



## “ INVESTIGATION....”

### BUILD UP YOUR VOCABULARY

#### 1. The odd one out.

Which word does not belong to the list?

1. Investigation, search, inquiry, criminal
2. Criminal, suspect, offender, felon
3. Police officer, detective, con man, private-eye
4. Assume, conclude, resolve, settle
5. Proof, evidence, clue, testimony
6. Foot prints, fine print, finger prints, trace
7. Sample, specimen, example, evidence
8. Murderer, assassin, judge, killer
9. Judge, attorney, solicitor, swindler
10. Wound, bullet hole, scar, bruise.
11. Convict, accuse, sentence, condemn
12. Interrogation, solution, cross-examination, questioning
13. Confess, deny, admit, acknowledge
14. Enigma, puzzle, mystery, clue
15. Informer, snitch, liar, grass

#### 2. What do you mean when you say that...

Use a dictionary if you get stuck.

1. a detective's job is to collect evidence?
  - It is to find evidence.
  - It is to keep all the evidence he finds and build up a collection.
  - It is to find proof of someone's guilt.
  - It is to take away the evidence and dispose of it.
2. you carry out an investigation?
  - You take it outside.
  - You conduct an investigation.
  - You carry all the files with you wherever you go.
  - You succeed in finding who the culprit is.
3. you have read a whodunit?
  - You didn't understand a word of what you read.
  - You read an article in a newspaper about a heinous crime.
  - You read a mystery book or detective story.
  - You still do not know who did what.
4. a person tries to cover his/her tracks?
  - He/she is feeling cold when jogging.
  - He/she tries to hide what could incriminate him/her.



- He/she manages so that no one can find him/her again.
  - He/she repairs the damage that his/her vehicle may have caused to a dirt road.
5. the suspect finally spilled the beans?
- He/she was so clumsy he/she dropped the groceries.
  - He/she grows beans in his her garden.
  - He/she awkwardly knocked down his/her plate of beans.
  - He/she finally told the truth, the whole truth.
6. someone blew the whistle?
- He/she plays the role of railway station master.
  - He/she whistled through his/her fingers to protest the referee's decision.
  - He/she revealed what should have been kept secret.
  - He whistled as a beautiful girl walked by.
7. someone tipped the police?
- Someone bribed the police.
  - Someone gave the police money to forget a specific investigation.
  - Someone anonymously informed the police of a specific and crucial fact.
  - Someone thanked the police for service rendered.
8. someone was ordered to take out someone else?
- The person was asked to help another person to take a walk.
  - The person received orders to kill someone else.
  - The person was sent to a take-out for some food for someone else.
  - A professional killer was asked to execute someone else.
9. that the police have finally found a lead?
- They haven't found the lost police dog yet, but they have found its lead.
  - They have found a heavy piece of metal.
  - They have finally come across some crucial element to help with their investigation.
  - They have finally chosen a new police chief.

**BRUSH UP YOUR GRAMMAR** Check the following points:

[Passive voice](#)

[Present perfect](#)

[Nom composés](#)

[Adjectifs composés](#)

[Phrasal verbs vs verbs + preposition](#)



## LISTENING COMPREHENSION



Ouvrez le fichier son mis à votre disposition et répondez aux questions suivantes :

### QUESTIONS

1. Who was Alfred Hitchcock?-----
2. What nationality was he?-----
3. How old was he when he died?-----
4. When and where did he start his career?-----  
-----
5. What kind of films made him famous?-----
6. Why?-----
7. What shows that he is still famous 30 years after his death?-----  
-----
8. What does the TV episode "*Bang, you're dead!*" deal with?-----  
-----
9. What can you say about the psychology of his characters?-----  
-----
10. What advice is given at the end of the talk show?-----  
-----

## READING COMPREHENSION

As soon as 1888- that is 4 years before the first Sherlock Holmes stories were published- there was Dick Donovan, the Glasgow detective who delighted millions of readers and rivaled Holmes in popularity!

Joyce Emerson Preston Muddock (a British writer born in 1842) created the character of Donovan as the sleuth of a long series of detective stories, and the first internationally popular Victorian police detective...

Who was Dick Donovan?

He was for a time even more popular than Sherlock himself.

He started his career as a policeman in Glasgow-where many stories are set - his origins are not quite clear (Irish? English?) but he could speak at least five languages.

He was a master of disguise to work undercover (as a cleric, or a plumber or a Moroccan).



He showed great ability for logical reasoning and deductions (just like Holmes...) but Dick Donovan decided quite early in the story who the culprit was and then proceeded to corroborate his judgment.

The Donovan's stories set the trends for later police procedurals including methods of forensic criminology- such as comparing hair fibers in a victim's fingernails with the hair of a suspect 's beard!

The stories included realistic procedurals but also elements of black magic or secret societies or real life crime stories.

The character of Dick Donovan may have influenced the term "Dick" applied to private detectives (cf. Dick Tracy) in America where Muddock's stories (*The Man Hunter* or *The Salt Market Murder Case*) were hugely popular in detective fiction.

Dick Donovan was actually the name of the detective but Muddock also used it as a pen name because he thought that it had greater "commercial cachet" than his real name.

Muddock felt that his Donovan series were inferior in literary merit to some of his more serious writings, very much like Conan Doyle felt Holmes could overshadow his other writings.

And just like Holmes, Donovan was thought to be real and received letters calling for help in murder cases!

