

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!

Video Series

Crime Fiction in the UK

Before watching

1. Read the text and answer the questions.

MR Hall is a British writer who lives in Wales. He writes crime fiction and legal thrillers. He is also a screenwriter for television. Before becoming a full-time writer, he studied law and worked as a barrister. His clients' stories became the inspiration for the plots in his novels.

Crime fiction, like that written by MR Hall, is one of the most popular fiction genres in the UK. Writers and readers often meet at festivals like *Crimefest*, one of the biggest annual events. At *Crimefest* last year, MR Hall spoke about his popular thriller series featuring the character *Jenny Cooper*, who is a coroner.

She investigates the cause of people's deaths in and around Bristol. In his latest book *The Flight*, Hall tells the story of an Airbus aircraft that crashes. Some of the bodies are found in Jenny Cooper's area and she has to find out how the victims died.

If you think MR Hall has a great job and you would like to be a writer, *Crimefest* organizer Myles recommends you 'keep going and keep pushing'. And MR Hall says you have to 'learn the craft of storytelling'. So why not give it a try?



1. What types of books does MR Hall write? _____
2. What did he do before becoming a writer? _____
3. What is *Crimefest*? _____

While watching

2. Watch the video and number the items in the order they appear.

- _____ a photo of MR Hall as a barrister
- _____ a *Crimefest* bag
- _____ bookshelves
- _____ *Crimefest* t-shirts
- _____ a *Crimefest* poster
- _____ The *Flight* book cover

FOR YOUR INFORMATION (F.Y.I.)

- A *court* is the place where legal cases are decided.
- The person who makes the decisions is called a *judge*.
- A *barrister* is a lawyer in England or Wales who speaks in the higher law courts.
- A *prosecutor* is a lawyer who must prove to the court that someone is guilty of a crime.

3. Do you think MR Hall prefers being a writer to a barrister? Write your opinion below.

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4. Watch the video again and circle the correct alternatives.

1. The central character **is / is being** called *Jenny Cooper*.
2. She **is acting / acts** as an investigator and also a little like a judge.
3. Her mission **is always finding / always is to find** out the cause of death.
4. Jenny Cooper **is having / has** her office in Bristol but she **is living / lives** across the river in Wales.
5. Jenny **is driving / drives** every day over a big bridge between England and Wales.
6. She's **dealing / deals** with life and death.

5. Are the sentences True or False? Correct the false sentences.

1. MR Hall is interested in how justice is achieved.

2. Only famous authors can speak at the *Crimefest* convention.

3. Jenny Cooper works in the north of Wales.

4. MR Hall thinks writing for television means freedom.

5. In *The Flight*, the airplane is flown by computers.

Let's Talk About It!

- Choose a book, film, theatre play or TV series you have enjoyed. Prepare a description of one of the characters and explain why you like him or her.
- Summarize the main events of the plot and explain what happens at the end of the story.
- Use present tenses, the information in Strategy box, and the words in the wordpool to get you started.

STRATEGY

To make a character more interesting and realistic, include information about their life and work in your description. You can also talk about the conflicts they have with other people in the story.

Jenny Cooper lives in Wales and works as a coroner in Bristol. She often has arguments with the police because they don't like the way she works.

age appearance daily routine name personality where they live profession