

Reading: What's in your wallet?

Most people carry a variety of important and useful items with them in their wallet, purse, briefcase or bookbag. Our students, especially, often have vital papers with them. It's important to develop strategies for what to do if any personal items are lost.

Lost and found

Do your students know that most public places have a lost and found? You can explain this concept and tell them where to go, for example in your school building, for lost and found items. In Vol. 16, No. 1 of *Hands-on English* we had a true story about how a student found his wallet that he'd left on the bus (reading and multi-level dictation; with

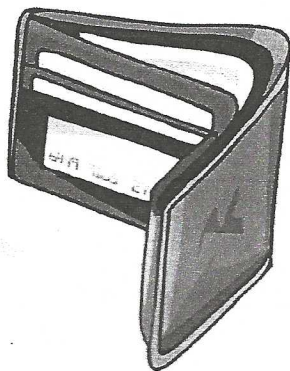
picture story.) Your students might enjoy that story as well as this article.

Security

A related issue is identity theft, which we discussed in Vol. 14, No. 4 (reading and multi-level dictation). Students should be alerted about not sharing their Social Security number except with their employer or government offices.

Puzzles

On the following pages you'll see three crossword puzzles about losing and finding items, related to this story. We hope your students enjoy these.



Vocabulary:

lose, lost
find, found
steal, stolen

What's in your wallet?

Most people carry their drivers license or other i.d. in a wallet. You can put your wallet into your pocket or carry it in a bag. A wallet is also a good place to put some money and other important things. But if you have important papers like your passport, birth certificate or Social Security card, it's better not to carry these with you every day. Put them in a safe place at home instead. If your wallet is lost or stolen, it can be difficult to replace these papers.

It's a good idea to make photocopies of your important papers and keep them in a separate place. If one of your papers gets lost, the photocopy will help you to get a new one. If you have a credit card, make a photocopy of the front and back of the card. Usually there is an emergency number to call if the card is lost.

Some people get a bank card from the bank. They can use this card to get cash from an ATM. If your bank card has a PIN number, don't write this number in your wallet! Somebody can steal the card and use it if they know the PIN. Remember your PIN number, or write it down somewhere at home.

If your wallet or purse is lost, it's possible you can find it again. Maybe someone picked it up and gave it to building security or to the police. Many schools and offices have a "lost and found" box. They keep any lost items until the owner comes to find them.

Discussion

1. Have you ever lost anything? What happened?
2. Have you ever found anything that someone lost? What did you do?
3. What can you do, if you lose your drivers license?

Writing

Make a list of things that people usually carry with them every day.

Role play

One student is a police officer. The other student has lost something important. Answer some questions about what happened.



Multi-level crossword puzzle: Lost and found

Across clues

1. Jack: "My brother found somebody's wallet at the shopping mall." Sara: "What did he do?" Jack: "He took it to security. They will ____ the owner on the phone."
2. Supermarket clerk: "That will be \$47.11." Customer: "Can I ____ a check?" Clerk: "Yes, if you have some ID."
5. Sam: "Aaaah-choo!" Evan: "Gesundheit! Would you ____ a tissue?" Sam: "Yes, please."
6. Kim: "My wallet is lost." Lee: "Oh, no! Did you have a lot of money in it?" Kim: "No, just my ____ license and some pictures."
7. Husband: "Where are my car keys?" Wife: "You left them in your jacket ____." Husband: "Oh, thanks."
10. Once I left my purse at Dairy Queen. One of the employees ____ it. They called me on the telephone to tell me. I came back later to pick it up. Everything was there. I was lucky!
11. When you start a new job, your employer will ask to see your Social Security card. They will make a photocopy and ____ the card back to you.
12. Librarian: "Do you have some ID?" Student: "Yes, I have my drivers license and my work ID ____." Also I have a telephone bill with me." Librarian: "That's fine. We can send you a library card in about a week."

Down clues

1. Anita: "Where do you keep your car registration? In your wallet?" Maya: "No, it's in the ____, in the glove compartment."
2. Tony took out his wallet and paid for the gas. He took his receipt and put his ____ back in his pocket.
3. Luz: "I got my drivers license yesterday." Nan: "Can I ____ your picture?" Luz: "Yes, but it looks terrible—see?" Nan: "You're right."
4. Andy: "Do you have a cellphone?" Ellen: "Yes, my husband and I both do. I carry my cellphone in my ____, but my husband carries his in his shirt pocket."

