

To Blow or Not to Blow



Tick tick tick "Quick, someone call the Police. There's a bomb tied to the lamppost. AND it's ticking! Quick, quick, there, there" The blonde lady in a red coat called out to the passers-by around her as she spotted the box tied to the street light outside the shop in the High Street. She had glanced at it while she was waiting for the bus and had been staring at it for some time before she realised what it was. She had moved nearer and once she heard the ticking she knew it was time to act very quickly and she started panic and shout.

Tick tick tick A small group of people immediately started to gather around the lamppost and as soon as they realised what was happening they started to run and shouted to others to keep away. A very tall man pushing a supermarket trolley pulled his mobile telephone from his pocket and dialled 999.

Tick tick tick "Yes, we need the Police quickly" he shouted "There is a bomb tied to a lamppost in the High Street. This is an emergency. It's ticking and there a lots of people around. It's outside No: 76, Joolz the jewellery shop, right by the Bus Stop. Be quick". He sounded scared. The Police told the man they would be as soon as they could and to tell people to keep away and not to touch anything.

Tick tick tick It was 7.10pm and dark except for the street lighting and the shop windows. Joolz was closed and no-one was inside. A Police car with two policemen arrived very quickly. The car screeched as it pulled up outside No:76 and one of the policemen opened the door and tried to jump out before the car had even stopped moving. He knew it was urgent.

Tick tick tick The two policemen moved very quickly and started to cordon off the area around the lamppost with Police tape and called to the passers-by and the crowd watching to keep back and stay behind the tape for their own safety. Once they had heard the ticking for themselves they called for the Bomb Disposal Unit. They needed to know if there was a real bomb inside the box and to disarm it as soon as possible. The policemen then ran upstairs knocking on doors of the flats above and evacuated the buildings.

Tick tick tick As soon as they arrived the Bomb Disposal Unit quickly identified the timer on the bomb. To their horror they had only five minutes left. **Tick tick tick** – time was running out. With three minutes left they tried to find which wires they could safely cut. The pressure was too much. They couldn't work out which wire it should be.

Tick tick tick. Two minutes left, sweat pouring from their faces and hands. **Tick tick tick**. One minute left they dropped their tools and ran for cover. There was nothing for it, Joolz was going to blow. **Tick tick tick**. Twenty seconds left. A tiny ball of fur trotted round the corner of the Police cordon and headed for the lamp post. Ignoring the shouts of the Police the little dog simply cocked his leg over the bomb and let out a wet warm stream as dogs do. **Tick tick fizzle puff pop** went the bomb and the clock stopped with one second to spare.



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