

LEVEL C1

D.B. Cooper

The Man Who Jumped Out of a Plane and Vanished

The day before Thanksgiving in 1971, a man calling himself Dan Cooper took over a plane with a briefcase bomb, collected a ransom of \$200,000 and jumped into the rainy night over Washington. Olivia and Sean follow the clues, the copycats and the suspects in the only airline hijacking that has never been solved.

Key words

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| ● hijack | ● copycat |
| ● ransom | ● rule out |
| ● hostage | ● get away with |
| ● override | ● folk hero |
| ● speculate | ● sleazy |
| ● comb | ● cheeky |
| ● go cold | ● lighten the mood |
| ● drift | |

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How to use it**1**

Listen to the episode on YouTube.

2

Read the transcript and learn the key words.

3

Do the activities, then check the answer key.

Includes the full transcript, key words, activities and answers

Listen to the episode on the Aprendos YouTube channel

Key words

These words appear in the episode.

Key words	Meaning	Example
hijack <i>verb</i>	To take control of a plane, ship or vehicle by force, usually to make demands.	<i>My little brother hijacked the TV remote and refused to give it back until his cartoon was over.</i>
ransom <i>noun</i>	Money that someone demands before they will free a person or give something back.	<i>The thieves who stole the famous painting asked for a ransom, and the museum refused to pay.</i>
hostage <i>noun</i>	A person who is held by force until other people agree to certain demands.	<i>The film is about a bank robbery where the robbers keep three customers as hostages all night.</i>
override <i>verb</i>	To take control of a machine or system and stop what it is doing automatically.	<i>The manager can override the till if a customer needs a refund after thirty days.</i>
speculate <i>verb</i>	To guess possible reasons or answers when you do not have all the facts.	<i>Everyone at work is speculating about why the boss suddenly cancelled his holiday.</i>
comb <i>verb</i>	To search a place very carefully, looking in every part of it.	<i>We combed the whole flat for my car keys and finally found them in the fridge.</i>
go cold <i>phrase</i>	Of a trail or an investigation: to stop producing any new clues.	<i>The police had a few leads in the first week, but then the trail went cold.</i>
drift <i>verb</i>	To be carried slowly along by water or air, without any control.	<i>Our inflatable boat drifted away from the beach while we were busy eating sandwiches.</i>
copycat <i>noun</i>	Someone who copies another person's actions, especially a crime that got a lot of attention.	<i>When the café's rainbow cake went viral, half the bakeries in town turned into copycats.</i>
rule out <i>phrasal verb</i>	To decide that something is not possible or that someone is not responsible.	<i>The doctor has ruled out a broken wrist, but she still wants me to rest it for a week.</i>
get away with <i>phrasal verb</i>	To do something wrong without being caught or punished.	<i>He turns up late to every meeting, and somehow he always gets away with it.</i>
folk hero <i>noun</i>	A person that ordinary people admire and tell stories about, often because they challenged people in power.	<i>The farmer who refused to sell his land to the airport became a local folk hero.</i>
sleazy <i>adjective</i>	Dishonest and unpleasant in a way that makes people distrust you.	<i>The villain in the series is a sleazy car dealer who lies to every single customer.</i>

Key words	Meaning	Example
cheeky <i>adjective</i>	Slightly rude or bold, often in a way that is also a bit funny.	<i>It was rather cheeky of him to ask for a pay rise on his second day.</i>
lighten the mood <i>phrase</i>	To make a tense or serious situation feel more relaxed.	<i>When the meeting got tense, Maria told a story about her cat to lighten the mood.</i>

