



Murder mysteries

Poetry is not the most important thing in life. I'd much rather lie
in a hot bath reading Agatha Christie and sucking sweets.
Dylan Thomas, Irish poet

1 READING

a Read the text and mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).

- 1 More than 40 movies have been made about Jack. _____
- 2 *The Lodger* was a horror movie. _____
- 3 The 1959 movie mixed real and invented details. _____
- 4 Sherlock Holmes wasn't a real person. _____
- 5 Johnny Depp played the part of Jack the Ripper. _____
- 6 In real life there were many clues to help discover Jack's identity. _____
- 7 *Time After Time* showed that Jack the Ripper was more violent than today's murderers. _____
- 8 A TV cowboy show was based on the Jack the Ripper story. _____
- 9 The TV documentary about Jack the Ripper gave proof of his identity. _____
- 10 People may prefer not to find out the truth. _____

JACK THE RIPPER at the movies

Who was Jack the Ripper? That question has interested everyone from police inspectors to armchair detectives for over a century, and the film industry is no exception.

In 1926, the famous director, Alfred Hitchcock, made his first thriller, *The Lodger*, which was based on the Jack the Ripper story. A 1959 film generally follows the real events but doesn't use any real names, and introduces an American policeman to help solve the murder mystery. In 1965, *A Study In Terror* put Jack the Ripper against the fictional detective Sherlock Holmes. Holmes ultimately succeeds in finding Jack the Ripper, but had to face him again in *Murder By Decree* in 1979. Even the famous horror film producers, Hammer Films, made two movies based on the Ripper. One of the biggest recent films starred Johnny Depp as a policeman searching for Jack the Ripper in the 2001 film *From Hell*.

With so few clues and methods of detection at the time, it seems the only way we might discover the real identity of Jack the Ripper would be to go back in time to one of the crime scenes before a murder occurs, in 1979's *Time After Time*, H. G. Wells uses a time machine to find the murderer. And the film makes an interesting point - that compared with today's violence and crime, Jack the Ripper is almost an amateur!

Over the years, television has also taken its inspiration from the Ripper case for a number of shows, ranging from the western *Cimarron Strip* to science fiction in *Star Trek*. Today there are hundreds of books, articles, films, websites, and guided tours, and even a recent musical and CD. But why so much interest? In 2000, a television documentary concluded that, even if someone had proof of the Ripper's identity, people still would not believe them. Perhaps in some way we want the bloody mystery of Jack the Ripper to remain just that - a mystery.



b Read the text again. Find compound nouns that mean the following.

1 people who enjoy solving crimes by just sitting at home and thinking

2 a type of movie, e.g., Dracula, Frankenstein

3 the place where a crime, e.g., a murder, takes place

4 a machine that can travel back to the past or into the future

5 a kind of novel (or movie) about space and fantasy

6 a TV program about real life, e.g., animals, history, etc.

2 GRAMMAR tag questions

a Circle the correct answer.



- 1 You live in Las Vegas, don't you / aren't you?
- 2 But you weren't born in Las Vegas, weren't you /
were you?
- 3 You moved to Las Vegas when you were ten,
weren't you / didn't you?
- 4 You've been living here for twenty years, haven't you /
have you?
- 5 But you're emigrating to Australia next week,
won't you / aren't you?

- 6 You can't take your dog with you, **can't you / can you?**
- 7 Your brother will look after your dog, **will he / won't he?**
- 8 Australia's a long way away, **doesn't it / isn't it?**
- 9 Your brother's been in prison before, **isn't he / hasn't he?**
- 10 I think you'd like to call your lawyer now, **don't you / wouldn't you?**

b Complete the tag questions.

- 1 You don't like him much, do you?
- 2 You're 26 years old, _____?
- 3 It's really easy, _____?
- 4 He speaks Spanish, _____?
- 5 They left yesterday, _____?
- 6 She hasn't finished the test yet, _____?
- 7 He's having lunch with her tomorrow, _____?
- 8 You'll find out about the movie, _____?

4 GRAMMAR indirect questions

a Correct the highlighted phrases.

1 Can you remember where did we leave it?

where we left it

2 I wonder why did she go back to the hotel early?

3 Do you know where is the nearest bank?

4 Could you tell me how much does it cost, please?

5 Do you think she knows what does she want to do?

6 Can you tell me have we arrived yet?

b Order the words to make indirect questions.

1 you / were / Can / last night / you / where /
at 8:00 p.m. / remember

Can you remember where you were at 8:00 p.m.
last night _____?

2 has / you / ever / Do / been / know / she /
to Vietnam / if

_____?
_____?

3 if / Can / this train / tell / goes / to Quebec / you / me

_____?

4 me / Could / starts / tell / what / the / show / you / time

_____?
_____?

5 who / you / to / this / pen / Do / belongs / know

_____?
_____?

6 tell / you / Could / me / long / he's / how / there / lived

_____?
_____?

5 VOCABULARY compound nouns

Write two words from the list next to each noun to make compound nouns.

boarding credit golf police train
strawberry training traffic

1 police station

2 _____ card

3 _____ course

4 _____ jam