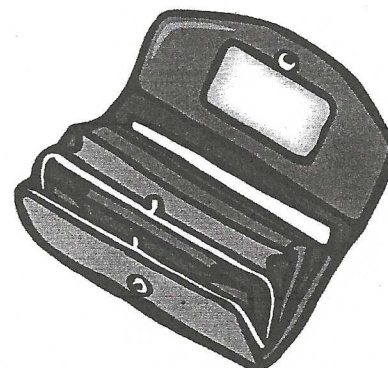
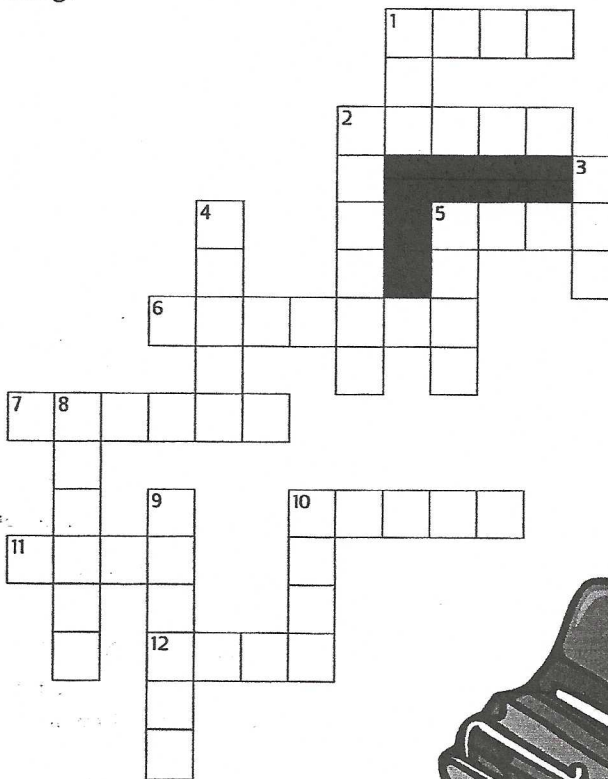
5. Don't keep your birth certificate in your wallet! It might get ____ or stolen.
8. Teacher: "What are you looking for?" Student: "I forgot my bookbag here yesterday. Have you seen it?" Teacher: "No, but you can go to the ____ and ask. They have a lost and found box."
9. Student A: "Can I borrow a pen from you?" Student B: "Sorry, I don't have one but I have a ____ in my purse. I'll find it for you. . . here you are." Student A: "Thanks."
10. Student: "Can you tell me what this letter says? It's from my son's teacher." Teacher: "Just a minute. I have to ____ my glasses."

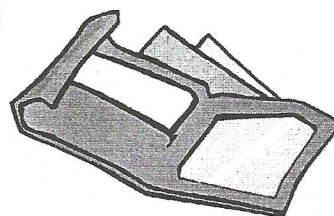
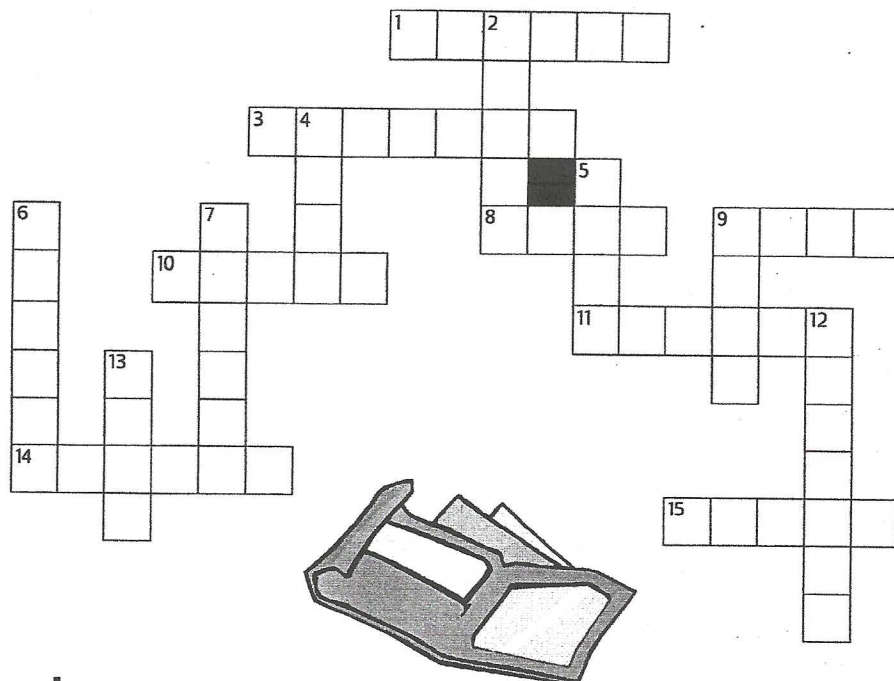
Word list

call
car
card
drivers
find
found
give
like
lost
office
pencil
pocket
purse
see
wallet
write

Level A—Lost and found

Everybody has important things in their wallet, purse or bag. What happens if you lose something?





Level B—Lost and found

Everybody has important things in their wallet, purse or bag. What happens if you lose something?

Across clues

1. Andy: "Do you you have a cellphone?" Ellen: "Yes, my husband and I both do. I carry my cellphone in my purse, but my husband carries his in his shirt ____."
3. Student: "Can you tell me what this letter says? It's from my son's teacher." Teacher: "Just a minute. I have to find my ____."
8. Anita: "Where do you ____ your car registration? In your wallet?" Maya: "No, it's in the car, in the glove compartment."
9. Once I left my purse at Dairy Queen. One of the employees found it. They called me on the telephone to tell me. I came back later to ____ it up. Everything was there. I was lucky!
10. Don't keep your ____ certificate in your wallet! It might get lost or stolen.
11. When you start a new job, your employer will ask to see your ____ Security card. They will make a photocopy and give the card back to you.
14. Kim: "My ____ is lost." Lee: "Oh, no! Did you have a lot of money in it?" Kim: "No, just my drivers license and some pictures."
15. Jack: "My brother ____ somebody's wallet at the shopping mall." Sara: "What did he do?" Jack: "He took it to security. They will call the owner on the phone."

