

Word on the Street

Murder Mystery Scene 1 – Language Focus

Exercises

Answers are at the end of this support pack.

Activity 1

Look at the pairs of sentences. Choose the correct verb so the second sentence has the same meaning as the first.

1. Anna's not answering her phone.
I'm sure she's busy. = Anna's not answering her phone. She ... be busy.
a) must
b) might/could
2. Should we feed the dog? Perhaps he's hungry. = Should we feed the dog? He ... be hungry.
a) must
b) might/could
3. Sorry, Mike isn't here. Maybe he's in room 2. = Sorry, Mike isn't here. He ... be in room 2.
a) must
b) might/could
4. The washing machine won't start. I'm sure it's broken. = The washing machine won't start. It ... be broken.
a) must
b) might/could

5. Those boys look very similar. Maybe they're brothers. = Those boys look very similar. They ... be brothers.
a) must
b) might/could
6. You see that lady over there? I'm sure that's our new teacher. = You see that lady over there? That ... be our new teacher.
a) must
b) might/could

Activity 2

Look at the pairs of sentences. Complete the second sentence so that it's about the past.

1. **Present:** Our neighbours are on holiday in India. It must be really hot there.
Past: Our neighbours went to India in May. It _____ really hot there.
2. **Future:** Don't leave those biscuits on the table. The dog might eat them.
Past: Where are the biscuits? I'm afraid the dog _____ them.
3. **Present:** The company sells about fifty cars a month. They must make a lot of money.
Past: The company sold fifty cars last month. They _____ a lot of money.

4. **Present:** Adam's an excellent musician. He must spend a lot of time practising.

Past: Adam won that music competition. He _____ a lot of time practising.

5. **Present:** What's wrong with Sabina? Do you think she might be angry with us?

Past: What was wrong with Sabina? Do you think she _____ angry with us?

6. **Present:** Karen's not feeling very well. She might be coming down with flu.

Past: Karen's wasn't at work today. She _____ down with flu.

Activity 3

Complete the sentences about the murder mystery with the correct forms, present or past. Use the words in brackets ().

1. This _____ (must, be) a clue.
2. The murderer _____ (must, poison) the tea.
3. He _____ (might, shoot) the victim.
4. The poison _____ (could, be) in that gun.
5. This is wet. It _____ (could, be) tea.
6. The body is still warm. The murderer _____ (might, be) close. He _____ just _____ (could, leave).
7. We _____ (could, look) for a tea drinker.

Answers

Activity 1

1. a) must
2. b) might/could
3. b) might/could
4. a) must
5. b) might/could
6. a) must

Activity 2

1. Present: Our neighbours are on holiday in India. It must be really hot there.
Past: Our neighbours went to India in May. It must have been really hot there.
2. Future: Don't leave those biscuits on the table. The dog might eat them.
Past: Where are the biscuits? I'm afraid the dog might have eaten/could have eaten them.
3. Present: The company sells about fifty cars a month. They must make a lot of money.
Past: The company sold fifty cars last month. They must have made a lot of money.
4. Present: Adam's an excellent musician. He must spend a lot of time practising.
Past: Adam won that music competition. He must have spent a lot of time practising.
5. Present: What's wrong with Sabina? Do you think she might be angry with us?
Past: What was wrong with Sabina? Do you think she might have been/could have been angry with us?
6. Present: Karen's not feeling very well. She might be coming down with flu.
Past: Karen's wasn't at work today. She might have come/could have come down with flu.

Activity 3

1. This must be a clue.
2. The murderer must have poisoned the tea.
3. He might have shot the victim.

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/word-street/murder-mystery-scene-1-language-focus>

4. The poison could have been in that gun.
5. This is wet. It could be tea.
6. The body is still warm. The murderer might be close. He could have just left.
7. We could be looking for a tea drinker.

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