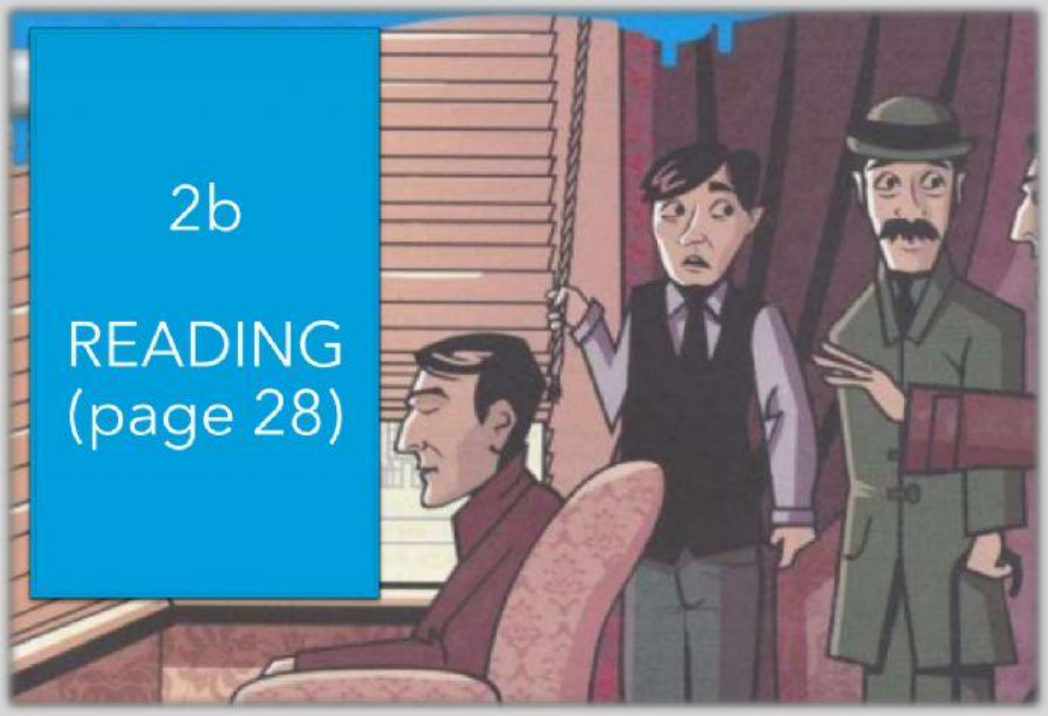
UNIT 2 – READY FOR ANYTHING

Reading & Listening 2b

LIVEWORKSHEETS



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Instructions : Read 'The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone'.

The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone

by Arthur Conan Doyle

Chapter 1

It was pleasant for Watson to find himself once more in the untidy room of the first floor in Baker Street which had been the starting point of so many remarkable adventures. He looked around him at the scientific charts, the bench of chemicals and the violin-case leaning in the corner. Finally, his eyes met the smiling face of Billy, the great detective's young servant.

'Hello Billy. I was visiting a friend nearby when I decided to come and see Holmes. Is he in?'

Billy glanced at the closed door of the bedroom. 'I think he's in bed and asleep,' he said.

It was seven in the evening of a lovely summer's day, but Watson was sufficiently familiar with the irregularity of his old friend's hours to feel no surprise at the idea.

'That means a case, I suppose?'

'Yes, sir. He spent the day following someone. Yesterday, he went out dressed as a workman looking for a job. Today, he was an old woman.'

Watson frowned. 'But what is it all about, Billy?'

Billy lowered his voice. 'I don't mind telling you, sir, but keep it to yourself. It's this case of the Crown diamond.'

'You mean the hundred-thousand pound burglary?'

'Yes, sir. They must get it back, sir. We had the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary both sitting on that sofa over there. Mr Holmes was very nice to them. He soon put them at their ease and promised he would do all he could.'

While Billy was talking, Watson turned to look at the window. 'I say, Billy, what is that curtain for across the window?'

'Mr Holmes put it up there three days ago. We've got something funny behind it.'

As soon as Billy pulled back the curtain, Watson gasped in amazement. Between the window and the curtain was a wax figure of Sherlock Holmes sitting in a chair. The face was turned towards the window and downward, as if reading a book.

'We put it at different angles so that it may seem more lifelike,' Billy explained as he was rearranging the head. 'I wouldn't dare touch it if the blinds were not shut. You see, there are people who watch us from over there. Have a look for yourself,' said Billy as he opened the blinds.

Suddenly, Holmes emerged from his bedroom and shut them. 'That will do, Billy!' he said. 'You were in danger of your life, boy. It's good to see you again, Watson, you've come at a critical moment.'

'So I gather,' said Watson.

'I'm expecting something this evening,' said Holmes.

'Expecting what?'

Holmes paused for a moment. 'To be murdered, Watson,' he said.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Now, answer the questions below. Choose a,b or c.

