



Level: B1, B2

Teaching point: Reading,  
Grammar – past simple  
passive

Theme: Crime, Mystery

Activity: Reading and  
taking notes

## THE BODY IN THE GYM

### PROCEDURE

1. Vocabulary warmer: elicit words for parts of the body around the head and shoulders. Include the following if possible: forehead, chin, shaved head, tattoo, neck, beard, lips, shoulders
2. Give out Worksheet 1 and ask students to read it. Check vocabulary as necessary. Elicit all the information they can deduce about the story from what they've read.
3. Give out Worksheet 2 (the text). Ask students to read it and complete the investigation notes on Worksheet 1. They should write notes, not complete sentences, as shown in the example.
4. Go through any comprehension difficulties which the students had with the text. (notice: the fact that the inspector is a woman is only revealed by the word *she* in the last line of the text. See if your students notice this)

### LISTENING VERSION

Alternative listening version of the activity: Follow the steps above, but instead of giving out Worksheet 2 (the text), play the audio version of the story.

### EXTENSION: THINKING ABOUT THE PASSIVE

Give out Worksheet 3 and ask students to fill the gaps. You could use the audio of the dialogue to check answers. Then elicit the reason why the passive was used in each case.

Key:

1. was he murdered. (We don't know who did the action)
2. was killed (We don't yet know who did the action)
3. was seen (The police probably know who saw the man, but the identity of the person is not relevant to the story)
4. was killed (We don't yet know who did the action)
5. was caught (We know that the security camera caught the robber, but the sentence is about the man, not the camera, so I is put first)
6. was hurt (We know that the weight hurt Coogan, but the sentence is about the Coogan, not the weight, so he is put first)
7. was killed (The identity of the person who did the action is in question)
8. was robbed (we don't know who did the action)



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## ANSWER KEY

### Investigation Notes

#### Details of murder

Time and place of murder	<i>midnight, Coogan's gym</i>
Description of man seen leaving	big shoulders dark hair beard
Murder weapon	sixty-kilo weight

#### Details of robbery

Time and place of robbery	midnight, pharmacy
Description of man on security camera	big shoulders shave head neck tattoo football shirt and black jeans
What was stolen?	medicines

#### Visitor to the inspector's office

Name	Maxwell
Reason for visit	to say he was the robber
False information given	said he stole money
Real reason for visit	to make police think he's robber. If he's the robber, then he <i>can't</i> be the murderer – perfect alibi
Who is the murderer?	Maxwell



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## AUDIO SCRIPT: THE BODY IN THE GYM: DIALOGUE

- I: How long ago was he murdered?  
W: The doctor says he was killed at about midnight. And a man was seen leaving the building at five past twelve. He had big shoulders, dark hair and a beard.
- I: Mr Coogan was a body-builder. Look at those muscles.  
W: His killer was strong too. Coogan was killed with a sixty-kilo weight.
- I: So, why did you rob the pharmacy, Mr Maxwell?  
M: I needed the money.
- I: I see. So why have you come to tell us?  
M: I was caught by the security camera. The video was shown on TV.. I knew the game was over.
- I: Hmm. You look like a body-builder. Do you go to Coogan's Gym?  
M: Emm, yes.
- I: Mr Coogan's in hospital. He was hurt by a falling weight. Did you know?  
M: That's a lie! I killed Coo...eh...
- W: How did you know Maxwell was the murderer?  
I: It's simple. Coogan was killed at exactly the same time as the pharmacy was robbed. Maxwell *wanted* us to think he was the robber. Why?
- W: Ah! Because if he's the robber, he can't be the murderer!  
I: Exactly!

## THE BODY IN THE GYM

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You are going to read a murder mystery with these four characters:

**Detective:** the inspector (never named in the story)

**Assistant:** Sergeant Watson

**Victim:** Coogan, a body-builder, and the owner of the gym

**Suspect:** Maxwell

Look at the investigation notes below. What do you already know about the story?

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### Investigation Notes

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#### Details of murder

Time and place of murder	
Description of man seen leaving	
Murder weapon	

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#### Details of robbery

Time and place of robbery	
Description of man on security camera	
What was stolen?	

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#### Visitor to the inspector's office

Name	
Reason for visit	
False information given	
Real reason for visit	

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**Who is the murderer?**

Now read the story and complete the notes.

