

Watch the first 40 min of the film

### 1 Comprehension

Are the following sentences true (T) or false (F)? Can you correct the false ones?

- 1 \_\_\_ It is summer.  
.....
- 2 \_\_\_ The Taurus Express is delayed because of snow.  
.....
- 3 \_\_\_ Colonel Arbuthnot is upset that the Taurus Express is delayed as he does not want to miss the Orient Express.  
.....
- 4 \_\_\_ Monsieur Poirot is not booked onto the Istanbul–Calais Simplon Orient Express.  
.....
- 5 \_\_\_ The Istanbul–Calais train is full.  
.....
- 6 \_\_\_ The train is usually full at this time of year.  
.....
- 7 \_\_\_ Mr Harris gives Monsieur Poirot his compartment.  
.....
- 8 \_\_\_ There is a conductor on the train.  
.....

- 1 When Poirot reached the Tokatlian Hotel – \_\_\_\_\_ he was to stay for a few days – he received an unexpected message.
- 2 'The event \_\_\_\_\_ you predicted in the Kassner Case has suddenly happened.'
- 3 He had got up early, had breakfast alone, and spent the morning studying the case \_\_\_\_\_ was taking him back to London.
- 4 Opposite him there was a neat Englishman \_\_\_\_\_ looked as if he could be a valet.
- 5 He has moved into the carriage from Athens \_\_\_\_\_ has just been attached to the train.
- 6 She was listening to a large elderly woman \_\_\_\_\_ was talking without pausing or stopping.

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Mr Ratchett believes that he is going to be murdered.  
He asks Hercule Poirot to help him. Poirot says no.

*Ratchett: Mr Poirot, I want you to do a job for me. ...  
I want to make completely sure that I am safe.*

*Poirot: I cannot help you. ... Now I only take cases which  
interest me. ... I am sorry to be rude – but I do not like your  
face, Monsieur Ratchett.*

Imagine that Mr Ratchett then writes to the police to  
explain his worries. Complete this letter from Mr Ratchett  
to the police. Use the words from the box below.

To the Chief of Police,
My name is Mr Ratchett. I am from <sup>1</sup> _____
and I am travelling on the Istanbul-Calais Simplon
<sup>2</sup> _____ Express. I am travelling with my
<sup>3</sup> _____ Hector MacQueen and my
<sup>4</sup> _____. I am a very successful <sup>5</sup> _____
and I have a lot of money. I recently received a letter
in which someone <sup>6</sup> _____ to kill me. I have a
<sup>7</sup> _____ to protect myself, but I am very
worried. I demand that the police come to protect me. I
can pay a lot of money for this. Come immediately.
Yours sincerely
Mr Samuel Ratchett

secretary   threatened   gun   Orient America   businessman   valet
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## Part 2 (Chapters 5–8)

### 1 Comprehension

Answer the following questions:

1 Who has been murdered?

.....

2 What was Ratchett's real name?

.....

3 Why has the train stopped?

.....

4 Why can't Poirot sleep?

.....

5 Why did Mrs Hubbard call the conductor?

.....

6 How does Poirot know that the murderer did not go out of the window?

.....

7 How many times was the victim stabbed?

.....

8 What was strange about the blows?

.....