



1. hearse [hɜːs]
2. police tape [pəˈliːs teɪp]
3. squad car ['skwɒd kɑː]
4. forensic photographer [fəˈrensɪk fəˈtɒɡrəfə]
5. fingerprint kit ['fɪŋɡəprɪnt ,kɪt]
6. evidence bag ['eɪdɪns bæɡ]
7. chalk silhouette ['tʃɔːk ,sɪluet]
8. bloodstains ['blʌdsteɪnz]
9. footprint ['fʊtprɪnt]
10. murder weapon ['mɜːdə ,wepən]
11. photo evidence markers [fəʊtəʊ 'eɪdɪns ,mɑːkəz]
12. pool of blood [ˌpuːl əv 'blʌd]
13. scene-of-crime officer (SOCO) [ˌsiːn əv 'kraɪm ,ɒfɪsə] UK, crime-scene investigator (CSI) ['kraɪm ,siːn ɪnˌvestɪɡeɪtə] N. Am.
14. protective clothing [prəˌtektɪv 'kləʊðɪŋ]
15. gloves [ɡlʌvz]
16. inspector [ɪnˈspektə]

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## VOCABULARY

# The scene of a crime

*Do you enjoy reading murder mysteries or watching whodunnits? ANNA HOCHSIEDER presents language to talk about investigating a crime scene.*

**MEDIUM PLUS**

### A rookie detective reports

The call came through at 2 a.m. When we arrived, the **uniforms** (N. Am.) had already **cordoned off the crime scene**. Even in the night, a small crowd of **onlookers** had gathered, trying to get a glimpse of the **body** lying in the car park.

“A young male, around 20. The **coroner’s** on his way,” said one of the **scene-of-crime officers** by way of greeting. Pulling on a pair of **gloves**, Inspector Forbes crouched down next to the body. “Well, no need for a **post-mortem** to **determine the cause of death**, I’d say,” she remarked, pointing to the **knife** lying next to the **victim**. “He’s obviously been **stabbed**.”

“We’ve had lots of **gang-related incidents** in the area lately, ma’am,” the **SOCO** said. “It’s a rough neighbourhood.”

Another officer was **bagging and tagging** various **pieces of evidence**. “Any **clue** to his **identity**?” the inspector asked. “None so far, ma’am. But I’ve managed to **tape-lift** some **hair samples** that are obviously not the **victim’s**. Oh, and we may have an **eyewitness**,” he added. “The neighbour who **called 999** says she saw a car speed away, and she wrote down the licence number.”

“Not bad,” said Inspector Forbes. “I wouldn’t mind an **open-and-shut case** for a change.”

## PRACTICE

Now try the following exercises to practise talking about the scene of a crime.



### Exercise 1

E

Who's who at the crime scene? Match the people on the left (A–F) to the definitions on the right (1–6).

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| A. A rookie detective is...              | 1. a person who has been attacked, injured or killed.                 |
| B. A uniform is...                       | 2. someone who examines the physical evidence at a crime scene.       |
| C. An inspector is...                    | 3. a detective who is new to the job and has little experience.       |
| D. A SOCO (scene-of-crime officer) is... | 4. a police officer who wears a uniform.                              |
| E. A coroner is...                       | 5. a senior police officer.   |
| F. A victim is...                        | 6. an official whose job is to discover the cause of someone's death. |

### Exercise 3

A

Complete the paragraph below, using the words from the list.

**body | coroner | cotton swab | footprints | gloves | hearse | murder weapon | photo evidence markers | sample | uniforms**

There were some bloody (A) ..... leading from the victim to the car park. The forensic photographer placed (B) ..... next to them before photographing them. I pulled on a pair of (C) ..... Using a (D) ....., I collected a (E) ..... of the blood, then bagged and tagged it. "The (F) ..... must have been something heavy, like a baseball bat," I said to the inspector. "Well, we'll see what the (G) ..... says," the inspector replied. One of the (H) ..... appeared. "The (I) ..... has just arrived to take away the (J) ..... sir," he told the inspector. "Fine. We're all done here," the inspector replied.

### Exercise 2

M

What's missing? Complete the following sentences with words from the opposite page.

- The videotape provides a valuable ..... to the time of the murder.
- The police have not yet revealed the ..... of the victim.
- A(n) ..... said he saw a group of youths waiting in a car.
- We won't know the exact cause of death until we've carried out a(n) .....
- At present, all the ..... points to Smith as the killer.
- Is that a(n) ..... on the victim's shirt, or is it just tomato sauce?

### Ma'am

In American English, the word **ma'am** [mæm] is sometimes used as a polite form of address for female customers in shops or restaurants. In Britain, it is more common to use "madam". In the present scene, **ma'am** is a respectful way of addressing a woman who is higher up in the hierarchy, especially in the police force or the military. You can also use **ma'am** to address the queen.

**bat** [bæt]  
• Schläger

**carry out** [ˌkæri ˈaʊt]  
• durchführen

**official** [əˈfɪʃl]  
• Amtsperson, Angestellte(r) des öffentlichen Dienstes

**point to sb.** [ˈpɔɪnt tə]  
• auf jmdn. hindeuten

**reveal** [riˈviːl]  
• enthüllen, verraten

**youth** [juːθ]  
• junger Mensch

### Answers

- |                                 |  |  |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| 1. A-3; B-4; C-5; D-2; E-6; F-1 | 2. A. clue<br>B. identity<br>C. eyewitness<br>D. post-mortem<br>E. evidence<br>F. bloodstain | 3. A. footprints<br>B. photo evidence markers<br>C. gloves<br>D. cotton swab<br>E. sample<br>F. murder weapon<br>G. coroner<br>H. uniforms<br>I. hearse<br>J. body |
|---------------------------------|--|--|