## THE BODY IN THE GYM

The police inspector and Sergeant Watson looked at the body on the floor of Coogan's Gym. The blood was dry. 'How long ago was he murdered?', asked the inspector. 'The doctor says he was killed at about midnight', replied Watson. 'And a man was seen leaving the building at five past twelve. He had big shoulders, dark hair, and a beard. 'Mr Coogan was a body-builder', said the inspector, 'Look at those muscles.' 'His killer was strong too', said Watson, 'Coogan was killed with a sixty-kilo weight!'

That evening, the inspector was watching TV. There was news about a robbery at a 24-hour pharmacy, and a video from the shop's security camera was shown. The robber was a big man wearing a red football shirt and black jeans. His head was shaved and there was a tattoo round his neck. The time was shown in the video. It was midnight, 'Exactly the same time as the Coogan murder', thought the inspector.

The next day at work, Sergeant Watson came into the inspector's office. 'Inspector, there's a man here', said Watson, 'He says he did the pharmacy robbery. His name's Maxwell'. 'Send him in', said the inspector. Maxwell looked like the man in the video. He had enormous shoulders and a tattoo round his neck. He had new black jeans and a red football shirt. The price label was still on the shirt. 'He's bought that shirt today', thought the inspector. 'He wants to look like the man in the video, but why?'

'Why did you rob the pharmacy, Mr Maxwell?' asked the inspector. 'I needed the money', replied Maxwell. The inspector remembered the details of the robbery. A lot of medicines were stolen, but no money was taken. 'I see', said the inspector. 'So why have you come to tell us?' Mr Maxwell looked uncomfortable. He was sweating. 'I was caught by the security camera', he said, 'The video was shown on TV. I knew the game was over'. 'He's lying', thought the inspector, 'but why?'

The inspector looked at Maxwell's head. The skin was very white where it was shaved. There was a little blood coming from a shaving cut on his chin. There were a few pieces of dark hair on his shoulders. Then the inspector noticed Maxwell's neck. He was sweating a lot and the tattoo was coming off. 'That's not a real tattoo', thought the inspector, 'It was drawn with a pen'.



'You look like a body-builder', said the inspector, 'Do you go to Coogan's Gym?' 'Ehm ... yes', replied Maxwell. 'Mr Coogan's in hospital', said the inspector, 'He was hurt by a falling weight. Did you know?' 'That's a lie!', Maxwell shouted, 'I killed Coo ...' He didn't finish his sentence.

'How did you know Maxwell was the murderer?', Sergeant Watson asked, later that day. 'It's simple', said the inspector. 'Coogan was killed at exactly the same time as the pharmacy was robbed. Maxwell wanted us to think he was the robber. Why?' 'Ah!', said Watson, 'Because if he's the robber, he can't be the murderer!' 'Exactly!', said the inspector, and she smiled.

THE BODY IN THE GYM

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## DIALOGUE

1. Complete the dialogues with the past passive form of these verbs.

catch hurt kill x 3 murder rob see

I: How long ago <sup>1</sup>**was** he **murdered**?

W: The doctor says he <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ at about midnight. And a man <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ leaving the building at five past twelve. He had big shoulders, dark hair and a beard.

I: Mr Coogan was a body-builder. Look at those muscles.

W: His killer was strong too. Coogan <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ with a sixty-kilo weight.

I: So, why did you rob the pharmacy, Mr Maxwell?

M: I needed the money.

I: I see. So why have you come to tell us?

M: I <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ by the security camera. The video was shown on TV.. I knew the game was over.

I: Hmm. You look like a body-builder. Do you go to Coogan's Gym?

M: Emm, yes.

I: Mr Coogan's in hospital. He <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ by a falling weight. Did you know?

M: That's a lie! I killed Coo...eh...

W: How did you know Maxwell was the murderer?

I: It's simple. Coogan <sup>7</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ at exactly the same time as the pharmacy <sup>8</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ Maxwell wanted us to think he was the robber. Why?

W: Ah! Because if he's the robber, he can't be the murderer!

I: Exactly!

2. Listen and check your answers.

3. Look at 1-7 in the dialogue. Explain why the passive is used. Clue – think about this question: Who, or what, did the action? Do we know? Is it important?