

The _____ tree

It was a wonderful Christmas tree – eight feet tall and already decorated with electric lights and stars. when Nat Martines saw it offered by a man on the sidewalk in Houston, texas, and heard the price was only \$35, he bought it at once, put it on his pickup truck and drove home. But he didn't get far. A policeman stopped him because the tree covered the licence plate.

But his real problems started when another car with three nuns from Korea stopped, too. The nuns asked the policeman to arrest Nat Martines. they said the tree had been stolen from their church not more than an hour ago and they could positively identify the tree.

In the end Martinez was arrested for stealing the tree, and after four days in prison he was fed up with saying he hadn't stolen the tree. He even accepted a \$500 fine just to get it over with and be with his family for Christmas.

The tree was brought back to the church and soon looked as if it had never left the old place.

Martinez said, "I've learned my lesson from it all. buying stolen goods doesn't pay. I don't ever want to go to jail again."

True or false? Mark the right sentence.

G He decorated the tree with electric lights and stars.

G He bought a decorated Christmas tree for less than \$40.

G He bought the tree in a shopping centre.

G He stopped to pick up the three nuns.

G He stopped his pickup truck because the tree covered his licence plate.

G He was stopped by a policeman because the tree covered his licence plate.

G He was arrested by three nuns coming out of the church.

G The three nuns said that Nat's tree had been stolen from their church.

G The three nuns asked the policeman to arrest Nat's tree.

G Someone brought the tree back to the church.

G The nuns went back to the church with the tree.

G The police brought the tree back to the church.

G Nat doesn't want to buy another Christmas tree.

G He never wants to buy a Christmas tree again

G Nat doesn't want to go back to jail again.

G After four weeks in prison he was fed up with saying that he hadn't stolen the tree.

G He paid a lot of money to get out of jail and spend Christmas with his family.

G He didn't accept a \$500 fine just to get it over with and be with his family for Christmas.

Can you find phrases in the text that mean...		
(es) lohnt sich nicht		
er hatte genug davon, zu sagen, ...		
sie baten den Polizisten ...		
und bereits dekoriert mit ...		
der Baum wurde zurückgebracht		
Ich habe aus all dem etwas gelernt		

Can you put the sentences in their correct order?

- c Nat Martinez was arrested for stealing a Christmas tree.
- c One day Nat Martinaz bought a Christmas tree in Houston, Texas.
- c A man sold it to him on a sidewalk for \$35.
- c The tree was cheap because it was fully decorated with electric lights and stars.
- c Then he went home to be with his family for Christmas.
- c Another car with three nuns stopped, too.
- c He put it on his pickup truck and drove home.
- c He was stopped by a policeman.
- c He had to go to prison.
- c After four days he paid a \$500 fine.
- c They said that the tree had been stolen from their church about an hour ago.

Fill in the missing words

Nat Martinez _____ to Houston with his _____ truck. On a sidewalk a man _____ him a Christmas tree that was _____ with _____ lights and stars. The _____ wanted \$35. Nat paid and put the tree on his pickup truck and went home. But he didn't get far, a _____ stopped him. Then a car with three nuns stopped, too. About an hour _____ someone had _____ their Christmas tree _____ with electric lights and stars from their _____. Nat Martines _____ for _____ a Christmas tree from a church. After _____ days he was fed up with saying that he had _____ the tree from a man on a sidewalk in Houston. He paid a \$500 fine just to go home and _____ with his _____ for Christmas.

pickup stolen electric man decorated was arrested four went ago church
offered bought be stealing family policeman

Some funny questions!

Where buy the Christmas did Nat tree?

Why did Nat Martinez the policeman stop?

Where had the been stolen from tree?

How days did Nat spend many in jail?

Why he pay the \$500 fine did?
