Do the preparation task first. Then read the article and do the exercises to check your understanding.

Preparation
Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–f next to the numbers 1–6.

1……… intelligence       a. the name of a spy in popular books and films
2……… a code              b. a spy; someone who collects secret information for their country
3……… the headquarters    c. secret and valuable information
4……… a chief             d. a company or organisation's main office
5……… a secret agent      e. a leader or manager
6……… James Bond          f. a secret system of numbers, letters or symbols that makes your message unreadable to anyone who doesn’t know the system

1. Check your understanding: true or false
Circle True or False for these sentences.

1. The Secret Intelligence Section is MI6’s real name.                     True False
2. The British government officially recognised MI6 in 1995.              True False
3. The present chief of MI6 signs documents with a ‘C’ in green ink.     True False
4. John le Carré worked for MI6.                                         True False
5. MI6 sent coded messages to agents during the Second World War.       True False
6. Only agents can access the MI6 website.                               True False
2. Check your understanding: matching
Match the two sentence halves and write a–f next to the number 1–6.

1. You might have heard of MI6 through
   the man known
   a. for a job on the MI6 website.
2. John le Carré is famous
   b. with agents through coded radio messages.
3. MI6 communicated
   c. as 007.
4. MI6 was also involved
   d. at that time.
5. Modern computers didn’t exist
   e. for his spy novels.
6. You can apply
   f. in the work of the code breakers.

3. Check your grammar: gap fill – prepositions
Complete the sentences with a preposition from the box.

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1. I would love to be involved ___________ writing a spy film.
2. My friend really wants to apply ___________ a job with MI6.
3. 007 is famous ___________ saying 'The name's Bond, James Bond'.
4. During the Second World War, the government communicated ___________ the agents by secret messages.
5. They didn't have mobile phones ___________ the time.
6. James Bond is known ___________ 007.

Discussion
Would you like to be a secret agent?
What would be the best and the worst parts of the job?
What qualities make a good secret agent? Do you have those qualities?