Down clues

2. Supermarket clerk: "That will be \$47.11." Customer: "Can I write a ____?" Clerk: "Yes, if you have some ID."
4. Teacher: "What are you looking for?" Student: "I forgot my bookbag here yesterday. Have you seen it?" Teacher: "No, but you can go to the office and ask. They have a ____ and found box."
5. Husband: "Where are the car ____?" Wife: "You left them in your jacket pocket." Husband: "Oh, thanks."
6. Student A: "Can I ____ a pen?" Student B: "Sorry, I don't have one but I have a pencil in my purse. I'll find it for you. . . here you are." Student A: "Thanks."
7. Sam: "Aaah-choo!" Evan: "Gesundheit! Would you like a ____?" Sam: "Yes, thanks."
9. Tony took out his wallet and ____ for the gas. He took his receipt and put his wallet back in his pocket.
12. Luz: "I got my drivers ____ yesterday." Nan: "Can I see your picture?" Luz: "Yes, but it looks terrible—see?" Nan: "You're right."
13. Librarian: "Do you have some ID?" Student: "Yes, I have my drivers license and my work ID card. Also I have a telephone ____ with me." Librarian: "That's fine. We can send you a library card in about a week."

Word list

bill
birth
borrow
check
found
glasses
keep
keys
license
lost
paid
pick
pocket
social
tissue
wallet

Level C—Lost and found

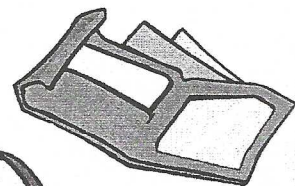
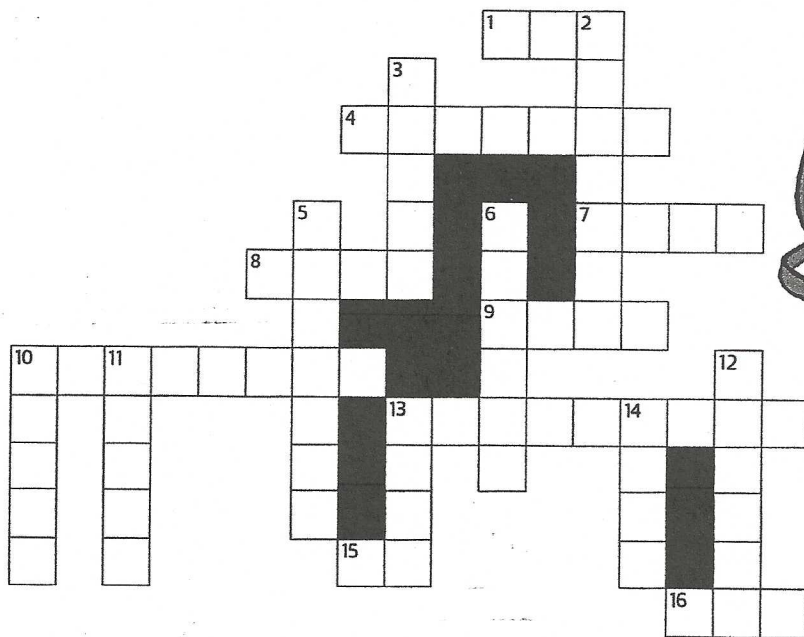
*Everybody has important things in their wallet, purse or bag.
What happens if you lose something?*

Across clues

1. People often carry things home from the store in a shopping _____.
4. My daughter takes her books and papers to school in her _____.
7. Don't lose your important papers like your social Security card or your child's birth certificate. Keep them in a _____ place.
8. Can you help me _____ my car keys? I'm going to be late for work.
9. I couldn't call you because I _____ my cellphone.
10. Cheryl has many _____ of her grandchildren in her purse.
13. Have you seen my _____? I need to pay the rent and the telephone bill.
15. This is a card that shows your picture, your name and sometimes your address.
16. I have a bank card. I can use this to get money from the _____.

Down clues

2. Some people need these to see better.
3. If you lose something, you can go to the lost and _____ office to look for it.
5. If a police officer wants to see your drivers _____, you have to take it out of your wallet.
6. People put money, cards and pictures inside this.
10. Women sometimes carry this for their money and other important things.
11. You can pay with cash, credit card, or by _____.
12. A place to put things in your jacket or pants.
13. If you want to borrow books from the library, you need a library _____.
14. If you have a _____ card, you can get money from the ATM.



Word list

ATM
bag
bank
bookbag
card
check
checkbook
find
found
glasses
ID
license
lost
pictures
pocket
purse
safe
wallet