

Guess what?

Devinettes en anglais



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Introduction

La compréhension orale est, chez le locuteur natif, la première activité langagière. Le jeune enfant écoute avec attention ses parents pour comprendre leur message, et c'est ainsi qu'il enrichit petit à petit son vocabulaire et sa syntaxe. De même, en cours de langue, la compréhension orale reste au centre de l'apprentissage. Et l'écoute des élèves est d'autant plus attentive qu'elle a pour enjeu de trouver une réponse à une interrogation. Cet exercice reste cependant difficile, notamment en anglais où la prononciation ne facilite pas le repérage d'éléments connus. Il est donc souhaitable de proposer des entraînements aussi réguliers et systématiques que possible dans ce domaine, et ce, dès que les connaissances sont suffisantes. *Guess What?* cherche à encourager cette pratique en s'adressant à un public jeune, ayant acquis le niveau A2 du Cadre Européen Commun de Référence pour les Langues (CECRL) et en route vers le niveau B1.

Guess What? propose, sous forme d'une activité ludique, la devinette, des exercices de compréhension orale qui encouragent l'élève à se concentrer sur ce qui est dit pour trouver une réponse simple et précise. Les devinettes consistent en un dialogue, un récit ou un monologue et abordent des sujets variés : civilisation, littérature, cinéma, produits commerciaux ou personnages illustres issus du monde anglo-saxon (Royaume-Uni, États-Unis ou Commonwealth). Le but étant que les élèves devinent de qui ou de quoi il s'agit, les sujets ont été choisis pour leur intérêt mais aussi pour leur popularité auprès du plus grand nombre d'élèves⁽¹⁾. L'enseignant pourra choisir les devinettes en fonction des connaissances et des goûts de ses élèves, et éventuellement, proposer en fin d'année les enregistrements portant sur des sujets moins familiers si ceux-ci ont été abordés en cours d'année. Ces devinettes sont prévues pour être proposées comme une activité de fin d'heure, sur un rythme hebdomadaire. Les élèves devraient se prêter facilement au jeu et éprouver du plaisir dans ce rituel. Dans cet exercice de compréhension orale plus encore que dans d'autres, l'élève se rendra vite compte qu'il peut trouver *la* solution même s'il n'a pu comprendre chaque mot, ou même chaque phrase qu'il a entendus. Il doit se concentrer sur les éléments qu'il reconnaît (lexique adapté au niveau A2/B1, structures

(1) Cadre Européen de Référence pour les Langues, document C3 « Comprendre des textes factuels simples et directs sur des sujets relatifs à mes centres d'intérêt ».

simples) ou essayer de deviner (mots transparents, noms propres) pour trouver la réponse. Il se peut que certaines tournures ne soient pas connues, mais leur présence ne doit pas empêcher la compréhension - et c'est précisément en les entendant régulièrement que les élèves finiront par se familiariser avec ces tournures. L'intérêt de l'exercice réside précisément dans le fait qu'il n'y ait qu'une réponse à trouver, contrairement aux exercices traditionnels de compréhension orale, où l'élève doit repérer un grand nombre d'éléments, et où il peut facilement se sentir découragé par l'étendue de la tâche. La devinette est comme un jeu où chaque mot devient un indice permettant de trouver la solution. Pour cela, il doit faire preuve d'une attention soutenue lui permettant de mobiliser ses compétences linguistiques, pragmatiques et culturelles.

Tout enseignant d'une langue vivante a pu se rendre compte que les savoir-faire relatifs à la compréhension de l'oral sont les plus longs à acquérir, car repérer des éléments connus reste difficile lorsque ceux-ci se trouvent dans une longue chaîne de mots et que les élèves n'ont pas la possibilité de revenir en arrière ou de faire une pause réflexive. Pour les élèves débutants auxquels *Guess What?* s'adresse, les enregistrements sont donc écrits dans une langue simple, où la syntaxe reste proche de l'oral, avec des phrases courtes, des interjections, des répétitions et des reformulations. Dans les devinettes s'adressant aux élèves de niveau A2, les temps utilisés sont essentiellement le présent simple et le prétérit⁽²⁾. Les premiers enregistrements étant essentiellement des dialogues, les phrases interrogatives sont nombreuses, ce qui devrait également faciliter l'écoute. Dans les enregistrements de niveau B1, les structures sont plus complexes (propositions subordonnées relatives, complétives, infinitives)⁽³⁾ mais là encore, les élèves doivent apprendre à dépasser ces difficultés pour s'accrocher à la compréhension globale.

Dans la plupart des cas, le lexique utilisé correspond à ce qu'un élève du niveau donné devrait connaître, mais certains sujets nécessitent un vocabulaire plus particulier, c'est pourquoi une aide lexicale est proposée pour chaque devinette.

Tous les enregistrements vont du niveau A2 au niveau B1. Conformément aux descriptifs du CECRL, pour le niveau A2, le débit des locuteurs est lent et la diction est claire. Les mots importants sont mis en avant. Les locuteurs savent qu'ils s'adressent à des étrangers dont la pratique de la langue anglaise en est encore à ses débuts. Dans les supports B1, l'articulation est claire et l'accent courant.

(2) Programme de l'enseignement de l'Anglais palier 1 du collège, p. 8.

(3) Programme de l'enseignement de l'Anglais palier 2 du collège, BO n° 7 du 26 avril 2007, p. 51.

Pistes d'exploitation

Utilisation en classe

L'activité est prévue pour durer entre 5 et 10 minutes : les devinettes varient de 173 à 340 mots, et donnent normalement lieu à une seule écoute. Ceci permet d'encourager les élèves à une grande concentration tout en gardant un côté ludique et bref à l'exercice. Une deuxième écoute est envisageable si la majorité de la classe en ressent le besoin. Il est préférable de choisir une devinette qui n'ait pas de rapport avec le cours qui vient d'avoir lieu, car l'exercice risquerait alors d'être faussé. Le professeur peut par contre se servir de ces devinettes pour introduire un sujet qu'il souhaite aborder par la suite avec sa classe.

Pour que l'ensemble de la classe se prenne au jeu, il est important de rappeler aux élèves de ne pas donner la réponse à haute voix en cours d'écoute : certains seront forcément plus rapides que d'autres, mais tous devraient pouvoir trouver la réponse à la fin de l'enregistrement.

Si l'activité n'a pas été proposée régulièrement en cours d'année, il est également envisageable d'organiser, en fin d'année ou la veille des vacances, une heure de jeu : la classe est divisée en équipes et chacune son tour écoute un enregistrement. L'équipe gagnante est celle qui a trouvé le plus de réponses justes.

Avant l'écoute

Une aide lexicale est proposée avant chaque script : il s'agit d'une liste de mots utilisés dans l'enregistrement et que le professeur peut donner aux élèves avant l'écoute, en insistant sur la prononciation pour faciliter leur repérage. La liste reste limitée car les élèves doivent chercher à repérer les éléments connus avant tout. Ces mots mettent souvent les élèves sur la piste (vocabulaire maritime pour le *Titanic*, du cinéma pour Hollywood...), c'est pourquoi ceux d'entre eux qui seraient déjà au niveau B1 peuvent se passer de cette aide.

Après l'écoute

Le script n'est pas destiné à être donné par écrit aux élèves. L'activité reste ainsi un exercice de compréhension orale.

Une fois la réponse trouvée, le professeur peut demander aux élèves quels éléments les ont mis sur la piste. Ce travail permet aux élèves qui n'avaient pas trouvé la solution de se sentir impliqués - et d'enrichir leurs connaissances.

