

UNIT 2: SHORT STORY - THE RAILWAY CROSSING

ACTIVITY 1: Thwaite has made a check-list for his murder plan and his alibi. "Put the list in the right order, and then say what went wrong with his plan.

Put body on railway line for freight train to run over.
Shout "Goodnight" and close front door loudly.
Move hands of watch and clock forward by ten minutes.
Walk home, go into the house through the study door.
Walk to the railway station with Dunn.
Put sleeping powder in whisky bottle.
Call Jane, ask for coffee, make sure she sees clock.
Put hands of clock and watch to the right time.
Hit Dunn on head with hammer.
Put hammer and torch in my coat pockets.

ACTIVITY 2: Complete this newspaper story about the "Railway crossing" murder with the linking words below. (Use each one once.)

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Did Dunstan Thwaite really murder John Dunn? _____ he told the police that he planned to kill Dunn, he said that he did not actually do it. This was Thwaite's story. He invited Dunn, _____ was blackmailing him, to his home, _____ gave him some whisky with a sleeping powder in it. He changed the time on his clock and his watch, _____ give himself an alibi, _____ his murder plan went wrong. He forgot to take his keys with him _____ he walked with Dunn to the railway crossing, _____ he went home, leaving Dunn to walk to the station alone. Dunn probably stopped to rest on the crossing _____ he was feeling sleepy, _____ was killed by the train _____ went through at 10.30. _____ Thwaite's story was true, was that murder or an accidental death?

The police did not believe Thwaite, _____ Dunn was killed at 10.30, and this was seven minutes _____ the servant opened the front door to let Thwaite back in. Now both men are dead, _____ we will never know _____ really happened.

ACTIVITY 3: What do you think about this murder story? Do you agree or disagree with these ideas?

- A. Thwaite was a murderer. He left Dunn near the railway crossing when he knew that he was feeling ill and sleepy.
- B. Thwaite planned to murder Dunn, so it was right for him to get the death punishment.