

The Mystery of  
**THE MISSING  
PUNCTUATION**



# The Mystery of **THE MISSING PUNCTUATION**

written and designed by the Lit Publishing team

This murder mystery story engages students not only in the rules of punctuation, but encourages them to explore how punctuation can support and even change meaning.

**Basic Training Notes** support their understanding of punctuation while a series of **Missions** help students unravel the clues to the mystery—and unravel how punctuation works.

**Please note:**

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# The Mystery of

# THE MISSING PUNCTUATION

Full stops and sentences

## Chapter 1 Putting it all together

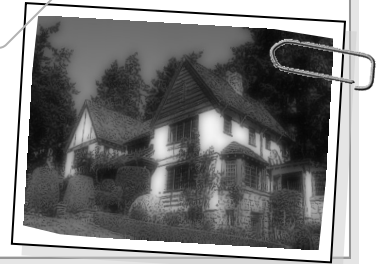
Grimlach House, Isle of Grim, 11.46am

At the foot of the stairs of Grimlach House lies a body. It is the body of the renowned Doctor Neil Grimes. A trickle of blood seeps from one corner of Dr Grimes' mouth. Dr Grimes is dead.

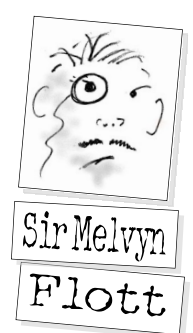
Less than one hour ago, nine invited guests arrived at Dr Grimes' country house on the remote Scottish Isle of Grim. He knew them all and all of them know him - but all his guests are mystified as to why they are all here together.

Dr Grimes greeted his nine guests as they stepped off the boat - the only way in which visitors can arrive at the Isle of Grim. The doctor showed them all to their bedrooms, asking them to come downstairs to speak with him in half an hour. But now he is lying at the foot of the stairs. And Dr Grimes will never speak again.

It was Mr Bligh who discovered the body. He called to the other guests. They came immediately - apart from Ms Gentle who arrived a couple of minutes later. It was another of the guests, Detective Inspector Tank, who found the nineteen shreds of paper Dr Grimes was clutching in his hand...



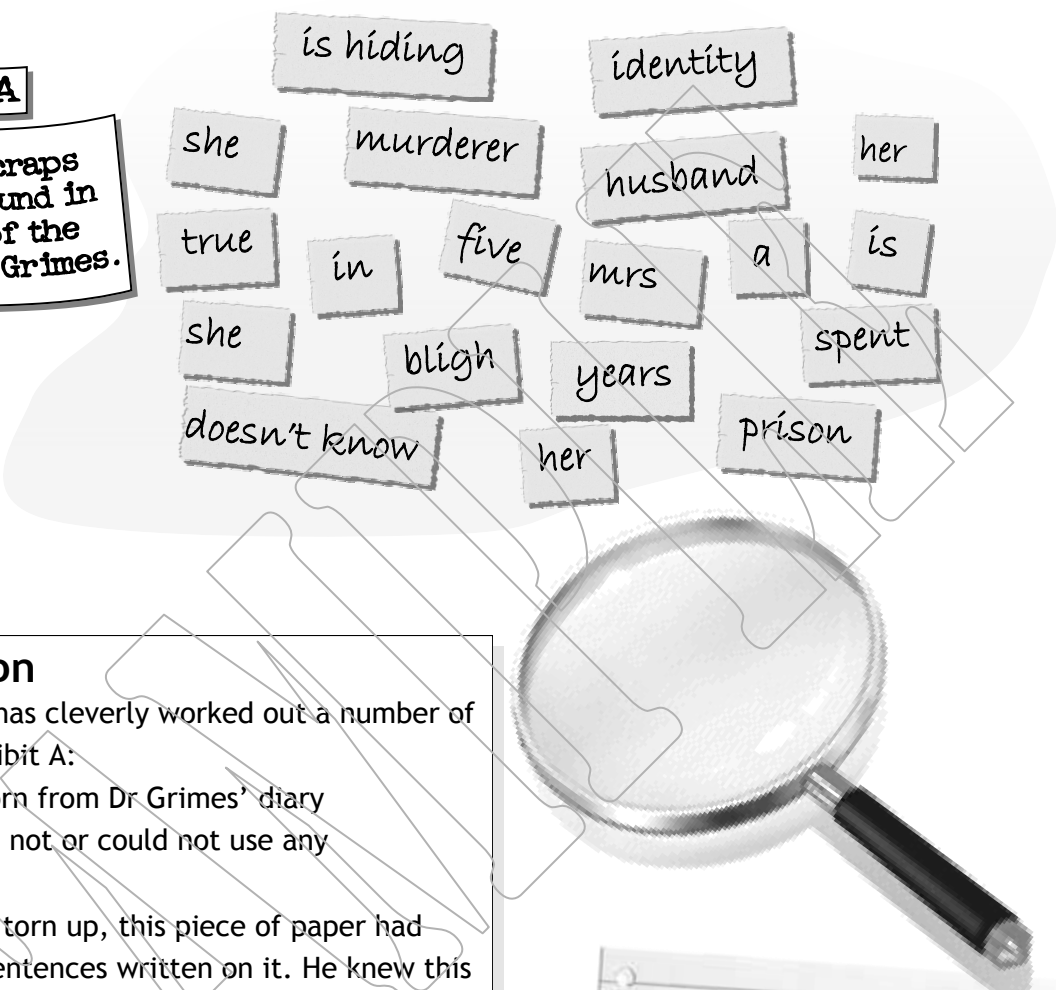
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# The Mystery of THE MISSING PUNCTUATION

## Exhibit A

Nineteen scraps of paper found in the hand of the deceased Dr Grimes.



### Your Mission

Inspector Tank has cleverly worked out a number of things from Exhibit A:

- It is a page torn from Dr Grimes' diary
- Dr Grimes did not or could not use any punctuation
- Before it was torn up, this piece of paper had four simple sentences written on it. He knew this because there are only four verbs and no connective words.

But Inspector Tank needs your help.

1. Put the sentences back together again. Remember to use full stops to show where each sentence ends—and capital letters at the end of each sentence and for people's names.

**Hint:** You'll need to add five capital letters and four full stops.

2. Compare your work with a partner's. Do you agree?
3. Dr Grimes is dead. Whodunnit?



**Basic Training Notes**

A **simple sentence** tells the reader just one piece of information. For example,

The dog barked.

The robber broke the window.

It has only one verb and no connective words like **and** or **but** or **because**.

# Exhibit A

## The Mystery of **THE MISSING PUNCTUATION**

Advanced

she	murderer	a	husband	identity
true	she	bligh	in	doesn't know
her	years	five	mrs	is hiding
	prison	spent	is	her