

Data on 25 Million Britons Lost

Adapted from: http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0711/071123-identity_theft.html

1 The UK's Prime Minister Gordon Brown is doing his best to hide his government's
embarrassment after the biggest security breach in British history. Two computer disks
containing banking and personal details of 25 million Britons have gone missing. The
disks went missing while being moved between government departments. They contained
5 highly confidential data on nearly half the country's population, including names,
addresses, birth dates, and bank accounts. The loss leaves most Britons now worried about
identity theft. People have been advised that the disks have probably not fallen into bad
hands. However, the government announced that people need to keep an eye on their bank
accounts for anything suspicious, just in case.

1. What does *security breach* mean? (line 2)
2. What does *confidential* mean? (line 4)
3. What do you think *keep an eye on* means? (line 8)
4. What does *suspicious* mean? (line 9)

Directions: With your partner, **discuss** the following questions. Be sure to use the vocabulary we've learned to express possibility, certainty, and uncertainty. Write down your answers because we will talk about them afterwards.

might / may / could	I'm sure that...
must / have to	...definitely...
can't	...most likely...
	It's possible that...
	I'm not sure that...

1. Do you think this is a case of identity theft or did the government just lose the data?

Example: "I'm sure that this is a case of identity theft because..."

2. If this is identity theft, who do you think committed the crime?

Example: "One of the government employees may have committed this crime because..."

3. Why do you think someone would commit identity theft?

Example: "It's possible that someone would commit identity theft because..."