Full transcript

D.B. Cooper: The Man Who Jumped Out of a Plane and Vanished

- OLIVIA** Eight thirteen in the evening, somewhere over southwest Washington, and the tail of a Boeing seven two seven suddenly lurches upwards.
- SEAN** Turbulence?
- OLIVIA** Most likely, it was the plane's last passenger stepping off the back stairs.
- SEAN** In flight? In the dark?
- OLIVIA** In the rain, with two hundred thousand dollars tied around his waist.
- SEAN** And where did he land?
- OLIVIA** Nobody knows. Nobody has seen him since.
- SEAN** This is Aprendos English, level C1. I'm Sean.
- OLIVIA** And I'm Olivia.
- SEAN** Right then, I know the name D.B. Cooper, although that's roughly where my knowledge ends.
- OLIVIA** Which is perfect, because where I grew up, in Bellingham, he's practically a member of the family. He jumped over the forests a few hours' drive south of us, and people up there still argue about him over Thanksgiving dinner.
- SEAN** Why Thanksgiving, of all days?
- OLIVIA** Because it happened the day before, on Wednesday the twenty-fourth of November, 1971. At Portland airport, a man in his mid-forties pays cash for a one-way ticket to Seattle, a flight of barely half an hour.
- SEAN** Under what name?
- OLIVIA** Dan Cooper. He's wearing a dark suit with a thin black tie, and he takes seat eighteen E, right at the back. Shortly after takeoff, he hands a folded note to the flight attendant sitting behind him, Florence Schaffner. Guess what she thought it was.
- SEAN** His phone number?
- OLIVIA** Exactly that, so she dropped it into her purse without even opening it.
- SEAN** Poor chap, that must have stung a bit...
- OLIVIA** ...except that he leans towards her and whispers, "Miss, you'd better look at that note. I have a bomb."
- SEAN** Oh, good grief.
- OLIVIA** The note was neatly printed in capitals with a felt-tip pen. It read, "Miss, I have a bomb in my briefcase and want you to sit by me."
- SEAN** And did she?
- OLIVIA** She did, and then she calmly asked to see the bomb. He opened the case just far enough to show her a large battery wired up to eight red cylinders, which she took to be dynamite.
- SEAN** And he wants to go to Cuba, I suppose, like every other hijacker in those days...
- OLIVIA** ...he wants something far more practical. He wanted two hundred thousand dollars in twenty-dollar bills, along with four parachutes waiting for him in Seattle.
- SEAN** Four? Is he planning to take the whole crew with him?

- OLIVIA** That was the clever part, because if you ask for four, the authorities have to assume you might force a **hostage** to jump with you...
- SEAN** ...so nobody dares to hand you a parachute that doesn't open.
- OLIVIA** Precisely. Another flight attendant, Tina Mucklow, sat beside him for the rest of the journey. She later told the FBI that he seemed completely calm and rather nice. At one point he glanced out of the window and remarked, "Looks like Tacoma down there."
- SEAN** So he knew the area.
- OLIVIA** He did. When she mentioned that the parachutes were coming from McChord Air Force Base, he pointed out that it was only about twenty minutes' drive from the airport.
- SEAN** Which isn't exactly common knowledge for your average travelling salesman.
- OLIVIA** Remember that, because it matters later. The passengers were told there was a minor mechanical problem, and the plane circled over Puget Sound for two hours while the airline got the money together. The FBI photographed all ten thousand twenty-dollar bills on microfilm before they went anywhere near the plane.
- SEAN** So they had the serial numbers, which means he can never spend a cent without somebody noticing.
- OLIVIA** They land in Seattle at a quarter to six, and once Mucklow has brought him the money, he lets all thirty-five passengers go. While he's checking the money, she tries to **lighten the mood** by jokingly asking whether she can have some.
- SEAN** Uh-oh. What did he do?
- OLIVIA** He handed her a whole bundle of notes without a moment's hesitation, and she gave it straight back, because accepting tips was against company policy.
- SEAN** She's in the middle of a hijacking, and she's quoting the staff handbook.
- OLIVIA** Then the parachutes come on board, and she hands him a printed sheet explaining how to use them...
- SEAN** ...which he studies very carefully, I hope, because that's exactly what I'd...
- OLIVIA** ...which he waves away, because he says he doesn't need any instructions.
- SEAN** Well, I'd have read them. Twice, with a highlighter.
- OLIVIA** I know. You read the instructions on a packet of microwave rice.
- SEAN** It's a surprisingly complicated product.
- OLIVIA** Next they agree on a flight to Mexico City, stopping in Reno for fuel. He wants the plane to fly low and very slowly, with the wing flaps set at exactly fifteen degrees.
- SEAN** That's oddly specific for a travelling salesman.
- OLIVIA** One of the pilots later told the FBI the man clearly knew a great deal about flying. His final instruction was that the rear door had to be opened.
- SEAN** The rear door of a passenger jet?
- OLIVIA** The seven two seven has a staircase that folds down from underneath the tail, so that passengers can board from the back...
- SEAN** ...oh, the rear stairs! I actually know something about those.
- OLIVIA** Please, enlighten me.

