understood his point and decided to work even harder over the following weeks.

[Q] Was Ella's request for an extension rejected immediately?

[10F] In the board room, assistant manager Craig was giving a presentation on how to improve the company's sales figures. A fellow manager was far from impressed and openly criticised Craig's public speaking skills.

[D] Craig kind of lost his temper and was quick to defend himself: "What do you expect?! **I never had to give this kind of presentation before, so I am not very experienced!**"

[I] Craig kind of lost his temper and was quick to defend himself, saying that **he never had to give this kind of presentation before, so he was not very experienced.**

Everyone else in the room went quiet.

[Q] Was Craig apologetic about his performance?

[10S] In the board room, assistant manager Craig was giving a presentation on how to improve the company's sales figures. When he noticed that his colleagues looked far from impressed, he felt embarrassed.

[D] Craig hesitantly explained: "Sorry, **I never had to give this kind of presentation before, so I am not very experienced.**"

[I] Craig hesitantly explained that **he never had to give this kind of presentation before, so he was not very experienced.**

Everyone else in the room went quiet.

[Q] Was Craig apologetic about his performance?

[11F] It was 5.30 pm and people were ready to leave the office. Elaine seemed to be rather agitated, cursing a lot in front of her screen. Steven went to Elaine's desk asked and what's wrong.

[D] Elaine complained: "Just look at this! ***The amount of admin is killing me at the moment, and there seems to be no end to it in sight!***"

[I] Elaine complained that ***the amount of admin was killing her at the moment, and that there seemed to be no end to it in sight.***

Steven knew exactly what she was talking about.

[Q] Was Elaine agitated about admin?

[11S] It was 5.30 pm and people were ready to leave the office. Steven went to Elaine's desk and saw her slumped in her chair.

[D] He asked what's wrong, and Elaine replied with a listless expression on her face: "I'm totally worn out. ***The amount of admin is killing me at the moment, and there seems to be no end to it in sight.***"

[I] He asked what's wrong, and Elaine replied with a listless expression on her face that ***the amount of admin was killing her at the moment, and that there seemed to be no end to it in sight.***

Steven knew exactly what she was talking about.

[Q] Was Elaine agitated about admin?

[12F] It was half past seven and people were unusually busy at the Aberdeen restaurant. The chef could hardly cope with the pressure of serving a bus-load of tourists who had just arrived. After a couple of complaints, the restaurant manager went berserk.

[D] He dashed straight into the kitchen and shouted: "Is this how to treat our customers!?! ***The fish is burnt, the vegetables overcooked, and the soup is actually stone cold!***"

[I] He dashed straight into the kitchen and shouted whether this was how to treat their customers, pointing out that ***the fish was burnt, the vegetables overcooked, and the soup was actually stone cold.*** Everything went instantly quiet in the kitchen, except for the occasional bubbling noises from the cooker.

[Q] Was the manager angry with the chef?

[12S] It was half past seven and people were unusually busy at the Aberdeen Cooking College. The students had just finished their final exam and were awaiting the results. In front of Mike's dishes, the examiners frowned.

[D] After exchanging their views, the head examiner finally announced a verdict: "Mike, we really appreciate the efforts you've made, but ***the fish is burnt, the vegetables overcooked, and the soup is actually stone cold.***"

[I] After exchanging their views, the head examiner finally announced a verdict, saying that although they really appreciated the efforts Mike had made, ***the fish was burnt, the vegetables overcooked, and the soup was actually stone cold.***

Mike felt upset because this could only mean that he had failed.

[Q] Did the examiners fail Mike immediately?

[13F] Jenny's fiancé Ben had a bad motorcycle accident which was likely to leave him paraplegic for the rest of his life. Calling from the hospital, he said farewell to Jenny, anticipating that she might leave him because of his condition.

[D] Jenny was crying and shouting: "No! ***I'm not leaving you! I want to be with you whatever happens because I love you!***"

[I] Jenny was crying and shouting that ***she was not leaving him and that she wanted to be with him whatever happened because she loved him.***

Jenny's reassurance came as a great relief.

[Q] Did Ben have a motorcycle accident?