Muddock wrote about 300 Donovan stories between 1888 and 1922. (In comparison, Conan Doyle wrote "only" 60 Sherlock Holmes' stories.) But unfortunately today his work is almost forgotten... Isn't it time he had a return to the spotlight?

**QUESTIONS**

1. When was the character of Dick Donovan created? And who created him?-----
2. What were his main assets as a sleuth?-----
3. Did it take him a long time to find a culprit?-----
4. Did Muddock refuse to include references to real crime stories in his fiction?-----
5. Where was Dick Donovan hugely popular at the time? -----



6. What influence could he have had on American detective novels?  
-----
7. Was the name Muddock a pen name? -----
8. Was Muddock that proud of his Donovan production? Why?-----  
-----
9. Could you name two of his most famous stories?-----  
-----
10. How many stories did he write with DD as the sleuth?-----  
-----

## CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

### 1. BUILD UP YOUR VOCABULARY

#### 1. The odd one out.

- |              |               |              |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. criminal  | 6. fine print | 11. accuse   |
| 2. suspect   | 7. evidence   | 12. solution |
| 3. con man   | 8. judge      | 13. deny     |
| 4. assume    | 9. swindler   | 14. clue     |
| 5. testimony | 10. scar      | 15. liar     |

#### 2. What do you mean when you say that...

1. a detective's job is to collect evidence?
  - It is to find evidence.
  - It is to find proof of someone's guilt.
2. you carry out an investigation?
  - You conduct an investigation.
3. you have read a whodunit?
  - You read a mystery book or detective story.
4. a person tries to cover his/her tracks?
  - He/she tries to hide what could incriminate him/her.
  - He/she manages so that no one can find him/her again.
5. the suspect finally spilled the beans?
  - He/she finally told the truth, the whole truth.
6. someone blew the whistle?
  - He/she revealed what should have been kept secret.
7. someone tipped the police?
  - Someone anonymously informed the police of a specific and crucial fact.
8. someone was ordered to take out someone else?
  - The person received orders to kill someone else.
  - A professional killer was asked to execute someone else.
9. that the police have finally found a lead?



- They have finally come across some crucial element to help with their investigation.

### 3. LISTENING COMPREHENSION

**A/ SCRIPT:** A short radio talk about Alfred Hitchcock, the master of suspense.

**Anchorman:** Sir Alfred Joseph Hitchcock was born in England on 13 August 1899 and died in America on 29 April 1980.

We have Suzy Joly with us today, and she is a specialist on Hitchcock.

What else can you tell our young audience about him, Suzy?

**Film critic:** He was an English filmmaker and producer, famous for pioneering many techniques in the suspense and psychological thriller genres.

**Anchorman:** When did he start making films?

**Film critic:** His career started in Great Britain when films were still silent. He later on moved to Hollywood, USA, and became an American citizen in 1956, but he retained his British citizenship.

For sixty years he directed more than fifty feature films. He was very popular and still is today. He is often considered as the greatest British filmmaker and his films are still shown on TV channels around the world every day.

**Anchorman:** How did he manage that?

**Film critic:** Well, he knew how to create narratives that were full of suspense by withholding key information from both his characters and the audience. He was also famous for appearing very briefly in many of his own films. It was his way of winking at the audience, I suppose.

**Anchorman:** Did anything else make him famous?

His 1960s TV series also contributed to make him famous with millions around the world. The most famous episode in these series is "*Bang, you're dead*" in which he tells the story of a very young boy fascinated by toy guns until one day he starts playing with a real one and real bullets thinking the thing is a toy and the ammunition is fake.

**Anchorman:** What can you tell us about his characters?

**Film critic:** Hitchcock paid a lot of attention to the psychology of his male characters: lots of them are depicted as struggling in their relationship with their mothers and fathers.

**Anchorman:** I bet Freud would have liked that!

**Film critic:** No doubt about that!

As for his female characters, they are almost always blond and sensuous women who can turn criminal when confronted with danger or fear. Some of them are outright psychotic and give you the creeps.



**Anchorman:** Well, thank you very much, Suzy. Now, if you want to know more about this Hollywood giant of what is called "the Seventh Art", I suggest you access the many web sites dealing with his work. Good bye for now.

#### **B/ ANSWERS**

1. A famous filmmaker and producer.
2. Both British and American.
3. 80.
4. In the UK when films were still silent.
5. Psychological thrillers mostly.
6. Because he knew how to create suspense both for his characters and the audience watching them.
7. His films are still being programmed on TV channels everywhere.
8. A young boy who plays with a real gun thinking it's a toy.
9. The males seem to have had a difficult relationship with their parents, mostly with their mothers; and the women are often represented as psychotic blonds.
10. To access the web for more information.

#### **4. READING COMPREHENSION**

##### **ANSWERS**

1. The character of Dick Donovan was created in 1888 by a British writer, J.E.P Muddock. (4 years before the first Sherlock Holmes stories were published).
2. He was a master of disguise and showed a great ability for logical reasoning.
3. No, it did not! He could tell the culprit very early in the story.
4. On the contrary, he could include real crime stories in his own fiction.
5. He was hugely popular in America.
6. He may have influenced the name "Dick" for private detectives in American detective fiction.
7. Muddock has used the name of his own detective as a pen-name.
8. Muddock thought that the Donovan series overshadowed his more serious writings.
9. *The Man Hunter* and *The Salt Market Murder Case*.
10. He wrote about 300 Donovan stories between 1888 and 1922.