

A MURDER SCENE TO TEACH THE
PASSIVE VOICE:

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PRACTICE

Criminal`s blurred photo:

Detect the Criminal!



PROCEDURE

- ❖ Prepare the murder `materials` and scene (e.g. red-tainted knife, scarf, credit cards, alluding words on the board, overturned chairs, victim, letter,...etc.)
- ❖ Prepare a shadowed photo of the supposed `killer`. (preferably one of the students)
- ❖ Prepare some handouts.
- ❖ Let your class out until you finish preparing the `murder scene`.
- ❖ Goad your students to use as many adjectives as possible to describe the supposed killer.
- ❖ Guide your students in producing passive sentences about the murder scene (the form and use of passive should be already taught)
- ❖ E.g. The knife is tainted by the victim`s blood.
- ❖ Finally, let your students induce the rule of the passive voice.

The benefits of the `Murder Scene`



- ❖ Create a **motivating** learning atmosphere for your students.
- ❖ Practice **the use of adjectives** through describing the supposed `criminal`.
- ❖ Drill students on **the use of the passive voice** through writing sentences about an `unknown` doer (In this context, the subject is an unknown criminal).
- ❖ After writing sentences in the passive voice, the **general rule** (structure) of the passive sentence can be induced.

Limitations

- The murder scene may be `shocking` or `unpleasant` for some students.
- The preparation of the scene may take some time. Sometimes, when the tutor is rushing to cope with the given course calendar, the `murder scene` may look inconvenient.
- It is inappropriate to present the `murder scene` to students without teaching the passive voice in prior.

References

- ❑ For more teaching methods like this you can refer to:
- ❑ <http://dramaresource.com/>
- ❑ <http://www.dramatoolkit.co.uk/>

CONCLUSION

- ❖ The Murder Scene is a motivating teaching tool.
- ❖ It fosters T-S as well as S-S interaction.
- ❖ It represents a good method to teach the passive voice.
- ❖ It is an inductive and implicit way to teach the passive.
- ❖ It requires some preparation before the lesson.