Si la réponse n'a pas été trouvée à l'issue de l'écoute, la mise en commun des informations permet un travail de classe intéressant: les trouvailles des uns font progresser l'enquête pour l'ensemble du groupe. Le simple fait de disposer de temps supplémentaire pour réfléchir peut alors suffire à trouver la solution.

Si la solution n'est toujours pas trouvée, le professeur peut noter au tableau les informations données par les élèves et les inviter à faire des recherches: Quel cinéaste a réalisé *Psycho*? Comment s'appelle cette princesse qui est morte dans un accident de voiture à Paris? Quel joueur de basket de la NBA a annoncé publiquement sa séropositivité? Ces recherches se font au CDI ou à la maison.

Au-delà de l'écoute

Si le collège est équipé d'une salle informatique, le professeur peut demander à un groupe d'élèves de réaliser sur feuille un portrait illustré du personnage ou de l'endroit qui vient d'être présenté. Les groupes tournent de manière à ce que tous les élèves aient réalisé un travail en cours d'année. Ce document sera ensuite affiché dans la classe: les élèves visualisent ainsi les sujets abordés et enrichissent leur culture générale sur le monde anglo-saxon.

Les devinettes portent sur des sujets qui pourraient donner lieu à une exploitation plus développée en classe. Dans ce cas-là, le professeur utilise les enregistrements comme document d'introduction au thème choisi (Irlande, sport, cinéma muet et parlant, légende arthurienne...). L'activité lui permet d'apprécier les connaissances des élèves avant de les approfondir en apportant des documents complémentaires (étude de tableaux, publicités, extraits de films ou de textes).

Utilisation autonome

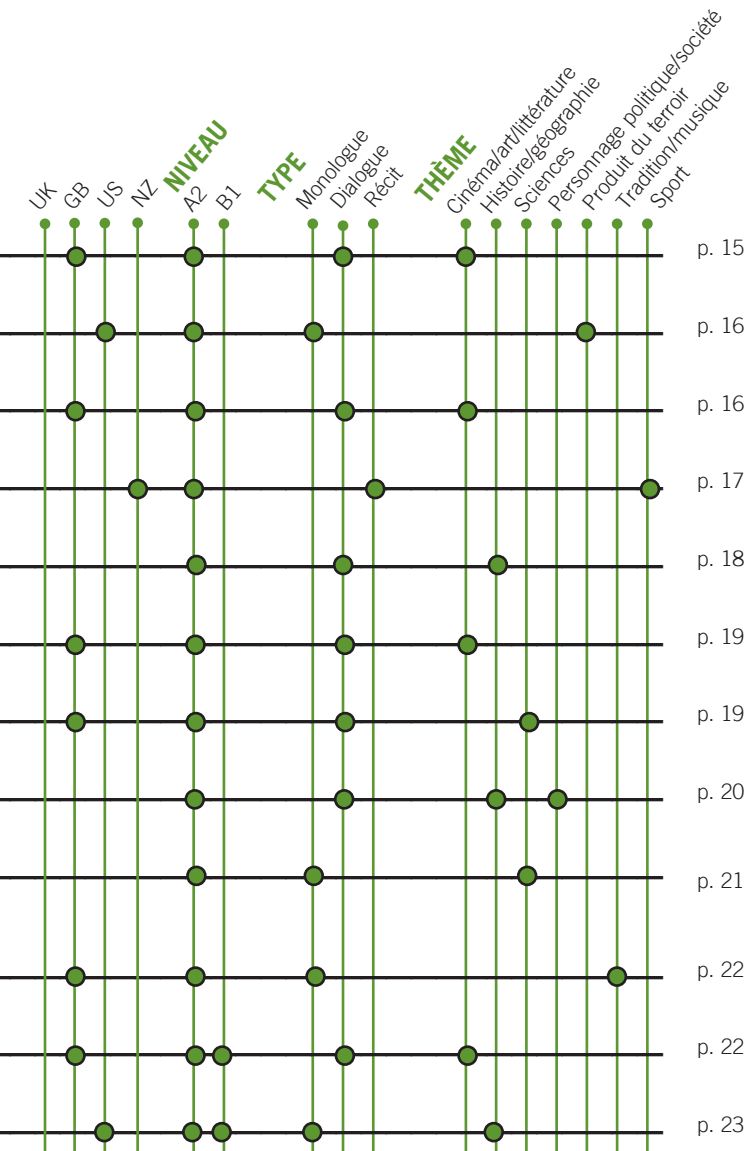
Les CD peuvent également être mis à la disposition des élèves à l'espace langues du CDI. Le professeur leur indique (*pair-work* ou *group work*) quelle piste écouter. Ceux-ci travaillent alors en autonomie, et font plusieurs écoutes: le professeur peut leur demander de prendre des notes sur les éléments qui semblent importants.

Contenu des devinettes

PISTES

COMPÉTENCES GRAMMATICALES

1	218	1'42"	{ vocabulaire: enquête, métier - grammaire: interrogatives, prés. simple d'habitude	}
2	177	1'38"	{ vocabulaire: boisson, médecine - grammaire: <i>every, each, must, can, could</i>	}
3	202	1'44"	{ vocabulaire: histoires, vie - grammaire: interrogatives	}
4	192	1'26"	{ vocabulaire: sport, corps - grammaire: modal <i>can</i> , questions	}
5	184	1'34"	{ vocabulaire: marine, mort - grammaire: superlatif	}
6	173	1'40"	{ vocabulaire: peur, solitude - grammaire: réponses courtes, cause	}
7	216	1'23"	{ vocabulaire: verbes irréguliers, corps - grammaire: prétérit	}
8	203	1'39"	{ vocabulaire: sentiments, film, habillage - grammaire: <i>too/very/so</i>	}
9	209	1'56"	{ vocabulaire: ville, nationalités - grammaire: relatifs	}
10	224	1'51"	{ vocabulaire: boissons, goût - grammaire: <i>to</i> (but et verbes à structures infinitives)	}
11	229	1'50"	{ vocabulaire: <i>food, animals</i> - grammaire: <i>as... as</i> , questions	}
12	229	1'54"	{ vocabulaire: bandits, prison - grammaire: chiffres	}