- SEAN** That staircase could be lowered in mid-air, and the switch was at the back of the cabin, so the pilots couldn't **override** it from the cockpit. Hardly any airline crews knew that. The FBI later **speculated** that Cooper knew the CIA had used seven two sevens to drop agents and supplies during the Vietnam War.
- OLIVIA** At about twenty to eight they take off again, with nobody on board apart from Cooper and four crew members. Two fighter jets from McChord follow at a distance, trying to stay out of his sight.
- SEAN** Fighter jets! Well, at least they'll see him jump.
- OLIVIA** You'd think so, wouldn't you? A few minutes after takeoff, he sends Mucklow up to the cockpit and tells her to stay there. As she turned round, she saw him standing in the aisle, tying what looked like the money bag around his waist.
- SEAN** And that's the last time...
- OLIVIA** ...that anyone saw D.B. Cooper, yes. Around eight o'clock, a warning light in the cockpit shows that the stairs are down. Then at eight thirteen comes the jolt, when the tail suddenly pitches upwards.
- SEAN** And the fighter pilots?
- OLIVIA** They saw nothing at all, because it was a dark, cloudy night and he was dressed in black. The plane lands in Reno just after eleven with the stairs still hanging down, and the captain searches the cabin himself.
- SEAN** Empty.
- OLIVIA** Empty, apart from two of the four parachutes and a black clip-on tie with a mother-of-pearl tie clip, lying on his seat.
- SEAN** Wait, a clip-on tie? A man who plans every detail down to the angle of the flaps simply forgets his tie?
- OLIVIA** He'd even made Mucklow return his notes and an empty matchbook. He took back everything except the tie.
- SEAN** And the name? Where does "D.B." come from?
- OLIVIA** From a reporter. Rushing to meet his deadline that night, a journalist at the Oregon Journal wrote "D.B. Cooper" instead of "Dan Cooper," and the news agencies copied the mistake.
- SEAN** So a typo became a legend.
- OLIVIA** More or less. Now, one more detail about the parachutes. One of the reserve chutes was a dummy that a skydiving school used for teaching, and its canopy had been sewn shut. That was one of the two that went out of the door with him.
- SEAN** So he jumped with a parachute that didn't work?
- OLIVIA** He had a proper main parachute on his back as well. But some agents took the missing dummy as a sign that he hadn't noticed it was fake, which an expert surely would have.
- SEAN** So he was an amateur.
- OLIVIA** Larry Carr, who led the investigation in the late two thousands, certainly thought so. He said in 2007 that no experienced parachutist would have jumped on a pitch-black night in the rain, wearing loafers and a trench coat.
- SEAN** Loafers! At ten thousand feet, in November. My feet are cold just thinking about it.

