

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!

Video Series

Crime Fiction in the UK

Aim: to have students practise a combination of present tenses to describe characters in a story

Before watching:

1. Ask students if they know what Crime Fiction is and if they know some examples of books and/or authors in this genre. Then give them a few minutes to read the text and answer the questions.

Answers: 1. crime fiction and legal thrillers 2. He studied law and worked as a barrister. 3. a festival for crime fiction writers and readers

While watching:

2. Go over the information in the FYI box and make sure they understand the vocabulary. Play the video once. Ask if anyone has gotten all the items and the correct order and let them share their answers. If no one gets it right, tell them you'll play the video again later and will go back to check these answers. (Video will be played again in Activity 4).

Answers: 1 a photo of MR Hall as a barrister; 2 bookshelves; 3 a *Crimefest* poster; 4 *Crimefest* t-shirts; 5 a *Crimefest* bag; 6 *The Flight* book cover

3. Give students a minute or two to write their opinions. Ask for them to volunteer their answers, eliciting different or contrasting ones.
4. Ask students what details they can remember about *The Flight* book mentioned in the video (if any). Play the video a second time and give them a couple of minutes to complete the activity. Check answers as a class. (This is a good time to check answers of Activity 2 if they didn't get it right the first time.)

Answers: 1 is; 2 acts; 3 always is to find; 4 has, lives; 5 drives; 6 's dealing

5. Ask students to read the sentences and write if they are True or False according to the video. If necessary, play the video a third time. Try not to "overplay" the video since it may damage the purpose of the activity. If students struggle too much to understand or pick up the information they need, share a copy of the transcript with them so they can read the information as they listen.

Answers:

- 1 True
- 2 False – Any crime-fiction author can speak at *Crimefest*.
- 3 False – She has her office in the north of Bristol.
- 4 False – He sees writing books as freedom.
- 5 True

Let's Talk About It!

Ask students to read the information in the Strategy box and have them rephrase the information in their own words. Go over the example with them and ask them what tenses are being used to describe Jenny Cooper (present tenses).

Then have them read the instructions in the Let's Talk About It section. They can talk about any character they like from a book, film, play, or TV series, making sure they understand it must be a fictional character. Ask them to cover the points mentioned in the wordpool to make sure their description is complete. Have them share their descriptions with the class.

As a twist, have students describe the character without mentioning their name. Then give rest of the class a moment to see if they can guess what character is being mentioned.