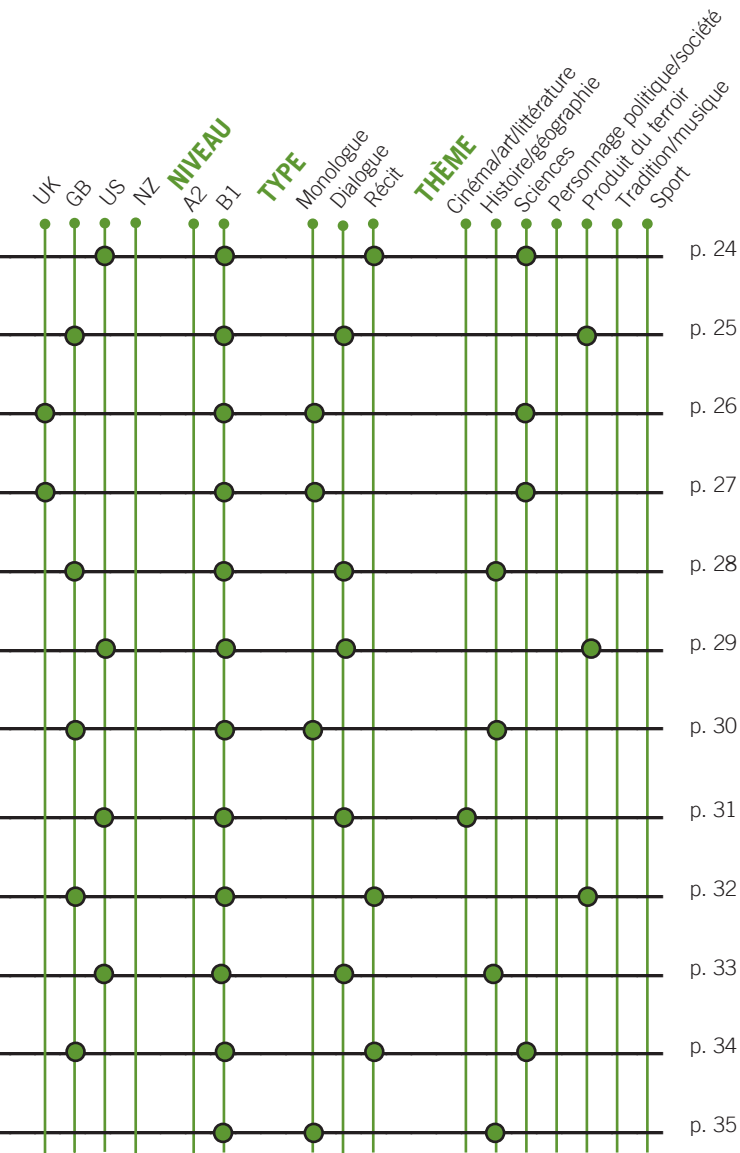


Contenu des devinettes

PISTES

COMPÉTENCES GRAMMATICALES

13	258	2'00"	vocabulaire: cinéma, paysages - grammaire: quantifieurs, <i>there was/were</i>	}
14	270	1'59"	vocabulaire: voiture, industrie - grammaire: superlatif	}
15	290	2'24"	vocabulaire: politique, géographie, chiffres - grammaire: quantifieurs, present perfect	}
16	285	2'01"	vocabulaire: politique, révolte - grammaire: récit au passé, la surprise	}
17	236	1'38"	vocabulaire: famille, royauté - grammaire: les exclamatives	}
18	303	2'21"	vocabulaire: commerce, habits - grammaire: comparatifs	}
19	305	2'24"	vocabulaire: chevalerie - grammaire: relatifs	}
20	318	2'23"	vocabulaire: cinéma, beauté - grammaire: <i>already/still/never</i>	}
21	337	2'32"	vocabulaire: le jeu, les pièces, l'enquête - grammaire: <i>may</i> et <i>must</i>	}
22	310	2'20"	vocabulaire: personnalité - grammaire: prétérit et present perfect	}
23	342	2'38"	vocabulaire: train, voyage, pays, durée - grammaire: passif	}
24	334	2'54"	vocabulaire: politique, géographie - grammaire: <i>used to</i>	}

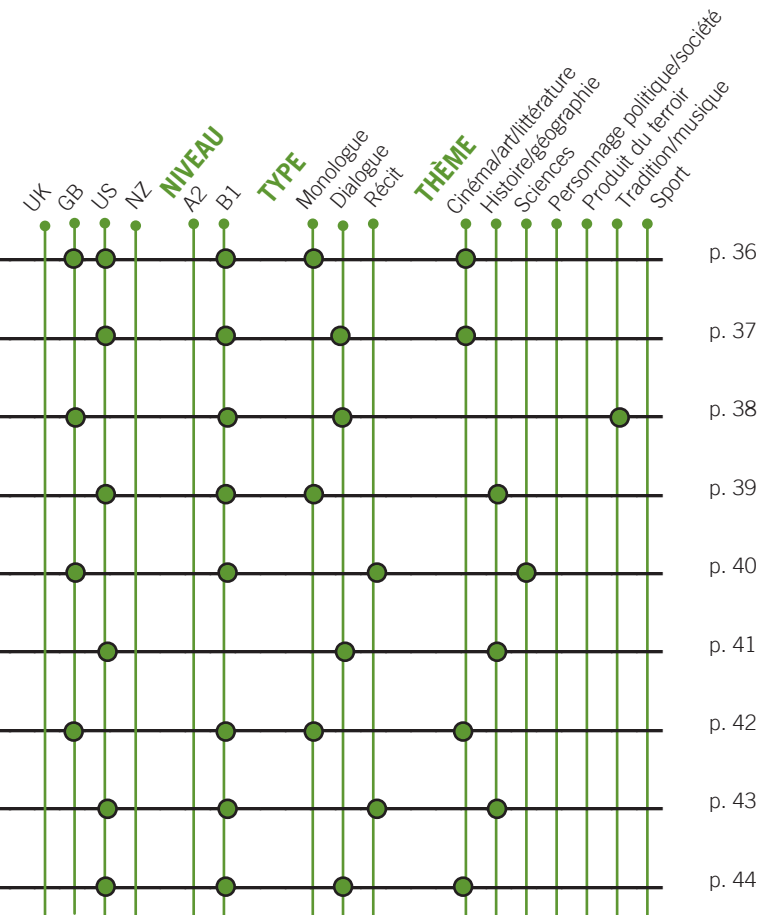


Contenu des devinettes

PISTES

COMPÉTENCES GRAMMATICALES

25	347	2'27"	{	vocabulaire: peur, crime - grammaire: impératif, structures infinitives	}
26	287	2'03"	{	vocabulaire: informatique, l'argent - grammaire: <i>be said to be</i>	}
27	318	2'35"	{	vocabulaire: musique - grammaire: impératif	}
28	334	2'49"	{	vocabulaire: métier et capacités, crimes - grammaire: <i>must</i> et <i>have to</i>	}
29	306	2'25"	{	vocabulaire: science - grammaire: passif	}
30	315	2'17"	{	vocabulaire: le sport, le SIDA - grammaire: <i>-ING</i> et <i>-ED</i>	}
31	366	3'07"	{	vocabulaire: le théâtre, l'illusion - grammaire: les structures infinitives	}
32	299	2'30"	{	vocabulaire: noms de pays, mariage, divertissement - grammaire: <i>but</i>	}
33	356	2'35"	{	vocabulaire: cinéma, rire - grammaire: passif, <i>want s.o. to do</i>	}



Les devinettes





01 Aide lexicale

skilled : doué. *to solve a case* : résoudre une affaire. *clues* : indices.
a fingerprint : une empreinte. *magnifying glass* : une loupe.

▶ Le script

X : Good morning, Madam.

Y : Good morning. It's so nice to meet you.

X : Me too. Now, why did you call me here?

Y : Because I wanted the best detective, and you're the most famous one in the world, aren't you?

X : Yeah, that's true. I am famous. It's because I'm really good and skilled at my job: I always solve the case I work on.

Y : I see. Well, I hope you'll help me solve the mystery of Charles Baskerville's death then.

X : No problem. I have good intuition.

Y : Do you work alone?

X : No, my friend, Doctor Watson, always helps me. He's my confidante, and also my biographer.

Y : I remember it now ! Your famous phrase! "Elementary, my dear Watson".

X : Poor Watson, he's not very quick! But he's nice and useful.

Y : Excuse me, but could you stop smoking your pipe? I hate the smell of tobacco.

X : Well, my pipe is like my coat and my hat. I need them all, they are part of my character. Without them, I'm not myself.

Y : Just tell me : what will you start with?

X : I usually look for clues like fingerprints and hairs. I use my magnifying glass. And then I think...