- OLIVIA** On the other hand, the man who had packed those parachutes, Earl Cossey, told the FBI that anyone with six or seven practice jumps could have done it.
- SEAN** So the experts can't even agree on whether he was an expert.
- OLIVIA** That's the Cooper case in a single sentence. The search focused on the forests around Lake Merwin, near a tiny town called Ariel. In the spring of 1972, around two hundred soldiers spent weeks **combing** those woods, and a salvage company even sent a small submarine down into the lake.
- SEAN** A submarine? For one man in a raincoat?
- OLIVIA** And they found absolutely nothing. Later on, the FBI concluded that the plane had probably flown further east, so they may well have searched the wrong forest.
- SEAN** Can I make a slightly embarrassing confession? Three birthdays ago my sister gave me a voucher for a tandem skydive, and it's still stuck to my fridge. I've extended it twice.
- OLIVIA** Sean! That's in broad daylight, strapped to a professional!
- SEAN** I know, and I still can't face it. Anyway, after the search, the trail simply **goes cold**?
- OLIVIA** For years. The FBI sent the serial numbers to banks and casinos, yet not one note turned up anywhere.
- SEAN** So he never spent the money. Which rather suggests...
- OLIVIA** ...that he never had the chance, or that he was very, very patient.
- SEAN** Or that he's been sitting in a beach bar in Mexico since 1971, paying with his charm.
- OLIVIA** Then, in February 1980, a family spends the day on a sandy beach called Tena Bar, on the Columbia River, just downstream from Vancouver, Washington. Guess who found the money.
- SEAN** A fisherman, I'd say, or somebody walking their dog.
- OLIVIA** An eight-year-old boy called Brian Ingram. He was raking the sand to make room for a campfire, and he dug up three bundles of rotting twenty-dollar bills, still held together with rubber bands.
- SEAN** No! How much?
- OLIVIA** Five thousand eight hundred dollars, and the serial numbers matched.
- SEAN** Well, that settles it, then. He came down in the river...
- OLIVIA** ...and this is exactly where it gets complicated. If those bundles had been **drifting** since 1971, the rubber bands should have rotted away long before 1980.
- SEAN** So somebody buried them there later?
- OLIVIA** Possibly. In 2020, researchers studied tiny algae stuck to the notes and found only the kinds that bloom in spring. So the money probably reached the water months after the jump.
- SEAN** So the one real clue just makes it more confusing.
- OLIVIA** Welcome to my childhood. At twelve I ran a little neighborhood newsletter, and my very first "investigation" was D.B. Cooper. Our mail carrier swore Cooper had once bought coffee from his cousin in Longview, and I put it on the front page.
- SEAN** Without a second source, I assume.
- OLIVIA** Without any source at all, since the cousin turned out not to exist.
- SEAN** A promising start to a career. Right then, may I take over for a moment? I know rather more about what happened next than you'd expect.

- OLIVIA Oh? Go ahead.
- SEAN Cooper appeared to **get away with** it, so in 1972 there were fifteen hijackings in which somebody demanded parachutes along with the **ransom**.
- OLIVIA Fifteen! And did any of them get away?
- SEAN Not one. Five of them actually jumped and landed safely, and every one of them was caught soon afterwards. The best known was Richard McCoy, a Vietnam veteran and keen skydiver from Utah, who **hijacked** a United seven two seven in April 1972.
- OLIVIA With the same rear stairs?
- SEAN The same stairs. He demanded half a million dollars and four parachutes, and he jumped out over Provo, in Utah. Unfortunately for him, he left behind his handwritten instructions and his fingerprints on a magazine.
- OLIVIA So much for planning. And he couldn't even blame a clip-on tie.
- SEAN He was arrested two days later, and he got forty-five years...
- OLIVIA ...wait, I actually know about McCoy, because some people back home are convinced he was Cooper...
- SEAN ...and they're in good company, because a parole officer and a former FBI agent wrote a whole book in 1991 arguing exactly that.
- OLIVIA And in 2024 his children said publicly that he was Cooper, after a YouTuber found a parachute on land that had belonged to McCoy's mother. The FBI hasn't confirmed anything.
- SEAN The trouble is that McCoy was twenty-nine, while every witness described a man in his mid-forties. When the flight attendants were shown his photo, they all agreed he wasn't their man.
- OLIVIA McCoy didn't smoke or drink either, whereas our man smoked his way through the whole afternoon. Agents found eight cigarette butts in his ashtray, which were later destroyed while the FBI still had them.
- SEAN You're not serious. Well, the **copycats** did change one thing. Every seven two seven got a small metal flap near the stairs, which the rushing air pushes into place so they can't open in flight.
- OLIVIA I can guess what it's called.
- SEAN The Cooper vane. And from 1973, American airlines had to search every passenger and every bag. So whenever you queue at airport security, you can partly thank our friend in eighteen E.
- OLIVIA Okay, the suspects. By 1976 the FBI had looked at more than eight hundred people.
- SEAN Eight hundred! So who's the favourite?
- OLIVIA My personal favourite is Kenneth Christiansen, who actually worked for Northwest Orient.
- SEAN The same airline? That's rather **cheeky**.
- OLIVIA He'd been an army paratrooper, and later he worked as a purser for Northwest, based in Seattle. In 2003 his brother Lyle watched a TV documentary and became convinced that Kenneth, who had died in 1994, was the hijacker.
- SEAN That's quite a leap to make after one documentary.
- OLIVIA It is, although he smoked and he liked bourbon, and as a Northwest employee he would have known those planes. Florence Schaffner even told an author that his photos matched her memory more closely than any other suspect's, although she couldn't be certain.
- SEAN Coming from the woman who sat right beside him, that's quite something.

