Lottery couple lose fight for €millions

When Kay Tott got in tired from work one evening she just wanted to watch a video, but husband, Martyn, suggested (a) ______ (watch) the news first. Now they must wish they hadn’t.

The TV news bulletin said that someone in their area of north-east England (b) ______ (fail) to claim a National lottery prize of €4,334,496 and warned the winner that, if they (c) ______ (want) the money, they had better appear quickly, because the six-month period in which to claim was nearly up. The numbers were 5–8–17–25–39–41. Kay jumped up and screamed ‘We’ve won! They’re our numbers!’ Martyn went silent, then admitted (d) ______ (throw) the tickets away several weeks earlier.

Kay persuaded (e) ______ (her husband / get in touch) with the lottery organisers, Camelot, and explain what had happened. Officials agreed (f) ______ (investigate) the matter, and soon rang back to tell (g) ______ (the Totts / they / have) no doubt their claim was genuine, and that it would be investigated further.

The next day, a lottery investigator came to their house and warned (h) ______ (the couple / not / inform) any newspapers about what was happening. Six weeks later he returned to tell them that they (i) ______ (break) the rules which stated that lost tickets must be reported within thirty days. Camelot were refusing (j) ______ (pay out). Furious, Kay ordered (k) ______ (him / leave) their tiny flat.

The next day, a desperate Martyn decided (l) ______ (inform) the media. Interest was immediate: a tabloid offered (m) ______ (put) the Totts up in a five-star hotel in return for an exclusive interview. Several TV companies invited (n) ______ (the couple / appear) on daytime TV. In an angry confrontation, a Camelot official apologised (o) ______ (cause) the couple so much disappointment, but insisted (p) ______ (they have to follow) their rules. The couple angrily accused (q) ______ (Camelot / ruin / their lives) by raising their hopes and putting them through ‘torture’. They even threatened (r) ______ (sue) the company over the mental stress they had suffered.

Officials, however, denied (s) ______ (make) any false promises.

In the end, the Totts got little except a brief taste of tabloid fame. Two years later the couple divorced. Kay blames (t) ______ (the media / raise) their hopes of a millionaire lifestyle: ‘Before this happened, we were quite happy. Between them, Camelot and the newspapers turned our lives into a living hell.’

4 Here are some of the original quotes from the characters in the story. Re-write them using the reporting verbs in brackets.

a ‘Remember to put the ticket in a safe place, love.’ (remind)
Kay reminded her husband to put the ticket in a safe place.

b ‘Shall we have a quiet night in and just watch a video?’ (suggest)
‘I’m so sorry, love. I threw the ticket away the other week.’ (apologise)

‘We’ll investigate the matter most thoroughly, Mr Tott.’ (promise)

e ‘You mustn’t even tell your family about this.’ (warn)

f ‘We won’t answer any questions about the investigation itself.’ (refuse)

g ‘We never had any problems in our marriage before this happened.’ (deny)

5 a Discuss the following questions in pairs.

• Were Camelot right?
• Do you think the media were at fault or not?
• Do you feel any sympathy for Martyn and Kay?

b Imagine you are one of the characters in the story (a Camelot official, Kay Tott or Martyn Tott).

Roleplay an interview with a TV journalist, giving your version of what happened. Include some phrases in reported speech.
1A Read the articles and find the mistake in each picture.

EURO-MILLION DILEMMA
One morning in 2006, Jim Farley was outside a Dublin bank when five bundles of cash fell from a security van which was driving away. He took them home and kept them for two days before phoning the bank. He rang from a payphone in a terrible state of anxiety as he didn’t know what to do. The security director persuaded him to hand in the money. It came to almost €1,000,000.

PARIS MÉTRO RESCUE
Jean LeBois was waiting for his métro train with his son, Roger, aged four. Suddenly, a man collapsed on the platform and then fell onto the tracks. A train was approaching and LeBois had to make a split-second decision whether to help. He leapt off the platform and pressed the man into the space between the tracks. Five carriages went overhead before the train stopped. Both men emerged safe to the applause of the onlookers.

B Read the articles again and complete the sentences.
1 If Jim ________________________ (not walk) by the bank that day, he ________________________ (not see) the money.
2 His call ________________________ (trace) if he ________________________ (phone) from a mobile.
3 If he ________________________ (not come forward) with the money, it’s possible that the police ________________________ (never find) it.
4 He ________________________ (keep) the money if he ________________________ (not speak) to the security director.
5 Jim ________________________ (be) rich now if he ________________________ (keep) the money.
6 The man ________________________ (not fall) off the platform if he ________________________ (not collapse).
7 If the train ________________________ (stop), Jean ________________________ (not leap) onto the tracks.
8 The man ________________________ (be) dead now if Jean ________________________ (not jump) onto the tracks.
9 If the space ________________________ (not be) quite deep, both men ________________________ (kill) by the train.
10 If Jean ________________________ (have) more time to think, he probably ________________________ (not jump).

2 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first. Use between two and five words including the word given.
1 I didn’t know who he was so I didn’t ask him for an autograph.
HIM
If I’d known who he was, I ________________________ for an autograph.
2 You feel sick now because you ate too much.
SICK
You ________________________ if you had eaten less.
3 Anya’s skis weren’t very good and this could be the reason she didn’t win the race.
MIGHT
Anya ________________________ if she’d had better skis.
4 The ambulance took a long time. Is that why they couldn’t save him?
COULD
If the ambulance had got here sooner, ________________________ saved?
5 You’re living in a one-bedroom flat today because you didn’t take my advice.
LIVING
If you’d taken my advice, ________________________ in a one-bedroom flat today.
6 You weren’t paying attention and so you didn’t hear what I said.
IF
You would have heard what I said ________________________.
7 Angie left the sat nav behind and we’re lost.
LOST
We wouldn’t ________________________ remembered the sat nav!
8 In my situation, what other choices were there?
YOU
What ________________________ if you’d been in my situation?

3A 8.1 Listen and write the phrases you hear.
1 ________________________
2 ________________________
3 ________________________

B Listen again and mark the stressed words and any examples of weak forms with /əv/. Then listen and repeat.