1. What did the first floor room in Baker Street remind Watson of?
   - **a.** How untidy Holmes was.
   - **b.** The many adventures he had been on with Holmes.
   - **c.** Some equipment that they had used in a case.
2. What was Watson's reaction to Holmes being asleep?
   - **a.** He was surprised because it was early in the evening.
   - **b.** He was used to Holmes sleeping at strange times in the day.
   - **c.** He wanted to wake him up and discuss the case.
3. What did Holmes promise the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary?
   - **a.** That he would find a hundred thousand pounds.
   - **b.** That he would not tell anyone about the case.
   - **c.** That he would find the stolen diamond.
4. Why does Billy open the blinds?
   - **a.** To allow Watson to see the wax figure better.
   - **b.** To show Watson something.
   - **c.** To let some people see the wax figure of Holmes.
5. What does Holmes believe?
   - **a.** That the blinds should be shut at all times.
   - **b.** That Billy will be murdered.
   - **c.** That the wax figure will be attacked.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Activity D :
Look at the highlighted words in the text and try to guess what they mean. Then match them with the meanings 1-8 below.

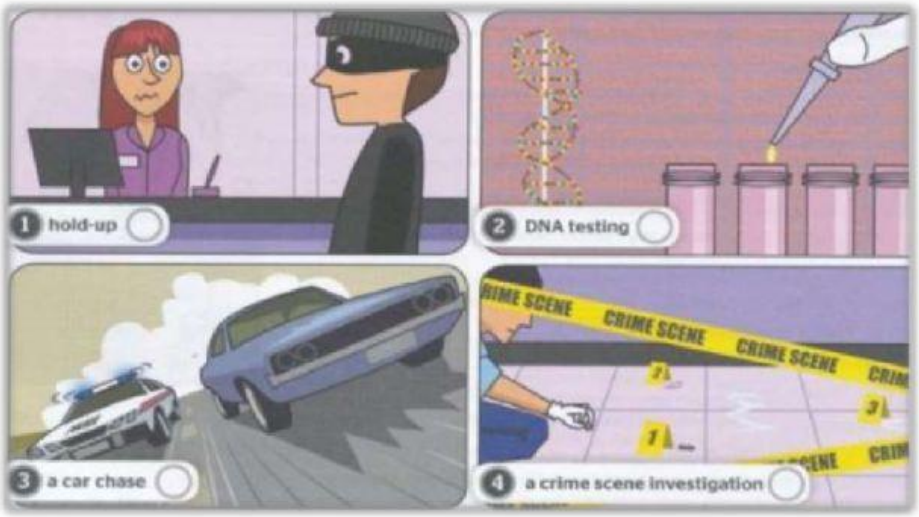
1. looking exactly like a real person or thing: _____
2. serious, very important: _____
3. kill someone on purpose: _____
4. incredible, extraordinary: _____
5. something investigated by the police: _____
6. look quickly: _____
7. make a short stop before continuing: _____
8. take a quick, deep breath, especially when surprised: _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

LISTENING

PAGE 30 & 31

LIVEWORKSHEETS



ACTIVITY B

Look at the pictures. Then listen to a TV news broadcast about a crime.

Choose :

✓ **For the correct picture.**

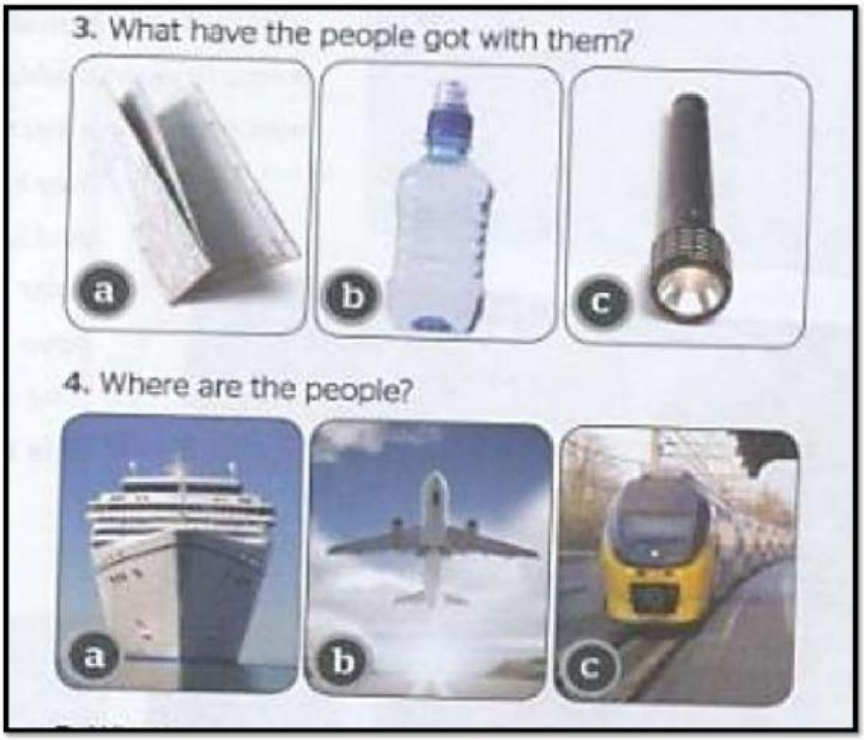
✗ **For the wrong picture.**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Listen (page 31)

You will hear people talking in five different situations. For questions 1-5, choose the picture which answers the questions correctly.

LIVEWORKSHEETS



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LIVEWORKSHEETS