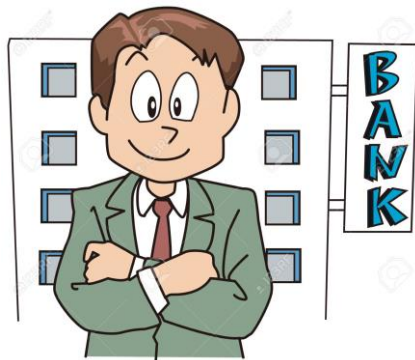


## The Case of the Banker's Letter



Keith, a young bank vice-president, has vanished from town with a huge amount of the bank's money. All efforts to find him have failed, but you have just had a phone call from Sandra. She is the girl Keith went with steadily at one time, until he jilted her for her 'best friend', Betty.

Now you are sitting in the lobby of Sandra's **luxury** apartment building, waiting to hear the 'vital information' she has promised to give you about the missing **embezzler**.

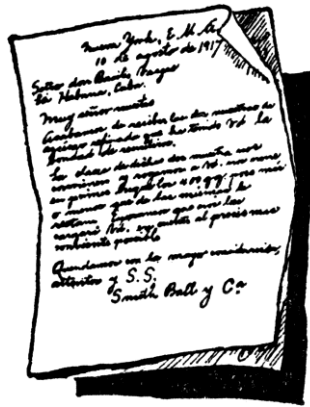


Finally, Sandra sweeps into the lobby through the street door. "I'm so sorry to have kept you waiting," she says. "I phoned you from Betty's apartment – one of her cocktail parties."

She takes you up to her huge apartment and begins her story. "Betty, I'm certain, can tell you where Keith is. During the party, I went into her bedroom to fix my make-up, and I found the first page of a letter written to her by Keith. I'm not ashamed to admit I read it – a lot

of silly **sentiment** and not much information. That first page, however, ended in the middle of a sentence and it seemed interesting. I'm sure if you find the second page -"

You **interrupt** to hand Sandra a sheet of paper that you found in Keith's apartment. "Is this Keith's handwriting?" you ask.



Sandra stares fixedly at the paper. She shakes her head and begins **fumbling** in her purse. Then she searches through the drawers of a desk, coming up with a pair of glasses. She puts them on, studies the paper again, and says, "Yes, this is Keith's writing. No doubt about it."

"Sandra," you say, "I suspect that this story you've been telling me is pure fiction – probably made up out of jealousy and intended to cause trouble for Betty!"

**Why do you suspect this?**

Vocabulary	Meaning
luxury	<p>a state of great comfort or elegance, especially when involving great expense; He lived a life of luxury.</p> <p><i>synonyms:</i> luxuriousness, richness, grandeur, grandness, splendour, magnificence, lavishness, bed of roses</p>
vital	<p>absolutely necessary; essential</p> <p><i>synonyms:</i> essential, indispensable, crucial, key, necessary, needed, required, requisite, important, all-important, of the utmost importance, of great consequence, critical, life-and-death, imperative, mandatory, urgent, pressing</p>
embezzler	<p>When a person embezzles, it usually means that he is stealing money from his employer.</p>
sentiment	<p>a view or opinion that is held or expressed</p> <p><i>synonyms:</i> view, point of view, way of thinking, feeling, attitude, thought, opinion, belief, idea</p>
interrupt	<p>stop the continuous progress of (an activity or process)</p> <p><i>synonyms:</i> cut in (on), break in (on), barge in (on), intrude (on), interfere (with), intervene (in);</p>
fumbling	<p>do or handle something clumsily</p> <p><i>synonyms:</i> grope, feel about, search blindly, scrabble around, muddle around</p>

**Solution:**

You have seen that Sandra cannot read without glasses. When she returned from Betty's party, she was neither wearing them nor carrying them in her purse. It would have been impossible, therefore, for her to read the letter she claimed she read in Betty's bedroom.