Y : Last question: do you live far from here?

X : Not at all. It's just around the corner, at 221B Baker Street.

Y : Okay. So you accept the job?

X : I do.



02 Aide lexicale

medicine : médicament. *to cure* : guérir. *disease* : maladie. *recipe* : recette.

▶ Le script

All children like drinking me, but parents sometimes think I contain too much sugar, so they prefer water.

But at the beginning of my life, in the 19th century, I was not considered a children's soda. I was a medicine made of coca leaves. You could buy me in a pharmacy! They said I could cure many diseases.

My inventor was called John Pemberton and he lived in Georgia, one of the United States of America. To begin with, I was not very successful: only nine people drank me each day!

But now, I'm the most famous drink in the world: millions of people drink me every day. And my success makes the company very rich. Many people try to copy me, but they can't. My recipe's a secret: only two men know my formula.

My bottle's also very special : when they designed it, they said everybody must be able to recognise it, "even in the dark".

They had the same success with my red logo.

So, how do you prefer me? Light, diet, zero or vanilla?



03 Aide lexicale

childhood : enfance. *a boarding school* : un pensionnat. *nasty* : méchant. *be illustrated* : être illustré.

▶ Le script

X : Let's play a game. I'm a famous person, and you ask me questions.
At the end, you must guess who I am.

Y : Okay. Are you a man or a woman?

X : I'm a man.

Y : What's your nationality?

X : I'm English. I was born in Cardiff, Wales.

Y : What was your childhood like?

X : It was quite hard, I went to very strict boarding schools.

- Y : Are you dead or alive?
 X : I'm dead, unfortunately. I died in 1990.
 Y : What is your job?
 X : I'm a writer.
 Y : What kind of books do you write?
 X : I write books for children and adults: novels and short stories.
 Y : What kind of stories are they?
 X : They are comical stories, with a lot of adventure and black humour. Usually, you have nasty, cruel adults and nice, innocent children. I also like to imagine very fat characters, like Augustus Gloop: he drinks from Willy Wonka's chocolate river and falls into it! That's very funny! Many of my children's stories are illustrated by Quentin Blake.
 Y : What are your most successful books?
 X : *Matilda*, *James and the Giant Peach*, and, of course, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Everybody knows that story now, because Tim Burton made a wonderful film out of it.
 Y : I know who you are!



04 Aide lexicale

team : équipe. *to score* : marquer (des points). *to make faces* : faire des grimaces. *jersey* : maillot

►| Le script

Who are we? We're a very famous team. Everybody knows us because we often win. We come from New Zealand, and in this country, our sport is very popular.

What do we play? Try and guess! In our game, the ball is oval and, unlike football players, we can hold it in our hands. We score by touching the ball down the opposing line: this is called a try. There are fifteen players in our team.

What are we famous for? Before a match, we all dance to impress the other team. This dance comes from the Maoris' traditions. We clap our arms and legs, and make faces. Everybody likes watching us when we do that. It is called the "haka".

What do we wear during a match? Our shorts and jerseys are black - this colour is present in the name of our team.

What project have we got? We are training very hard every day: we want to be ready for the next World Cup in 2011. When we lost in Paris in 2007, it was a tragedy for the whole country. But don't worry, this will never happen again!



05 Aide lexicale

the wreck : l'épave. *ship* : navire. *to sink - sank - sunk* : couler. *to drown* : se noyer. *in bad shape* : en mauvais état. *luxurious* : luxueux.

▶ Le script

X : Have you heard that? Some people are visiting the wreck of the ship.

Y : What ship are you talking about?

X : You know that ship – I can't remember her name –, they said she was unsinkable, but she struck an iceberg and the ship sank!

Y : Really? What happened to the passengers?

X : 1,500 people died, drowning in the sea.

Y : How horrible! Did everybody die?

X : No, about 700 people survived.

Y : Was the ship too old? Was she in bad shape?

X : Not at all, she was brand new! She sank during her first journey! Before the accident, everybody was so proud! The captain, the passengers! For them, this journey was so important! In 1912, she was the largest passenger steamship ever built. She used the best technology.

Y : I see. Everybody thought that an accident like that was impossible.

X : Exactly, the passengers only wanted to have fun and enjoy their journey: it was so luxurious on-board, with a swimming-pool, a gymnasium, libraries..., and even a Turkish bath!

Y : That's incredible! I think that this story could become a great film!

X : You're right! With Leonardo de Caprio in it, for example...

06 Aide lexicale

Be *hiding* : se cacher. *lonely/alone* : seul (expliquer la différence).
to frighten : effayer. *ugly* : laid. *scar* : cicatrice. *forehead* : front.
to fear : craindre.

▶| Le script

- X : I know you're hiding behind the door. Answer me: why are you crying?
- Y : I'm so sad. I have no friends and I feel lonely.
- X : You have no friends? Why?
- Y : It's because everybody's afraid of me. When they see me, they shout, they scream and they run away.
- X : I don't understand: what frightens them?
- Y : You can't see me, but try to imagine: my face is ugly and horrible. I have scars all over my body. My forehead's too big. I look like a monster. And I'm very tall and strong, so they fear me. Can you imagine me now?
- X : Yes, I can. Did you have an accident?
- Y : No, I didn't. I'm not a normal human being. A scientist created me, a doctor. He was so happy about his creation! But when I came to life, he rejected me because I was too horrible. Now, I'm all alone: I have no parents, no friends, no girlfriend.
- X : Come out, I'll be your friend. My name's Mary Shelley, I'll write a book about your story, I promise.

07 Aide lexicale

already : déjà. *pictures* : photos. *to catch* : attraper. *neck* : cou.

▶| Le script

- X : Excuse me, sir, have you ever seen it?
- Y : No, never.
- X : So, why are you sitting here by the lake?
- Y : It's not a lake, it's a Loch! Don't forget we're in Scotland. And I'm here because I know it exists.
- X : Why are you so sure?

- Y : Some people took pictures, others say they saw it. Someone even made a film.
- X : How old is this story?
- Y : Older than me! It started in 1933. And before that there were stories about something moving on the surface of the water.
- X : What happened in 1933?
- Y : A man from London was driving around the Loch when he saw the creature. He thought it was a pre-historic animal.
- X : And he told everybody about this?
- Y : Yes, and the journalists of the time wrote articles about it.
- X : Didn't people try to catch it?
- Y : Of course they did! So the police decided to protect it. They didn't want people to attack it!
- X : Do you think you'll recognise it?
- Y : Of course! I know what it's like: it's got a long, narrow neck and a large body.
- X : I have to go. Thank you, and good luck. I hope you'll see... what's its name?
- Y : Nessie we call it!



08 Aide lexicale

filmmaker : cinéaste. character : personnage. tramp : vagabond.
jacket : veste. moving : émouvant. factory : usine

► Le script

- Y : I loved that film! It was a fantastic comedy!
- X : Yes, indeed. This man's really a great filmmaker... and a wonderful actor.
- Y : I've always liked his character, the tramp, with his strange manner of walking... it really makes me laugh!
- X : ...and his general appearance! His trousers are always too long, his jacket too large, and his shoes too big. And his little moustache! It's so funny!
- Y : And at the same time, it's also moving: his character's poor but he's always nice and generous. Remember *The Kid* !
- X : Exactly, and so, he can talk about American society and the difficult life of poor people in this country. I love the scene in *Modern Times* when he goes inside the big machine. In the scene, you understand

- that working in big factories was really hard, but you also laugh a lot.
- Y : He wasn't American, was he?
- X : No, he was British. He was born in London in 1889, but he went to Hollywood to make his films.
- Y : Yes, you're right. That was a long time ago. His films are in black and white, and often silent but they are still popular today. Take *The Dictator*, for example, the film mocking Hitler...
- X : Oh yes, that 's what we call a genius.



