

COULD YOU DISAPPEAR FOR 25 DAYS?

Level: B2–C1

Time: 60–90 minutes

Skills: Reading, speaking, critical thinking

Language focus: Modal verbs of deduction & advice

Context: Based on the TV programme **Hunted**

Lead-in (5–10 minutes)

Put these questions on the board or slide:

- How traceable do you think you are in daily life?
- What information about you exists online or digitally?
- What would be the **hardest thing** about disappearing for a month?

👉 Brief pair discussion, then quick whole-class feedback.

Optional poll:

On a scale of 1–10, how confident are you that you could avoid being tracked for 25 days?

Pre-reading prediction (5 minutes)

Tell learners:

In a British TV show, ordinary people go on the run while a team of professional investigators try to track them down.

Ask learners to predict:

- What mistakes do you think people make?
 - What strategies might actually work?
 - Who do you think gets caught first; confident people or anxious people?
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Reading text (15 minutes)

(You can print off the next sheet to use in class)

Disappearing in Plain Sight

In the TV programme *Hunted*, ordinary people attempt to disappear for 28 days while a team of former police officers, intelligence experts, and cyber specialists try to track them down. The fugitives are not allowed to leave the country and although they are monitored for safety, the Hunters do not know their location unless they discover it themselves.

Many contestants believe the best strategy is to hide in remote countryside areas but this often leads to quick capture. In small communities, strangers are noticed immediately, and even basic activities such as buying food or asking for directions can raise suspicion. In contrast, some of the most successful fugitives choose busy cities, where crowds provide anonymity and movement attracts less attention.

The smartest participants tend to avoid digital technology entirely. Phones, bank cards, travel passes, and social media accounts are powerful tracking tools. Even brief use, such as checking a message or topping up a phone, can give investigators enough information to locate someone within hours.

Emotional decisions are one of the most common reasons for failure. Many contestants return to familiar places or contact loved ones because they feel lonely, anxious, or guilty. These moments of weakness are often exactly what the Hunters are waiting for.

Ultimately, *Hunted* demonstrates how difficult true anonymity has become. The challenge is not simply avoiding capture but continuing to live a normal life without leaving a digital or social trace.

Reading comprehension

A. True / False / Not Given

1. All filming on *Hunted* happens in real time.
2. Rural areas are always safer than cities.
3. Technology is the main reason most people are caught.
4. Emotional reactions often lead to mistakes.

B. Short answer

1. Why do cities sometimes offer better hiding places than the countryside?
2. Give two examples of digital actions that can reveal someone's location.
3. According to the text, what is the *real* challenge of disappearing?

Language focus: deduction & advice (10 minutes)

Highlight or elicit examples from the text, then board:

- They **must have** used their phone.
- They **shouldn't have** contacted their family.
- They **might be** hiding in a city.
- If they **had avoided** technology, they **might not have been** caught.

Quick practice

Give learners these prompts:

- They were caught near a petrol station.
- They disappeared for 20 days but were caught after visiting home.

Learners speculate using **must / might / can't / should have**.

Main speaking task: Your 28-Day Plan (20–30 minutes)

Put learners in small groups.

Task

You are about to take part in Hunted. Design a plan to survive for 28 days.

They must decide:

- Where they would go (city, rural, mixed)
 - Who they would trust and who they wouldn't
 - What they would absolutely avoid
 - What they think would be their biggest weakness
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Report back & reflection (10 minutes)

Each group presents their plan.

Class votes:

- Most realistic plan
- Most risky plan
- Group most likely to be caught first 🐼

Final reflection question:

After this lesson, do you feel more or less confident that you could disappear? Why?

Optional follow-ups

- Writing task: *“Why disappearing in the modern world is almost impossible”*
 - Homework: Watch a short clip from *Hunted* and analyse **one mistake**
 - Vocabulary extension: surveillance, anonymity, digital footprint, tracking, data trail
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