

Alibi - Past simple and continuous



You will need: two Suspect role cards and two Police officer role cards per four students

- **Tell students there was a robbery at the school between 7.00 p.m. and midnight yesterday, and that all the money was stolen from the school safe. The police suspect the students from your class were responsible!**
- **Divide the class equally into police officers and suspects. (If there is an odd number of students, have more police officers than suspects.) Put the suspects into pairs. Give each pair Suspect role card A or B and send them out of the room to prepare their story.**
- **Put the police in pairs or groups and give them the corresponding Police officer role cards. Allow them time to prepare questions.**
- **When all the students are ready, bring the suspects back into the room. Separate them, and match them with a corresponding police officer. The police officers interview the suspects and make brief notes of the suspects' answers.**
- **When the interviews have finished, the police officers return to their original pairs/groups and compare notes to see if there are any discrepancies in the suspects' stories. The suspects return to their partners to discuss the answers they gave to the questions, and to see if they made any mistakes.**
- **The police officers report back to the whole class in turn and say if they think their suspects are guilty or innocent, giving reasons for their decision.**

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Suspects A

You and your friend went to a **restaurant** yesterday evening.

Before you are interviewed by the police, you must decide what happened yesterday evening. You will be interviewed separately, so you must have exactly the same story - or you will be arrested!

Remember, details are important.

Here are some things for you to decide:

- when and where you met
- what you did before the meal
- the name of the restaurant and where you sat
- why you chose that restaurant over other people in the restaurant
- your waiter/waitress
- what you both ate and drank
- the bill and how you paid
- what you did after the meal
- transport during the evening
- anything else about the evening - you never know what the police might ask you!



Police officer A

You are going to interview a suspect who you think committed last night's robbery. The suspect says that he/she went to a **restaurant** last night with a friend. With your partner(s), write down some questions to ask him/her. All police officers must write the questions, as you are going to interview the suspects separately, then compare your answers later. Remember - details are important in a police investigation! Make sure that you ask about **both** the suspects.

You can ask questions about the following:

- when and where the suspects met
- what they did before the meal
- the restaurant and where they sat
- why they chose that restaurant
- other people in the restaurant
- the waiter/waitress
- what they both ate and drank
- the bill and how they paid
- what they did after the meal
- transport during the evening
- any more questions that you can think of.



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Suspects B

You and your friend went to the **cinema** yesterday evening.

Before you are interviewed by the police, you must decide what happened yesterday evening. You will be interviewed separately, so you must have exactly the same story - or you will be arrested!

Remember, details are important.

Here are some things for you to decide:

- when and where you met
- what you did before the film
- which cinema you went to
- details of the film (actors, story, etc.)
- where you sat in the cinema
- other people in the cinema
- what you both ate and drank
- how much everything cost
- what you did after the film
- transport during the evening
- anything else about the evening-you never know what the police might ask you!



Police officer B

You are going to interview a suspect who you think committed last night's robbery. The suspect says that he/she went to the **cinema** last night with a friend.

With your partner(s), write down some questions to ask him/her. All police officers must write the questions, as you are going to interview the suspects separately, then compare your answers later. Remember - details are important in a police investigation! Make sure that you ask about **both** the suspects.

You can ask questions about the following:

- when and where the suspects met
- what they did before the film
- which cinema they went to
- details of the film (actors, story, etc.)
- where they sat in the cinema
- other people in the cinema
- what they both ate and drank
- how much everything cost
- what they did after the film
- transport during the evening
- any more questions you can think of.