09 Aide lexicale

Eastern : de l'Est. *to belong to* : appartenir à. *the Dutch* : les Hollandais. *to settle* : s'installer. *skyscraper* : gratte-ciel.

►| Le script

Some people call me The Big Apple, but in reality, I'm a city, and a great one. I am located on the Eastern coast of the United States, in a state which has the same name as me.

At the beginning of my history, I was an Indian territory belonging to the Iroquois, and the Dutch were the first people to settle here: my first name was New Amsterdam. Then, the English took me over and gave me my final name.

People come from all over the world to visit me, especially places like Central Park or Harlem. The two most famous monuments are the Statue of Liberty and the Empire State building. You probably know King Kong - he climbed that skyscraper!

The Hudson River runs between Staten Island and Manhattan, and the Harlem River runs through the North. I have five boroughs: Manhattan, Queens, the Bronx, Staten Island and Brooklyn.

I'm also famous for my artistic life: I offer museums like the MOMA, the Guggenheim or the Metropolitan, and many theatres, especially on Broadway, an avenue where you can see musicals like *West Side Story* or *The Lion King*. Because my life at night is very exciting, some people call me "the city that never sleeps".

10 Aide lexicale

beverage : boisson. *to pour* : verser. *leaves* : feuilles.

mint : la menthe. *spice* : épice. *to pick* : cueillir. *to dry* : sécher.
to taste : goûter.

Le script

I am a hot beverage. People around the world like drinking me, especially British people.

To make me, you must pour hot or boiling water on my leaves - but don't forget to heat the pot first, or I'm not so good!

You can drink me for breakfast or around four o'clock - I'm delicious with scones, jam and cream...

In some countries like Morocco, people drink me with mint.

You can also add spices, fruit or flowers to give me special tastes.

My plant grows mainly in tropical and sub-tropical climates: it needs heat and water. When the plant is ready, you pick the leaves and dry them. Then, you put these leaves in boxes or in bags and then everybody can buy and drink me.

There are many legends about my discovery. Listen to my favourite story, it's a Chinese legend: one day, Shennong, the Emperor of China and inventor of agriculture and Chinese medicine, is drinking a bowl of boiling water in his garden. The wind blows and one leaf falls into his bowl. The water changes colours. The Emperor decides to taste it and he likes this new flavour. He decides to cultivate me! The British discovered me later, when the East India Company brought me back from the colonies. I became successful very quickly! Now, I'm their national drink.

11 Aide lexicale

hole : trou. *to taste* : goûter. *rules* : règles. *label* : étiquette

Le script

N : Listen to a scene adapted from a very famous English book.
This book, written by a certain Mr Carroll is apparently a book for children, but it is very interesting for adults too.

X : Hi!

- Y : Hi, girl! What are you doing here in my hole? It's *my* home!
- X : I'm sorry, I fell down. But, you can talk? Usually, rabbits can't speak!
- Y : I know, but in *this* story, rabbits can talk, it's a very special story!
- X : So that's why you're so big, you're as tall as me!
- Y : Or maybe, you're as *small* as me! That's because you've drunk from the bottle...
- X : How d'you know I drank from that bottle? And what's more, I only did what I was told. The label on the bottle said: "Drink me".
- Y : But in this wonderland, words are like traps. Don't believe what people say. But I know that you won't listen to me: during the story, you'll taste many strange things anyway, like cakes, tarts, mushrooms...
- X : I don't understand anything!
- Y : That's normal: you're in a nonsense story. Nothing makes sense! It's all absurd, and funny! You'll see the rules are also very different from the rules in your normal, Victorian world!
- X : Are you the only animal here?
- Y : No, don't worry, you're about to meet many other strange animals: a mouse, a dodo, a lizard, a caterpillar, a puppy and a turtle...
- X : What a wonderful adventure!



12 Aide lexicale

robbery : cambriolage. *to be shot down* : être tué d'un coup de feu.
to steal : voler. *shootout* : fusillade. *gunshot wounds* : blessures par balle. *thief* : voleur. *to escape* : s'échapper. *jail = prison*.

► Le script

Hello everybody, here's the history programme.

Today, we are going to talk about the most famous gang in the West. What is special in this gang is that they were brothers. Between 1890 and 1892, these terrible brothers robbed trains and killed many people! But in 1892, the gang went to Coffeyville and tried to rob a bank and steal all the money. There was a terrible shootout and two brothers were killed. Only one brother survived. Imagine: he had 23 gunshot wounds but he was not dead! It was the end of the gang.

So, here is some information about this strange family:

- The father owned a saloon. He had fifteen children.

- The first son, Frank, became a sheriff, but he was killed by a horse thief.
- Grat was a gangster. One day, he escaped out of the train window because he didn't want to go to jail - he was escorted by with two sheriffs but they could not stop him!
- Bob was the most violent of them all: he killed his first man when he was just nineteen years' old.

In the comic book series, Lucky Luke says they are stupid, especially the tallest one, Averell, who wants to eat all the time. In reality, they were not stupid at all! Everybody was afraid of them. Now you know the legend from reality!



13 Aide lexicale

director : metteur-en-scène. *to shoot* : filmer. *setting* : décor. *lands* : les terres. *an extra* : un figurant. *climate* : climat. *to settle* : s'installer.

▶ Le script

I am a famous district in Los Angeles, California, and my name usually makes people dream. Listen to my history.

In the 19th Century, there were many fields here, it was a good place for agriculture.

In 1910, my life changed. A film director called D.W. Griffith came to L.A to shoot a film. He was looking for a new place and he found this little village. Everybody was nice and welcoming so they decided to stay there for months. Back home, in New York, he told other people about this place, and its advantages: there were many different settings (mountains, deserts, prairies, canyons), there was cheap land and there were lots of people who could be used as extras (cow-boys, for example). And a good, warm climate, meaning that you could shoot outside in summer *and* winter.

So different movie companies decided to settle here. The little village became the new centre of the movie industry. They built huge studios and also theatres to show the films. These theatres, like the Groman's Chinese Theatre, for instance, are often used for blockbusters' premieres or for the Academy Awards, the night when actors, directors and technicians get Oscars.

If you come as a tourist, you can visit Beverly Hills, where many movie stars live. You can also see the Walk of Fame, a street where

famous actors and actresses have their stars on the ground.
If you come as a young actor hoping to become famous, be careful!
Life is very hard here, and you may be disappointed!



14 Aide lexicale

it rings a bell : ça me rappelle quelque chose. *engine* : moteur.
aircraft : avion. *to found* : fonder.

► Le script

- X : Wow, look at that car! It's so beautiful and chic!
- Y : Of course it is! It's one of the most expensive cars in the world, so I guess it's chic, as you say.
- X : How d'you know it's so expensive?
- Y : Just look at the radiator monogram, the two Rs, and the small sculpture here, in the front. Don't tell me you don't know the symbol of that car company.
- X : Yeah, you're right, it rings a bell. I think I've seen the Queen of England in one of those cars.
- Y : She's got a very special model made just for her.
- X : So it's a British company?
- Y : Of course, but their cars have a worldwide success, like the Silver Ghost, or the Phantom series. You can find them everywhere.
- X : I think I've heard these names before. But what makes these cars so different from others? Why did they become so famous?
- Y : The engine, with its six cylinders, and the chassis built the company's reputation. This chassis was so solid that it was used as a basis for the first British armoured car used in both world wars. And they also made aircraft engines!
- X : Did you say world wars? This means it's an old company.
- Y : Very old, it dates back from the early 20th century. The company was actually founded in 1906 by Henry Royce and Charles Stewart Rolls. It was nationalised in 1971, and privatised again in 1987.
- X : I see. You're quite an expert!
- Y : Yeah, I don't think I'll ever be able to afford such a car, so I buy magazines, and they are full of articles about these luxury cars.
- X : That sounds more reasonable!