- OLIVIA** The FBI isn't persuaded, though. Christiansen was shorter and thinner than the witnesses described, and there's no direct evidence linking him to the crime.
- SEAN** So it stays a theory. Who else?
- OLIVIA** Robert Rackstraw, a Vietnam veteran and pilot who once tried to fake his own death by radioing a false mayday.
- SEAN** Well, that's hardly going to help his case.
- OLIVIA** He was only twenty-eight in 1971, however, and the FBI ruled him out in 1979. A book revived the theory in 2016, but he denied it.
- SEAN** My guess for the next one: somebody who worked at Boeing.
- OLIVIA** Oh, very good! Sheridan Peterson was a former smokejumper, which means he parachuted into forest fires, and he was forty-four at the time. He'd also worked at Boeing in Seattle as a technical editor.
- SEAN** That sounds almost too perfect.
- OLIVIA** He loved teasing reporters, although he told the FBI he'd been in Nepal at the time. One researcher, Eric Ullis, was once ninety-eight percent convinced, but a DNA comparison shown on television didn't match.
- SEAN** Always leave yourself two percent for the DNA. What bothers me, though, is how much everybody seems to adore this man.
- OLIVIA** Adore is a strong word...
- SEAN** ...there are T-shirts, Olivia. He threatened to blow up a plane full of people the day before Thanksgiving, and somehow he's become a charming folk hero.
- OLIVIA** I get that. But nobody was hurt, and the money came from an airline that was insured anyway. Where I grew up, that makes him a bit of a Robin Hood.
- SEAN** Robin Hood gave the money to the poor. This man kept it, or lost it in a river, which is arguably worse. Even Ralph Himmelsbach, who led the FBI's hunt for years, called him a "rotten, sleazy crook."
- OLIVIA** Okay, fair point. The Northwest still disagrees with you both, though. A tavern in Ariel, right by the search area, held a Cooper Day every November from 1974 until it closed in 2015.
- SEAN** A party for a hijacker. Only in America.
- OLIVIA** And amateur detectives still haven't given up. In 2009, a group of volunteers, including a paleontologist called Tom Kaye, examined the famous tie under an electron microscope.
- SEAN** Please tell me they found something.
- OLIVIA** They found tiny particles of pure titanium, which was an extremely rare material in 1971. It was used mainly in aircraft factories and a handful of specialist chemical plants.
- SEAN** Aircraft factories. In Seattle, in 1971, that means...
- OLIVIA** ...Boeing, most likely, or one of the companies that supplied Boeing.
- SEAN** So he could have been an engineer who wore that tie to work every day, and nobody at the office ever thought twice...
- OLIVIA** ...and that's the possibility that keeps people up at night.
- SEAN** And the FBI? I assume they quietly solved it years ago.

