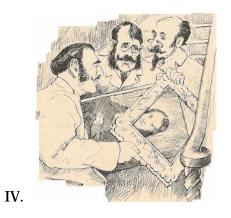




III.





II.



V.



On Tuesday August 11th 1911 a young artist, Louis Beraud, arrived **at** the Louvre in Paris to complete a painting (1) ______ the Salon Carre. This was the room where the world's most famous painting, the *Mona Lisa* by Leonardo da Vinci, was **on display**.

To his surprise there was an empty space where the painting (2) ______ have been. A guard told him it was probably being photographed. An hour later several visitors had complained about the (3) _____ picture, and so the guard went to enquire about it. At 11 o'clock the museum authorities realized that the painting had been stolen. The police were called, but it was 3 pm before the (4) _____ were locked. The newspapers were told at 4 pm, and the next day headlines allover the world announced the (5) _____.

Actually the Leonardo had been
gone for more than twenty-four hours
before anyone noticed (6) was
missing. The museum was always closed on
Mondays for maintenance.
(7) before closing time
on Sunday 9th three men had entered the
museum, where they had hidden themselves
in a store-room . They were Vicenzo
Perrugia, an Italian house painter, who had
helped (8) the picture with
glass a few months previously , and two
brothers, Vicenzo and Michele Lancelotti.
Early on Monday morning they left the
store-room, (9) they had spent
the night, and mingled with the cleaners
and workmen. They were wearing the
official white tunics of the
maintenance men. The (10)
theft was quick and simple. Perrugia
removed the painting from the wall while
the others \boldsymbol{kept} $\boldsymbol{watch}.$ They took it from
(11) frame on a stairway and
headed for a back exit. To their horror
the duplicate key (12) they
had made did not fit the lock.
Fortunately a passing workman
obligingly opened the door for them, and
they walked out

TASK: Fill in the gaps with **one** suitable word

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