15 Aide lexicale

state : état. *bloody* : sanglant. *civil war* : guerre civile. *influential* : qui a de l'influence. *landscapes* : paysages. *hills* : collines. *beer* : bière. *friendly* : sympathique.

▶ Le script

I am a very big island, the third largest island in Europe. I lie to the north-west of continental Europe. To the east is the island of Great Britain.

My political situation is a bit complex because I am divided into two parts: the North is part of the United Kingdom (the main city in that part is Belfast) whereas the South is an independent state (its capital is Dublin). Before the British colonisation, there was just one country, and the population was proud of their celtic culture. But then, the British invaded the island and it took more than two centuries and a cruel, bloody civil war for the South to become independent again. In the North, there is still tension between the catholics who would like to join the republic and the protestants who want to remain part of the UK.

My population is slightly over six million. During the hard time of the potato famine, many people emigrated to the United States. Some of their descendents became very famous and influential, like John Fitzgerald Kennedy who was a popular president of the USA!

Even if I am famous for being a very rainy country, many tourists come to discover my beautiful landscapes: the green hills, the sea, the small white cottages and, of course, my pubs where people drink the best beer in the world, Guinness. Visitors usually say that people who live on this island are very friendly and welcoming.

Many famous artists were born here: writers like James Joyce, Oscar Wilde or Samuel Beckett, but also singers you must have heard of, like Sinéad O'Connor and the band U2. All these artists love their country. I hope you will come and visit me one day!



16 Aide lexicale

report : reportage. *civil rights* : droits civiques. *lavatories* : toilettes. *to advocate* : prôner. *to put pressure* : faire pression. *demonstration* : manifestation. *a preacher* : un orateur. *a speech* : un discours.

▶ Le script

- X : Look at this report, it's about one of my personal heroes!
- Y : I've never seen that man before! What is he famous for?
- X : He was the leader of the Civil Rights Movement in the fifties and the sixties, in the USA.
- Y : The Civil Rights Movement? Never heard of it!
- X : Come on, I'm sure you have. They wanted black Americans to have the same civil rights as the whites. You've heard about segregation, haven't you?
- Y : Of course I have! I remember seeing shocking photos of restaurants and lavatories where there were two entrances, one for white people and one for 'coloured people' as they said. Black children could not go to the same schools as white children.
- X : Well, this man decided, along with others, to encourage people to start fighting for their rights.
- Y : That was very courageous! But how did he do it?
- X : He was fascinated and influenced by Gandhi that's why he advocated non-violence.
- Y : So he fought without being violent? What do you mean?
- X : They put pressure on the government by organising sit-ins, demonstrations or boycotts (the most famous one being the bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, with Rosa Parks).
- Y : And people followed him?
- X : Of course they did! He was a preacher and so a very good speaker! His speeches were so wonderful that everybody was convinced by what he said.
- Y : Isn't he the man of the famous 'I have a Dream' speech?
- X : That's right.
- Y : Of course I've heard of him! I remember his story now! But why is there a TV report about him now, in April, 2008?
- Y : I guess it's because he died forty years ago. He was killed on the balcony of his hotel in Memphis, Tennessee.



17 Aide lexicale

wedding : mariage (la cérémonie). *fairy tale* : conte de fée. *to come to an end* : toucher à sa fin. *they lived happily ever after* : équivalent de "ils se marièrent et eurent beaucoup d'enfants". *marriage* : mariage (la vie maritale). *a lover* : un amant. *failure* : échec.

► Le script

- X : Look at her, she's so beautiful with her blond hair, blue eyes and white dress.
- Y : Yes, I remember that picture, it was taken on her wedding day in 1981; everybody was fascinated by the royal wedding: a prince, a princess, a castle and hundreds of guests.
- X : It was like a fairy tale: an anonymous girl, Miss Spencer, marrying a prince, the future king of England.
- Y : Don't forget she was born into an aristocratic family, though. She was no common girl.
- X : Yes, that's true.
- Y : And the fairy tale quickly came to an end; we can't say they lived happily ever after...
- X : Yeah, it was quite a sad story! Even if they did have children, we can't speak of a happy marriage.
- Y : Indeed! Charles had a mistress, she had a lover, and it all ended up in divorce.
- X : But they were not the only ones responsible for this failure. The Queen didn't do her best to welcome her daughter-in-law in the family.
- Y : And what a strange life she had! Being followed by journalists, paparazzi all the time! No private life, no real friends!
- X : And this is what killed her in the end! Do you remember the day she died in Paris, in a car crash, in a tunnel?
- Y : I do! They said it was the paparazzi's fault; they were chasing her car at a very high speed.
- X : Yeah, that's a tragic end for the queen of hearts!



18 Aide lexicale

the Gold Rush : la ruée vers l'or. *to manufacture* : produire. *fabric* : tissu. *customers* : clients. *outfit* : équipement. *to complain* : se plaindre. *to last* : durer. *sturdy* : résistant. *rivets* : rivets. *to patent* : faire breveter. *factory* : usine.

► Le script

- X : Let's go shopping, I'd like to buy new blue jeans.
Y : Okay, I like jeans shops too, they always remind me of the Wild West.
X : Why?
Y : Haven't you heard about the history of these trousers?
X : No, I haven't!
Y : Well, it all started with one man. This man was born in Germany in 1829 but he moved to New York with his family in 1847.
X : But New York is in the East, not in the West!
Y : I know that! But when he heard about the Gold Rush in the 1850s, he decided to go west and moved to San Francisco.
X : And he started manufacturing clothes right away?
Y : No, first he imported clothes, umbrellas and fabric from the East...
X : What about blue jeans then?
Y : His customers were small shops outfitting miners who spent hours looking for gold outside, in very hard conditions. These miners often complained because their trousers never lasted long, and the pockets often split. So he decided to use a sturdier, stronger fabric, called serge, made in Nîmes, France. This name was shortened to denim.
X : So it's just the fabric that explains the jeans' success?
Y : No, there's something else, the rivets. One day, a customer, a tailor called Jacob Davis had this brilliant idea: to put rivets to make the trousers and pockets stronger. This idea was so original that they decided to patent it: they didn't want other people to imitate them or steal their idea.
X : And so blue jeans were born!
Y : Indeed. They had immediate success among miners, and soon, everybody started wearing them! There was a huge demand and the company had to adapt and build factories! This man, who gave his name to the brand, became a successful businessman. Everybody knows his jeans: the 501, for instance, is popular all around the world.
X : Okay, so let's go and buy a pair then.



19 Aide lexicale

a tale : un récit. *an invader* : un envahisseur. *according to* : d'après. *a sword* : une épée. *a stone* : une pierre. *a knight* : un chevalier. *were-wolf* : un loup-garou. *a wizard* : un sorcier. *to give advice* : donner des conseils. *holy* : saint.