[13S] Jenny and Ben were having a candle light dinner to celebrate the first anniversary of their relationship. Yet at some point, Jenny hesitantly mentioned that because of her new job she had to move to another city.

[D] After a sip of champagne, Ben held her hands and said very calmly: "Don't worry, darling. ***I'm not leaving you. I want to be with you whatever happens because I love you.***"

[I] After a sip of champagne, Ben held her hands and said very calmly that ***he was not leaving her and that he wanted to be with her whatever happens because he loved her.***

Ben's reassurance came as a great relief.

[Q] Did Jenny have a new job?

[14F] Shauna was a young, talented actress and singer. She was desperate for a part in the new musical project but her boyfriend was ill and blamed her for not looking after him.

[D] Shauna was angry with his attitude, blustering: "Don't be ridiculous! ***I am doing this because without this job, I can't even pay for the electricity bill!***"

[I] Shauna was angry with his attitude, blustering that ***she was doing this because without this job, she couldn't even pay for the electricity bill.***

Her boyfriend was speechless and realised how childish he was.

[Q] Did Shauna think her boyfriend was sensible?

[14S] Theatrical agent Peter was visited by one of his clients. Shauna was a young, talented actress and singer. She was desperate for a part in the new musical project.

[D] Shauna hummed and hawed: "It is embarrassing to say, but..., ***I am doing this because without this job, I can't even pay for the electricity bill!***"

[I] Shauna hummed and hawed with embarrassment, saying that ***she was doing this because without this job, she couldn't even pay for the electricity bill.***

Peter was moved and promised he would try his best to help her.

[Q] Did Shauna need money?

[15F] Harry and Leona were having a traditional Sunday roast. Harry was constantly talking with his mouth full. Suddenly, he stopped and started choking, with his face turning bright red.

[D] Leona was panicking and dialled 999: "Help! **My husband is choking on his food and I actually don't know what to do! It looks rather serious!**"

[I] Leona was panicking and dialled 999, saying that **her husband was choking on his food and that she actually didn't know what to do, adding that it looked rather serious.**

The person at the other end instantly gave her some emergency instructions.

[Q] Was Harry having a soup?

[15S] Red Cross nurse Leona was teaching the public how to make an emergency call. She first introduced a list of important information that should be provided.

[D] Then she demonstrated how NOT to do it by mocking a nonchalant woman saying: "It seems as if **my husband is choking on his food and I actually don't know what to do. It looks rather serious...**"

[I] Then she demonstrated how NOT to do it by mocking a nonchalant woman saying that it seemed as if **her husband was choking on his food and that she actually didn't know what to do, adding that it looked rather serious.**

Some people in the audience started to chuckle.

[Q] Was Leona a school teacher?

[16F] It was the last day of John Lewis's summer sale when two girls were browsing around. Helen was very fond of a black skirt and shrieked when she found it was heavily discounted.

[D] She could not wait to show it to her friend and shouted: "Hey Abbey! Look at this one! Gorgeous isn't it!? **It is exactly what I always wanted, and now it is even more than 50% off!**"

[I] She could not wait to show it to her friend Abbey. Excited, she asked her to have a look, shouting that **it was exactly what she always wanted, and now it was even more than 50% off.**

Abbey agreed: "I'm sure it will look great on you."

[Q] Was Helen excited about the skirt?

[16S] It was the last day of John Lewis's summer sale when two girls were browsing around. Helen felt almost heartbroken when she found that her favourite skirt was heavily discounted – she and her friend Abbey were completely skint at the moment.

[D] With a deep-drawn sigh, she said: "Look, Abbey. Gorgeous isn't it... **It is exactly what I always wanted, and now it is even more than 50% off...**"

[I] With a deep-drawn sigh, she said to Abbey that **it was exactly what she always wanted, and now it was even more than 50% off.**

Abbey tried to comfort her: "I'm sure there will be other good offers next time round."

[Q] Was Helen fond of the skirt?

[17F] It was 1.55pm when the Riley's were about to head off to the train station to collect granddad.

