

Teaching and Learning Objectives for writing at ESL level 3

A4A. Follow a highly structured, externally developed plan as a cloze exercise, a simplified form.

C4A. Construct a variety of statements, questions and imperatives using auxiliaries appropriately.

## The Double Bass Mystery

### Summary

The Barston Symphony Orchestra from London went to Barcelona to perform a concert. The smaller instruments traveled on the plane with the orchestra members, but the larger instruments traveled by truck on the road. It was less expensive.

When the orchestra arrived in Barcelona, Penny Wade found out that her double bass was missing. Penny's boyfriend Simon Hunt told Penny that she could use his double bass in the concert that night. She was happy to have a chance to play in the Barcelona concert.

The morning that they arrived in Barcelona Penny and her friend Adriana Fox went shopping. While Penny was waiting for Adriana to get ready to go, she sat in the lobby of the hotel and read the newspaper. She read an article about a famous painting that had been stolen from the Tate Gallery in London. The name of the painting was *The Gardener* by the painter Paul Cezanne. It was worth over 2 million dollars.

Penny, Adriana and other people from the orchestra spent the day enjoying the sights and sounds of Barcelona. Their concert didn't start until 10 pm. Penny played Simon's double bass. He sat in the front of the concert hall for the first half of the concert. For the second half of the concert, he moved to the back of the theater. Penny couldn't see him. In fact, she didn't see him again that night. She was tired and went to bed.

Later that evening, really it was early the next morning, Penny woke up to loud screaming. All the people from the orchestra came out of their rooms. They went downstairs and saw that Frank, their orchestra leader, had fallen out the hotel window. He was dead. Inspector Portillo, from the Barcelona police, told everyone to go back to bed, and he would talk to them in a few hours. Simon came to Penny's room that morning. When Penny asked him where he was the night before he was evasive and angry.

Inspector Portillo asked Penny a lot of questions. He asked her if she had a boyfriend in the orchestra. She said, "I think so, yes." Then Inspector Portillo

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asked if her boyfriend spent the night with her. Penny said no. Inspector Portillo asked all the people in the orchestra to stay in Barcelona until further notice. He was investigating Frank's death.

The second evening in Barcelona some of the orchestra members went out to dinner. Simon did not join them. He had "people to see". Penny and Adriana walked past a restaurant and heard an argument between two people from their orchestra. It was Candida Ashley-Morton and Marilyn Whittle. Marilyn asked Candida if she had pushed Frank out of the window. Candida said no! Marilyn continued with her accusations. She said that Candida pushed Frank out of the window because she was in love with him. Candida said no.

"He didn't love you! He loved me!" Marilyn screamed. Adriana stopped and told Marilyn to stop it. Marilyn continued to scream. Adriana slapped Marilyn hard across the face. Marilyn stopped for a moment then left the restaurant.

That night Simon and Penny spent the rest of the evening together. But that was the last time they were together.

The next morning Penny couldn't find Simon anywhere. Then Inspector Portillo came to talk to the Orchestra. He told them what he thought happened with Penny's double bass and Frank Shepherd. He focused first on what happened with the double bass. It was sent to Barcelona by truck. The drivers drove for 12 hours and were very tired. They stopped in Toulouse France for something to eat. While they were there, someone or some people opened the truck and took out Penny Wade's double bass. They didn't want the double bass or the case. They wanted a picture that was inside it. It was *The Gardener* by Cezanne.

The other important information that Inspector Portillo had was about Frank Shepherd. Just before he died, he made a phone call to the police in London. Then he went into another room. The window in that room was open. Frank fell from someone else's room, not his own. It was Simon's room.

Simon did not stay for the second part of the concert. He went to a bar. Frank was in that bar, too, at the same time. Frank saw and heard what Simon was doing. Simon was selling the Cezanne painting to a tall Frenchman. Frank went back to his hotel room and called the police. Then he went to talk to Simon. What did Frank want to talk to Simon about? Maybe we will never know.

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Penny went to visit Simon in jail, but he was angry and defiant. It was sad, but there was nothing Penny could do. She didn't love Simon anymore.

Penny heard a street musician and recognized the sound. She ran to the place where she heard the music, and she talked to the double bass player. He was really good, but he had her double bass. He reluctantly agreed that he bought the bass from a man on the street for a really cheap price. Penny gave him a little money, and took her double bass back. Just then Inspector Portillo came by and offered Penny and Adriana a ride back to their hotel. He wanted to ask Penny one more question.....