

What's your alibi?



Last night a very expensive computer was stolen from a shop in your town. It happened between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Somebody saw two people outside the shop.

Two suspects are now at the police station. The police want to find out if they stole the computer or if they have a good alibi.

1. Play in groups of six to eight students.
2. Cut out the role cards. Two students in each group are suspects, the others are police officers.
3. Move the tables in the classroom so you have two separate interrogation tables for each group.
4. The suspects prepare for the interrogation in pairs, outside the classroom. They have to think of a good alibi together. The police officers prepare questions to ask the suspects (10 min.).
5. The suspects come back into the classroom and the pairs sit down at two separate interrogation tables. The police officers also split up so that there are two or three police officers at each interrogation table.
6. The police officers interrogate their suspect (10 min.).
7. Now swap suspects: Each suspect goes to the other interrogation table and answers the other police officers' questions (10 min.).
8. After that, the police officers come together and discuss if the suspects have a good alibi or if there were any differences in their stories.
9. The police officers decide if they think the suspects are guilty or not.



Useful phrases

We were sitting in a restaurant / going for a walk / watching a film at the cinema / visiting some friends / ... | ... from 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. / ... between 6.30 p.m. and 9.15 p.m. | While we were eating / talking / taking photos / dancing / ... | We were with another friend / our parents / my granny / my dog / ... | After that / Then / Later, we ... | A bus driver / A man in a red T-shirt / A group of French tourists / ... saw us.

alibi ['ælibaɪ] Alibi ○ sth. was stolen [wɒs 'stəʊləŋ] etw. wurde gestohlen ○ suspect ['sʌspekt] Verdächtiger / Verdächtige ○ interrogation [ˌɪnˌtɛrə'geɪʃn] Befragung, Verhör ○ to split up [splɪt 'ʌp] sich aufteilen ○ to interrogate [ɪn'tɛrəgeɪt] befragen, verhören ○ guilty ['ɡɪltɪ] schuldig

Suspect	Police officer
<p>The police will ask you what you were doing between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. last night.</p> <p><i>With your partner (the other suspect), prepare a strong alibi for the interrogation. How can you convince the police that you didn't steal the computer? What were you both doing? When? And where? Was somebody else with you? Who saw you?</i></p> <p><i>Remember to use the past progressive.</i></p> <p>Example: "Between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. last night we were sitting in a restaurant together. We were eating salad and pizza and we were talking about ..."</p> <p><i>The two of you must tell the police the same story. If there are differences, the police will think that you're lying and that you're guilty!</i></p>	<p><i>Prepare questions that will help you find out if the suspects' alibi is strong. If there are differences in the stories, the suspects are lying and are probably guilty.</i></p> <p><i>Remember to use the past progressive.</i></p> <p>Start like this: What were you doing between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. last night?</p> <p>Other questions:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Police officer	Police officer
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