► Le script

I'm a legendary figure from British history. Most modern historians say that I never existed, but many fables and tales say that I defended Britain against Saxon invaders in the late 5th century and that I was a very heroic king.

In the 9th century, a writer called Nennius wrote that, during one battle, I killed 960 men myself!

But it's a few centuries later, in the 12th century that my stories became really popular.

So, according to one of the writers of this time, Geoffrey de Monmouth, I became king at the age of fifteen when I managed to pull the sword from the stone: this proved that I was the king everybody was waiting for. Then, I started building a huge empire in Northern Europe.

I lived in a castle called Camelot.

With my friends, the Knights of the Round Table, I had a lot of adventures. I'm sure you've heard of some of these knights: Gawain, Lancelot or Percival. Lancelot is famous for his affair with my wife, Queen Guenevere.

In earlier books, I was a real super-hero, fighting supernatural enemies like were-wolves, dragons or giants. I even found magical treasures. In later books such as romances by Chrétien de Troyes, my companions, the different knights, are more important than me: I am nearly a secondary character, a "do-nothing king", a *roi fainéant* as the phrase goes.

In my adventures and my quest for the Holy Grail, I was helped by the wizard Merlin who gave me advice and also by a very special weapon, a sword that is called "Excalibur".

I had another sword, called Clarent, a sword of peace that was meant for ceremonies. Unfortunately, someone stole it and used it to kill me!

So, as you've noticed, my life, imaginary or not, has been a wonderful, chivalrous one.



20 Aide lexicale

a *masterpiece* : un chef-d'œuvre. *pretty, good-looking, attractive*: jolie.
a *model* : un mannequin. *to be noticed* : être remarqué. *a part* : un rôle. *to have an affair* : avoir une relation. *fame* : la célébrité.

► Le script

- X : Look, *Some Like it Hot* is on, tonight, on BBC2! I think it's a good movie but I've never seen it.
- Y : Of course it is! It's a masterpiece! I really love that film, I've seen it several times already, because my favourite actress is in it!
- X : Is she the blond, sexy actress whose photo is still everywhere on posters and postcards ?
- Y : Exactly! Everybody knows that photo where she's standing on an aeration hole, and the air is blowing up her white dress, so that we can see her legs. She is just laughing as if she didn't care!
- X : Yeah, I've already seen it. She's really pretty on that picture.
- Y : She was a very good-looking and attractive woman. That's why, at the beginning of her career, she was a model: that's how she got noticed and started working for the 20th Century Fox. First, she only had very small parts, but then, people realised her potential and she got bigger parts. The film which really turned her into a star was *Niagara* in 1953.
- X : I think she was a singer too, wasn't she?
- Y She was, I'm sure you heard her sing "I Wanna Be Loved by You" and "Happy Birthday, Mr President" to President Kennedy.
- X : I think some people even said that they had an affair...
- Y : That's true. Her love life was a bit complex, she had many lovers and was married three times in her short life!
- X : Short? Why d'you say that?
- Y : She died when she was just 36. Apparently, she committed suicide.
- X : That's incredible! She had everything one can hope for: beauty, fame, love, money...
- Y : I know, but she was unhappy all the same. I think she suffered from being manipulated all the time: she could never be herself. Just think of her name: she had to change it. Her original name was Norma Jean Baker.
- X : You're right. It must be hard to be a Hollywood legend!



21 Aide lexicale

a board game : un jeu de société. *to solve* : résoudre
the owner : le propriétaire. *a weapon* : une arme. *a culprit* : un coupable. *a rope* : une corde. *at random* : au hasard. *the case* : l'affaire.

► Le script

This board game, invented by an English clerk named Anthony E. Pratt, was originally published by Waddingtons in the United Kingdom in 1949. Nowadays, it is published by an American company called Hasbro.

It is a board game based on a fictitious crime. Its aim is to solve a murder. The players have to find out three different things: one, who killed Dr Black, the owner of the mansion? Two, where did the crime take place? Three, what weapon did the killer use?

The board is divided into nine different rooms: kitchen, library, ballroom, billiard room, dining room, study, conservatory, hall and lounge.

The players have to find the culprit among the six suspects who are the different guests in the house: Mrs White, Colonel Mustard, professor Plum, Reverend Green, Mrs Peacock and Miss Scarlet.

There are six weapons: the rope, the candlestick, the knife, the gun, the monkey wrench and the truncheon.

At the beginning of play, three cards (one Suspect, one Weapon and one Room card) are chosen at random and put into a special envelope where nobody can see them. These cards, which represent the facts of the case, stay there until the end of the game.

To find out these elements, you must act like a detective and announce suggestions: when you are in a room, you may suspect *any* character of killing Dr Black with *any* weapon in *that* particular room. You may say, for instance: 'I suggest it was Miss Rose, with a knife in the kitchen'. If another player has a card corresponding to one of these three elements, he or she must show it. Only one card is shown for each suggestion.

When you think that you've found out the three elements, you say: 'I accuse Mr X with *this* weapon in *that* room'. You may *then* look at the cards in the envelope. If your accusation is wrong, you stop making suggestions, but you must keep answering other players' questions. If your suggestion's right, you're the winner!



22 Aide lexicale

that's none of your business : ça ne te regarde pas. *a coward* : un lâche. *brave* : courageux. *a stagecoach* : une diligence. *safe and sound* : sain et sauf. *a nickname* : un surnom.

▶| Le script

B : Hi, man, what d'you want?

CJ : Hi! But first, I'm not a man, I'm a woman.

B : You must be kidding! Look at the way you're dressed!

CJ : I wear what I like, and that's none of your business.

B : Okay, girl. So, what's your name?

CJ : Martha Jane Cannary-Burke, born in Princeton, Missouri, in 1852. I've been an orphan since the age of fifteen, and am the oldest of six children. Anything else you wanna know?

B : Gosh, what a woman! I don't think you'll ever find a husband with a character like yours.

CJ : Well, you're wrong. I've already been married!

B : Really, and what happened to your husband? Did he run away from you or did you kill him?

CJ : For your information, my husband, Will Hickok was killed last year, in 1876, during a poker game. He was shot in the back. If I ever find the guy who did that, I'll shoot him dead on the spot. I know that coward, his name's Jack Mac Call.

B : Are you a good shot?

CJ : What d'you think? I worked for Custer in the army. I was a scout and had to fight the Indians. That's when I started wearing a man's uniform. More comfortable, indeed. But I'm not gonna tell my whole life story. I think you're looking for someone brave, that's why I've come to see you.

B : There's a stagecoach arriving soon, I'd like you to make sure they don't get into trouble Plains with the Plains Indians. I want all the passengers to arrive safe and sound here in Deadwood.

CJ : No problem, guy. That's an easy job for me. I've already survived so many calamities that my friends gave me a special nickname.

B : What a strange woman you are, Jane! I'm sure you'll become a legend of the Wild West! You should write your autobiography!

CJ : Well, I'm thinking of it! You just wait and see!



23 Aide lexicale

freight : le fret. *speed* : la vitesse. *to refurbish* : remettre à neuf. *a carriage* : un wagon. *luggage* : les bagages. *to check* : vérifier.

▶ Le script

In 1986, three countries, Britain, France and Belgium, met to set up a new, common project: they wanted to create a new train service (for passengers and freight) between their three capitals, London, Paris and Brussels. They wanted to use the tunnel that was being built under the Channel. Because of the success of the TGV, the three countries decided to use the TGV technology as the basis for their future train. The service of that very special train began in 1994. The trains cross under the English Channel through the Channel Tunnel.