- OLIVIA** In July 2016, after forty-five years, the FBI moved its resources to other priorities and stopped actively investigating. It's still the only unsolved airline hijacking on record.
- SEAN** Theory time, then. You go first.
- OLIVIA** I think he survived, and I think the titanium is the answer. He was a quiet man from around Boeing who never appeared on anybody's list, and he went back to work on Monday.
- SEAN** With a very sore ankle.
- OLIVIA** With a very sore ankle. And you?
- SEAN** I think he died that night, because he jumped into freezing rain in loafers, and nobody ever spent a single note of that money. A few bundles reached Tena Bar, and the rest is still out there in the trees.
- OLIVIA** Says the man who's too scared to use a skydiving voucher.
- SEAN** Says the woman whose first source was a mail carrier.
- OLIVIA** Okay, folks, the ballot is open. Did Cooper die in those woods, or did he walk away, and if he did, was it one of our suspects or somebody nobody has ever named? Cast your vote below.
- SEAN** And if you'd rather study the evidence first, every clue we mentioned is in the PDF, which is free and linked under this video.
- OLIVIA** And subscribe to Aprendos English, because next week there's another story waiting.
- OLIVIA** Safe travels, everyone.
- SEAN** And if a stranger on a plane hands you a note, read it straight away.

Did you understand?

Choose the correct answer.

1. Why did Florence Schaffner put Cooper's note in her purse without reading it?

- ☐ She was busy and planned to read it after landing.
- ☐ She assumed he was giving her his phone number.
- ☐ He had asked her to keep it closed until Seattle.

2. What did Cooper do with the printed sheet explaining how to use the parachutes?

- ☐ He waved it away, saying he didn't need any instructions.
- ☐ He studied it carefully while the plane circled Puget Sound.
- ☐ He asked Tina Mucklow to read it aloud to him twice.

3. Apart from two parachutes, what did the captain find in the cabin in Reno?

- ☐ The empty matchbook and the notes Cooper had written.
- ☐ A bundle of twenty-dollar bills that had fallen out of the bag.
- ☐ A black clip-on tie with a mother-of-pearl tie clip.

4. Why did the money found at Tena Bar make the case more confusing?

- ☐ Its serial numbers didn't match the ones the FBI had recorded.
- ☐ It was found far upstream, a long way from the search area.
- ☐ Its rubber bands should have rotted if it had been in the river since 1971.

5. What did the volunteers find when they examined the tie in 2009?

- ☐ Hairs whose DNA matched Sheridan Peterson.
- ☐ Tiny particles of pure titanium, a rare material at the time.
- ☐ Traces of bourbon and cigarette ash from the flight.

Exercise 1. Two truths and a lie

Each round has two true statements about the episode and one lie. Find the lie.

1.

- ☐ Asking for four parachutes meant the authorities had to assume Cooper might force a hostage to jump with him.
- ☐ The ransom Cooper demanded was two hundred thousand dollars in hundred-dollar bills.
- ☐ When Tina Mucklow tried to lighten the mood by asking for some money, he handed her a whole bundle.

2.

- ☐ The pilots couldn't override the rear stairs from the cockpit, because the switch was at the back of the cabin.
- ☐ The FBI speculated that Cooper knew the CIA had used 727s to drop agents during the Vietnam War.
- ☐ Cooper hijacked the plane on a short flight from Seattle to Portland.

3.

