


Grammar Reported speech

STARTER

- 1  12.1 Read and listen to the joke. Why is it funny?


'JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!'



A tramp was sleeping on a park bench. A lady stopped and asked, 'Excuse me! What time is it?' The tramp was annoyed at being woken up. He told her, 'I haven't got a watch, so I don't know the time!' He went back to sleep. A bit later a boy stopped. He also woke the tramp and asked, 'Excuse me! Do you know the time?' The tramp replied angrily, 'I have no idea what the time is. I'm trying to sleep.' By now he was really fed up so he wrote a sign:

I don't know what the time is!

He put it next to him on the bench and went back to sleep. Half an hour later, a policeman was passing. He read the sign, woke the tramp up and said, 'Good evening, sir, it's nine o'clock.'

- 2  12.2 Listen to the joke again. There are some differences. Complete the lines with the reported conversations you hear.

- The lady asked him what time it _____.
- He told her that he _____ a watch, so he _____ the time.
- The tramp replied angrily that he _____ no idea what the time _____.
- He added that he _____ to sleep.
- The policeman said that it _____ nine o'clock.

The empty desk

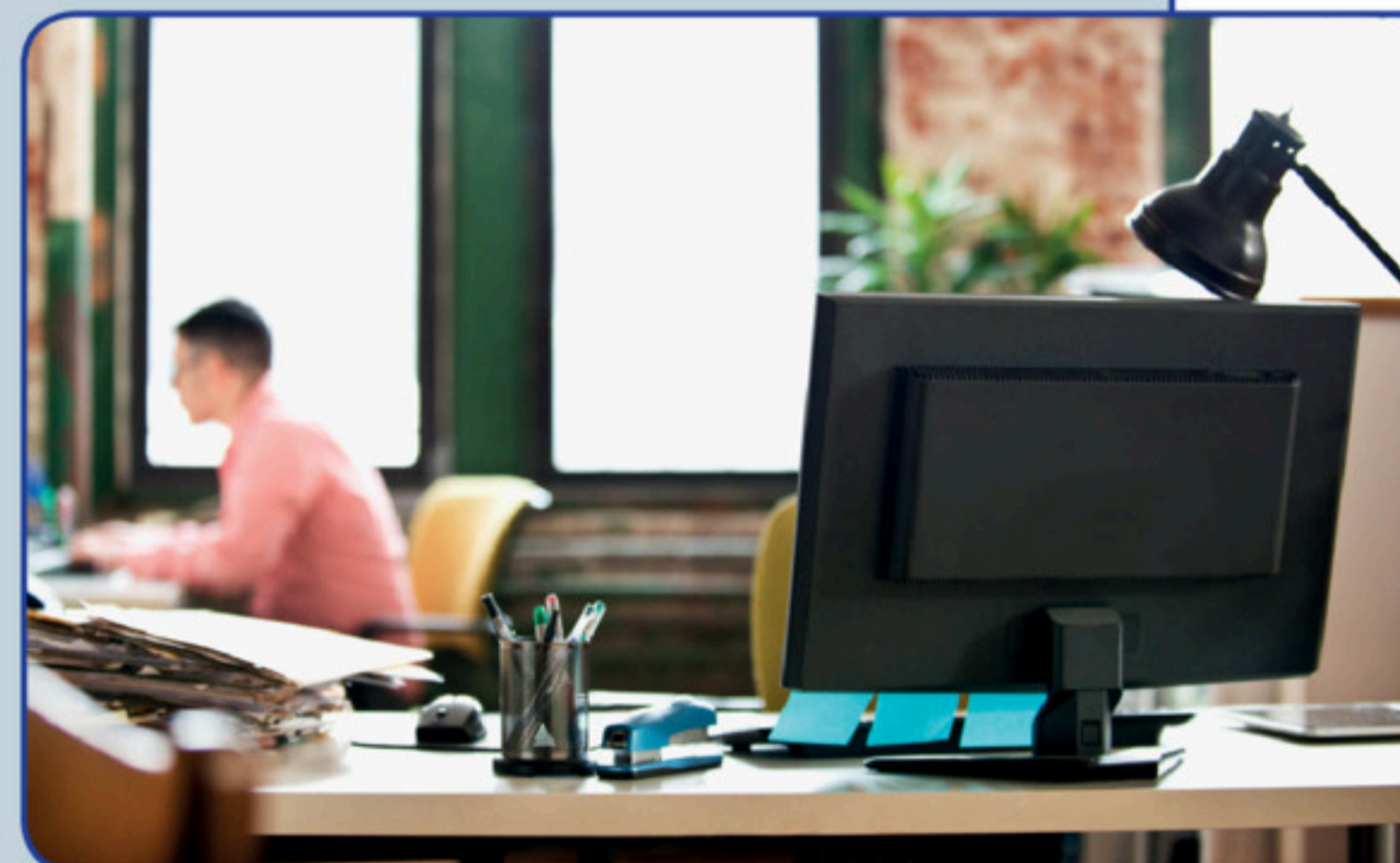
- 1 **Joaquín García** from **Cádiz, Spain** didn't show up for work for years. Nobody noticed. Read the article and answer the questions.

- Why did the mayor finally notice García's absence?
- What was García's excuse for not working?
- What had he been doing?
- What did the court do?
- Why do you think the article is called 'The Long Lunch'?

The long lunch

A Spanish civil servant didn't show up for his job at the Cadiz water board for years and nobody noticed.

Joaquín García, a water engineer in the Spanish city of Cádiz, was due to collect a medal for 20 years' loyal service, but nobody could find him. The mayor, **Jorge Blas Fernández**, asked where he was. He wondered if he was still on the payroll, or whether he had retired or died.



Fernández went to the manager of the water board. The manager told him that he didn't know where García was, and he added that he had not seen him for several years. The mayor was amazed, so he contacted the missing engineer. He asked him what he had been doing for so many years. García refused to answer.

The case went to court. The court asked García to explain his absence. They wanted to know why he had taken his pay despite doing no work. García admitted that he had not kept regular business hours, but said that was because he had been bullied at work and had become depressed. He added that he was making good use of his time at home – he had been studying philosophy, especially the works of Spinoza, the Dutch philosopher.

The court ordered García to pay a fine of €27,000. The mayor told him that he would definitely not receive a medal.