[D] Mrs Riley was panicking because she couldn't find the car keys: "Jesus! We've got only five minutes to go! ***If we don't arrive in time, granddad might easily get lost, considering how forgetful he sometimes is!***"

[I] Mrs Riley was panicking because she couldn't find the car keys. She realized they've got only five minutes to go, and said that ***if they didn't arrive in time, granddad might easily get lost, considering how forgetful he sometimes was.***

"Don't panic," her husband said, "I've already called a cab."

[Q] Will the train arrive at 2pm?

[17S] It was 1.55pm when the Riley's were about to head off to the train station to collect granddad. Fourteen year-old Karen was asking why they went so early, given that the train was due to arrive at 3pm.

[D] Her mum replied with a smile: "Well, ***if we don't arrive in time, granddad might easily get lost, considering how forgetful he sometimes is.***"

[I] Her mum replied with a smile, saying that ***if they didn't arrive in time, granddad might easily get lost, considering how forgetful he sometimes was.***

Karen remained defiant: "But it is Sunday, and there is almost no traffic!"

[Q] Will the train arrive at 2pm?

[18F] At Glasgow's Royal Infirmary, surgeons and nurses were trying their best to save a man's life. The minutes kept ticking away and the head surgeon looked concerned.

[D] He was shouting: "Quick! ***Set up the life-support machine and stop the bleeding!***" Nurses followed his instructions promptly but the man showed little sign of life.

[I] He ordered to quickly ***set up the life-support machine and stop the bleeding.*** Nurses followed his instructions promptly but the man showed little sign of life.

[Q] Was it important to set up the life-support machine?

[18S] At Glasgow's Royal Infirmary, the students were shown some important medical emergency procedures.

[D] The tutor gave precise instructions: "When the patient comes in, first ***set up the life-support machine and stop the bleeding!***"

[I] The tutor gave precise instructions, saying that when the patient comes in, first they should ***set up the life-support machine and stop the bleeding.***

The students were taking notes and listened carefully.

[Q] Was it important to set up the life-support machine?

[19F] It was Tuesday, 6th June 1944. At Omaha Beach, allied soldiers braved artillery fire, mortar attacks and all-round danger. Enemy gunfire poured at the approaching allies and kept them at mid-distance.

[D] The captain of the 1st Division spurred his soldiers on: "There is not much time! ***We must silence those machine guns before the reinforcements arrive!***"

[I] The captain of the 1st Division spurred his soldiers on, shouting that there was not much time, and that ***they must silence those machine guns before the reinforcements arrive.***

Then he jumped up and charged forward.

[Q] Should the machine guns be silenced?

[19S] At Omaha Beach, allied soldiers braved artillery fire, mortar attacks and all-round danger. In the days before the invasion, the assault had been meticulously planned at allied headquarters.

[D] Back then, the officer in charge explained: "***We must silence those machine guns before the reinforcements arrive.***"

[I] Back then, the officer in charge explained that ***they must silence those machine guns before the reinforcements arrive.***

Obviously, the success of the whole operation depended on that.

[Q] Should the machine guns be silenced?

[20F] A heavily armed robbery took place earlier this morning. Within five minutes, five police cars showed up at the scene, but the busy streets made it difficult to locate the getaway culprits.

[D] In the heat of the situation, the chief made a prompt decision and ordered: "Block the entire West End! ***We need a helicopter to cover the whole area!***"

[I] In the heat of the situation, the chief made a prompt decision and ordered to block the entire West End, adding that ***they needed a helicopter to cover the whole area.***

Then he jumped into his car and headed for the nearest exit.

[Q] Was a helicopter needed?

[20S] The West End festival was coming soon and the organisers were discussing details of the live television coverage. John considered setting up several cameras, but the busy streets made it difficult to locate the parade.

[D] Pointing at the map, John said: "Hmm, not sure whether street cameras would work. Perhaps ***we need a helicopter to cover the whole area.***"

[I] Pointing at the map, John said that he was not sure whether street cameras would work, adding that perhaps ***they needed a helicopter to cover the whole area.***

Unfortunately, this plan was well out of budget.

[Q] Was a helicopter needed?

[21F] Throughout human history, wars have caused many deaths. Today, United Nations Peacekeeping Forces were ambushed by Taliban forces in northern Afghanistan. They returned fire immediately, but suffered heavy losses.