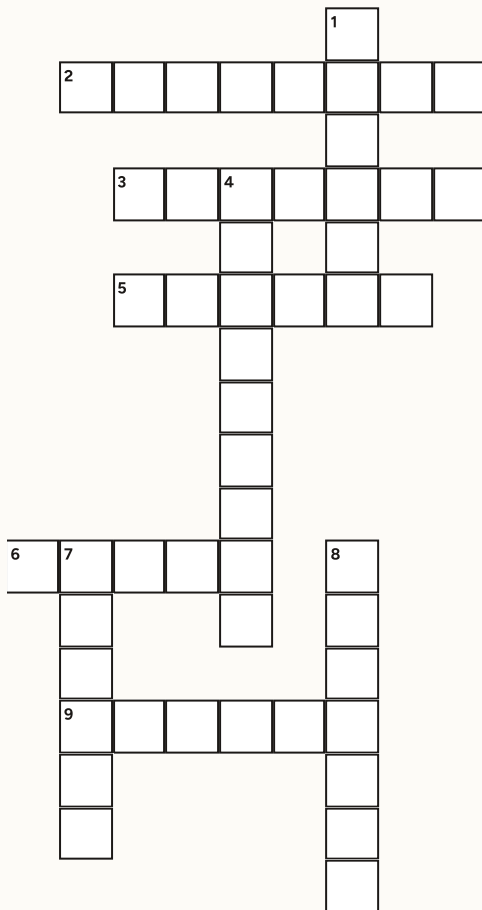
- ☐ About two hundred soldiers spent weeks combing the woods near Lake Merwin and found Cooper's main parachute.
- ☐ After that search the trail went cold for years, as not one of the bills turned up at a bank or casino.
- ☐ The rubber bands suggest the Tena Bar bundles had not been drifting in the river since 1971.

4.

- ☐ In 1972 there were fifteen copycat hijackings with parachute demands, and not one of the hijackers got away with it.
- ☐ Robert Rackstraw was only twenty-eight in 1971, and the FBI ruled him out in 1979.
- ☐ Ralph Himmelsbach, who led the FBI's hunt, described Cooper as a cheeky folk hero.

Exercise 2. Crossword

All the answers are key words from the episode.



ACROSS

- 2** The pilots could not do this to the rear stairs from the cockpit. (8)
- 3** The four parachutes hinted that Cooper might take one of these with him. (7)
- 5** Sean's word for a suspect who worked for the very airline that was hijacked. (6)
- 6** What a bundle of notes does if it floats down the Columbia River for months. (5)
- 9** Himmelsbach's word for Cooper, right after "rotten". (6)

DOWN

- 1** What Cooper did to a Boeing 727 with a briefcase and a folded note. (6)
- 4** What people around Thanksgiving dinner in Bellingham still do about where Cooper landed. (9)
- 7** In Cooper's case, ten thousand twenty-dollar bills. (6)
- 8** Richard McCoy, in one word, unless he really was Cooper himself. (7)

Exercise 3. Your turn

Did D.B. Cooper die in the woods that night, or did he walk away? Give your view in three or four sentences. Use at least two words from the list.

Answer key

Check your answers after you finish the activities.

Did you understand?

1. She assumed he was giving her his phone number.
2. He waved it away, saying he didn't need any instructions.
3. A black clip-on tie with a mother-of-pearl tie clip.
4. Its rubber bands should have rotted if it had been in the river since 1971.
5. Tiny particles of pure titanium, a rare material at the time.

Exercise 1. Two truths and a lie

1. The ransom Cooper demanded was two hundred thousand dollars in hundred-dollar bills. He wanted the money in twenty-dollar bills, ten thousand of them, which the FBI photographed on microfilm.
2. Cooper hijacked the plane on a short flight from Seattle to Portland. He bought a one-way ticket from Portland to Seattle, a flight of barely half an hour.
3. About two hundred soldiers spent weeks combing the woods near Lake Merwin and found Cooper's main parachute. The soldiers, and even a small submarine in the lake, found absolutely nothing. The FBI later thought they may have searched the wrong forest.
4. Ralph Himmelsbach, who led the FBI's hunt, described Cooper as a cheeky folk hero. Himmelsbach called him a "rotten, sleazy crook". It is the people of the Northwest who treat Cooper as a folk hero.

Exercise 2. Crossword

- 2 across: override
3 across: hostage
5 across: cheeky
6 across: drift
9 across: sleazy
1 down: hijack
4 down: speculate
7 down: ransom
8 down: copycat

Exercise 3. Example answer

I think he died that night, even though it is tempting to believe he got away with it. The soldiers who combed the forest found nothing, but the FBI may simply have searched the wrong area. Apart from the bundles on Tena Bar, nobody ever found or spent a single note of the ransom. A man who jumped into freezing rain in loafers probably never made it to the ground in one piece.