

LISTENING AND READING

A radio drama

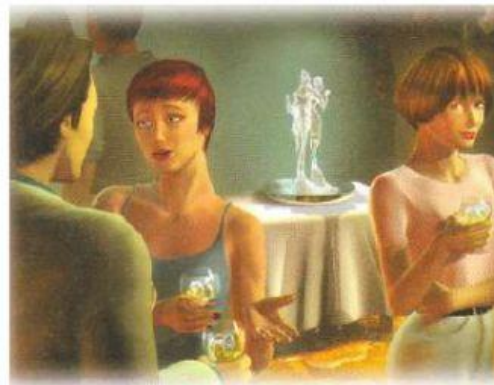
Look at the pictures below and listen to a crime story



1.



2.



3.

How do you think what has happened ? What was the reason of the quarrel ?

And now read the story, what do you learn from the story that you didn't from the radio drama?

The perfect crime

Alice Jackson's husband, Henry, was a man of habit. So it was that at exactly six o'clock in the evening she was in the kitchen getting a beer for him out of the fridge and watching him walk up the path.

She was smiling. Today the routine was going to be different. It was their tenth wedding anniversary, and some friends were coming round for drinks at 8.00. There was a big ice statue of a couple kissing in the middle of the table in the living room, with twenty glasses waiting for the guests. Alice was looking forward to the evening.

She was very happy. She had a beautiful baby sleeping upstairs, a lovely home, and a husband who she adored. Henry opened the door and came into the kitchen. She turned round to kiss him and give him his beer.

" 'Sit down,' Henry said. 'I've got something to say. Alice had no idea that in the next two minutes her whole life was going to change. 'I'm sorry' he said. 'And it's our anniversary, as well.

But it's just that Kathy and I are in love. Bobby won't miss me, he's too young.' She didn't believe her ears. She was in a dream. 'I'll get ready for the party,' she said. She walked into the living room. When she returned, Henry was standing with his back to her, drinking his beer. She was carrying something heavy. He turned.

'What on earth ... ?' These were Henry Jackson's last words. His wife hit him over the head. At first he didn't move, then he fell to the floor. Suddenly Alice began to think very clearly. She took the ice statue back to the living room, and phoned the police.

Then she turned up the central heating, and went upstairs to put on some make-up.

The police came quickly.

'Is he all right?' she asked.

'He's dead.'

Alice screamed. 'No, no, not Henry! My Henry! Oh Henry!' Through her tears she told how she put the baby to bed, and came downstairs to find Henry on the kitchen floor.

'Burglars,' said Detective Parry.

They took her into the living room.

'Sit down, Mrs Jackson. Sergeant Taylor, get Mrs Jackson a drink. A brandy with some ice. Phew! It's hot in this room. I hope you understand, Mrs Jackson, that we have to search the house immediately. We must find the murder weapon.'

The room was getting hotter. Suddenly an arm fell off the ice statue onto the table. It was melting. Sergeant Taylor went to the statue and picked up the melting arm. He broke it into bits and put some into Alice's brandy.

'Phew! Can I have a glass of water, Mrs Jackson? It's so hot in here.'

'I think we all need one,' said the detective. 'And with ice.' They were all very hot and thirsty. Alice's friends arrived. 'Poor Alice! Poor Henry!' They cried, and they tried to comfort her. 'Oh, thank you, thank you,' sobbed Alice. 'Please ... stay and have a drink. Help yourselves.' They all had drinks - gin and tonic, whisky - and they all had ice. The statue was now nearly a pool of water on the floor, 'I wonder what the burglar hit him with,' said one guest. 'Who knows?' said another, taking a sip of her drink. Alice heard this conversation, and smiled into her brandy...

4 Are these sentences true (✓) or false (X)?

Correct the false sentences.

- 1 Alice was waiting for her husband because she wanted to kill him.
- 2 She was happy because it was her anniversary.
- 3 She didn't know what he was going to tell her.
- 4 Henry said that he was in love with someone else.
- 5 She thought for a long time about how to murder Henry.
- 6 She turned up the central heating because the room was cold.
- 7 After she murdered him, Alice was very clever in her behaviour.
- 8 Alice hid the murder weapon.

What do you think?

- At the beginning and the end of the play, Alice was smiling. Why?
- Why do you think she did it?
- Do you think it was the perfect crime?

Do you think she got away with the murder?

Why/Why not?