[D] The officer in charge hastily called for reinforcements, shouting: "***We are under attack, facing mortar fire and rocket propelled grenades!***"

[I] The officer in charge hastily called for reinforcements, shouting that ***they were under attack, facing mortar fire and rocket propelled grenades.***

As he finished his message, a shell exploded beside him.

[Q] Was the story about the Vietnam war?

[21S] Throughout human history, wars have caused many deaths. Recently, Tom was interviewing a 75 year-old Vietnam veteran. When Tom asked about the situation in the Battle of Hue, the old soldier paused for a while to recall his memories.

[D] Then he slowly replied: "On the night of January 30, ***we were under attack, facing mortar fire and rocket propelled grenades..***"

[I] Then he slowly replied that on the night of January 30, ***they were under attack, facing mortar fire and rocket propelled grenades.***

His facial expression gave a clue of the terror he felt at the time.

[Q] Was the story about the Afghanistan war?

[22F] It was almost midnight and moonlight dripped through the leaves on the pavements. In the workshop, the cruel overseer was driving his workers on, as he was under pressure to meet his targets.

[D] When one of the workers started yawning, he instantly shouted: "Oi, lazybones! ***The day has actually only just begun!***"

[I] When one of the workers started yawning, he instantly shouted at her, calling her lazybones, and that ***the day had actually only just begun.***

Although his methods may have been effective, he certainly was not very popular.

[Q] Was the overseer under pressure?

[22S] It was almost midnight and moonlight dripped through the leaves on the pavements. Robert and Chloe just came back from a party. Robert paid the cab driver and wanted to go to sleep straight away. But Chloe was far from tired and fancied another drink.

[D] She patted Robert's cheek and said: "Stop yawning, my friend. ***The day has actually only just begun.***"

[I] She patted Robert's cheek and told him to stop yawning because ***the day had actually only just begun.***

Robert rolled his eyes, but agreed to have one last pint somewhere.

[Q] Did Chloe fancy another drink?

[23F] One morning, six-year-old Sara was taking a lot of time to get ready for school. Her dad got increasingly angry with her because the school bus was due to arrive soon.

[D] He said: "Sara! ***If you are not ready within five minutes, I'll have to drive you again!***"

[I] He said to Sara that ***if she was not ready within five minutes, he'd have to drive her again.*** Reluctantly, Sara complied and put on her coat.

[Q] Was Sara taking a lot of time?

[23S] One morning, six-year-old Sara was taking a lot of time to get ready. She was secretly hoping that she would miss the school bus if she kept dragging on.

[D] Her dad could easily see what she was up to and said in a sarcastic tone: "Just take your time.. ***If you are not ready within five minutes, I'm happy to drive you again.***"

[I] Her dad could easily see what she was up to and said in a sarcastic tone that she could just take her time, adding that ***if she was not ready within five minutes, he'd be happy to drive her again.*** Reluctantly, Sara complied and put on her coat.

[Q] Was Sara taking a lot of time?

[24F] Millionaire Joseph was addicted to betting on horses. Tipped by a so-called 'insider', he recently placed an enormous bet, but shockingly, the horse had lost.

[D] Angry with his informant, Joseph shouted furiously on the phone: "Where did your bloody information come from!? ***That was a huge amount of money – almost one million pounds!***"

[I] Angry with his informant, Joseph shouted furiously on the phone, asking where the information had come from, because ***that was a huge amount of money – almost one million pounds.***

Then he realised that it was his wife speaking at the other end.

[Q] Did Joseph bet a small amount of money?

[24S] Millionaire Joseph was addicted to betting on horses. Tipped by a so-called 'insider', he recently placed an enormous bet, but shockingly, the horse had lost.

[D] Realising that he was nearly bankrupt, Joseph slumped back into his chair and started talking to himself: "***That was a huge amount of money – almost one million pounds...***"

[I] Realising that he was nearly bankrupt, Joseph slumped back into his chair and started talking to himself, repeatedly saying that ***it was a huge amount of money – almost one million pounds.***

Suicidal thoughts were creeping up his mind.

[Q] Did Joseph bet a small amount of money?
