

- Description** Students read a transcript of a dialogue and guess the meaning of new words relating to murder mysteries
- Lesson link** Use this activity after exercise 2
- Time** 10 minutes
- Extra material** Print out and photocopy the *Who was Jack the Ripper?* worksheet for each student

Instructions

- a** Explain that SS will read a short dialogue where two people discuss the suspects for the crimes of Jack the Ripper from pp.104–105 of *New English File Intermediate Student's Book*. Before SS read the conversation, ask them to look again at the suspects for the Jack the Ripper crimes on p.105.
- b** Give each student a copy of the *Who was Jack the Ripper?* worksheet. Give SS five minutes to read the conversation alone. Then in pairs SS discuss possible definitions for the new vocabulary with their partner. Note that the task here is to explain the meaning of the new words so even if the words exist in the SS' own languages, they still need to write an English definition of each one.

Possible answers

guilty

a person is guilty when he / she is responsible for doing something wrong

alibi

this is a fact that shows someone was in a different place when a crime was committed

seems

appears; gives the impression of being or doing something

supposedly (adv)

according to what many people believe

fake

an object that seems to be real but is not

odd

unusual

get away with something

to do something bad and not be punished for it

strange

unusual or unexpected

Who was Jack the Ripper?

1 Read the conversation between two friends.

Martin So here we have three possible suspects for the crimes of Jack the Ripper: Prince Albert, the artist Walter Sickert, and the cotton merchant James Maybrick.

Clara That's right.

Martin These crimes happened over a hundred years ago, long before modern police methods. Surely there can't be much evidence available to find who the killer is.

Clara No, there isn't.

Martin So, what do we know? How can we find out if one of these men is **guilty**?

Clara Well, we do know that two of the men have an **alibi**. Prince Albert was in Scotland when one of the murders happened and it **seems** Walter Sickert was in France when some of the women were killed.

Martin I see. And what about James Maybrick?

Clara There is a diary which is **supposedly** his, where he says he is the killer.

Martin Do you think it's genuine, or is this diary a **fake**?

Clara I don't know.

Martin The case is really **odd**, isn't it? Will we ever know who did these murders?

Clara Who knows? The only thing we can be sure of is that whoever did the murders **got away with it**. He was never caught.

Martin Very, very **strange**.

2 Now work in pairs. Look at the words in bold in the text. Can you explain what they mean?