There is one service between Paris, Gare du Nord, and London, Saint Pancras, and another one between Brussel-Zuid and London. The trains may also stop at Lille-Europe, or at a few other cities in France, like Avignon or Aime-La-Plagne (that's for English people who want to go skiing in the French Alps). In Great Britain, it stops at Ashford and Stratford International.

It's a high-speed train: it can run up to 300 kilometres an hour (about 186 miles an hour). In recent years, the journey between Paris and London was shortened from three hours to two hours and thirty-five minutes! London-Brussels was also reduced to two hours and twenty minutes. It is very quick, quicker than the plane in fact, since airports are always far from the city. This train always takes you right to the city centre, that's why many businessmen use it. Some of them go from Paris to London for the day!

The trains themselves are very comfortable and elegant. Philip Stark, a famous designer, was asked to refurbish the interior of the carriages. The railway stations have also been adapted for this service: you always have a separate area, dedicated to the passengers of that particular train. They must arrive there in advance, about twenty minutes before the train departure because their luggage and passports are checked - just like in an airport. In short, this train is a very special one; it's the star of three European countries, France, Britain and Belgium.



24 Aide lexicale

to border : être limitrophe. *a settlement* : un territoire. *a war* : une guerre. *diamonds* : diamants. *elected* : élu. *a right* : un droit. *to be kept apart* : être séparés. *a nickname* : un surnom. *a rainbow* : un arc-en-ciel.

►| Le script

I'm a country that is in Africa, on the Southern tip of the continent. I border the Atlantic and Indian oceans, and several countries like Namibia, Botswana, or Zimbabwe. My largest city is Johannesburg, but it's not my capital; I've got three capitals, Pretoria, Cape Town and Bloemfontein - it's a bit unusual, but it's not my only particularity! For example, I have eleven official languages: English, Afrikaans, and nine different African languages like Zulu or Swati. This is due to my particular history.

Originally, I was an African country like any other. But European immigration started very early in the 17th century when the Dutch East India Company founded a station in Cape Town: the ships sailing from Europe to India used to stop here. Then, I became a British settlement. There were terrible, cruel wars between the different populations when they realised that my land was full of gold and diamonds. I became independent again in 1910.

The darkest part of my history came a few years later: in 1948, the National Party was elected to power and established a horrible, racist system called *Apartheid*. This consisted of segregationist laws: black people and white people didn't have the same rights, they were always kept apart, they couldn't live together and life became very hard for black people. They used to live in ghettos and couldn't get a good education. Of course, many people protested against that situation: Nelson Mandela is our most famous leader, he spent years in prison before becoming our president in 1994, with the end of Apartheid. Johnny Clegg, a singer, also talked and sang about our problems around the world.

The result of this complex history is that, ethnically, my population is quite diverse today: 80% is black, but there are also Caucasian (that is to say, white people), Indian and racially mixed communities. This diversity explains my nickname: I'm *the Rainbow Nation*.

To finish, one important detail: in 2007, we won the Rugby World Cup in France!



25 Aide lexicale

for a while : pour un certain temps. *to manipulate* : manipuler.
crazy : fou. *to stuff* : empailler. *a mummy* : une momie. *to be proud of* : être fier de. *bald* : chauve. *in the background* : à l'arrière-plan.

► Le script

I was born in Great Britain in 1899. I had a very strict education - I have one vague souvenir: one day, when I was a very young boy, my father took me to the police station and left me there for a while. This was a terrifying experience for me. He wanted me to see what prison was like. Maybe this is why I like telling stories in which a character, who is completely innocent, is accused of a crime that he has not committed.

First, I worked for an American film company in London. When my first films became successful, I was invited to Hollywood. There, I directed many films with great stars like Grace Kelly, Cary Grant or James Stewart.

I'm considered as the *master of suspense* because there's always a lot of suspense in my films. The audience is afraid for the character who is in a dangerous situation: Will he, or she see the criminal behind his back? Will he, or she, be killed? The audience would like to tell the character: 'Don't believe him! Turn around, there's someone who's about to kill you! Run away!' I love manipulating the audience, and I think they like being manipulated too!

One of my most famous films is *Psycho*: it's the story of a crazy man, Norman Bates, who owns a motel. One day, a young woman arrives. She wants to stay in the hotel for a night. He gives her a room but, as she is having a shower, he comes in the bathroom and kills her with a knife. In fact, he's crazy and keeps his mother, who's dead, in a bedroom. He has stuffed her! She's a kind of mummy! Mummy has become a mummy, funny, isn't it?

I'm quite proud of my films, and to show this, I always appear in my films: you can see me walking in the street or buying something in a shop, for example. So, when you watch one of my films, try to find me! I'm the fat, bald, old man in the background!



26 Aide lexicale

to enrol : entrer (dans une école). *computer* : ordinateur. *partner* : partenaire. *CEO* : PDG. *to make a deal* : passer un accord. *a fee* : une somme forfaitaire (ici). *a charity* : une organisation caritative. *AIDS* : le SIDA. *scholarship* : frais de scolarité (dans les grandes universités notamment).

▶ Le script

M : Hello, everybody! Tonight, my guest is the most famous businessman in the world. I'm so happy to meet you, Bill.

BG : Nice to meet you too.

M : So, could you tell us about your childhood?

BG : Well, I was born in Seattle, in 1955. I was quite good at school. But what I liked most was computers. At thirteen, I enrolled in the Lakeside School, a preparatory school, and when the Mothers' Club bought a GE computer for the students, I spent a lot of time programming it in BASIC. I was so good at it that I was excused from maths classes to pursue this interest!

M : Lucky guy! I guess they realised you were a genius!

BG : Yeah, they even asked me to write the school's computer programme and I arranged the code so that I was placed in classes with mostly girls!

M : You must be kidding! And then?

BG : I enrolled at Harvard in 1973. That's where I met Steve Ballmer, my business partner who became CEO of Microsoft later on.

M : Could you explain how Microsoft was formed?

BG : It's a bit complicated, but basically, I created the Altair Basic and then there was a partnership with IBM. We made a deal: IBM was allowed to package Microsoft PC-DOS software with their personal computers for a fee paid to Microsoft for every computer sold.

M : And this is how you became the third richest man in the world?

BG : Exactly! That sounds quite simple, doesn't it?

M : But you're said to be quite generous...

BG : I created a charity with my wife Melinda in 2000 and we provide money for a lot of causes: AIDS prevention, scholarships for under represented minorities, help in third world countries...

M : Thank you for answering my questions, Bill.

BG : My pleasure!



27 Aide lexicale

a band : un groupe de musique. *a record* : un disque. *to record* : enregistrer. *to greet* : accueillir. *to break up* : se séparer.

▶ Le script

X : Listen to that song, I love it!

Y : Not that band again!

X : Don't you like that kind of music?

Y : Not this band. I like pop music of the 60s, but I'm rather a Rolling Stones fan!

X : I see.

Y : Look at the photograph on that album cover! Four boys crossing a street and everybody goes mad! What a ridiculous haircut!

X : How can you say that? It's not any street, it's Abbey Road.

Y : So what?

X : This band is a legend! They're great artists. They sold millions of records worldwide.

Y : That doesn't prove anything.

X : Imagine! Girls crying and shouting during the concerts - they were ready to die for these musicians. Ringo, John, Paul...

Y : And George, I know the whole story: some schoolboys started a small band, they played in pubs in Liverpool, got hired in some clubs, and then recorded their first disc, *My Bonnie*. They found a manager, Epstein, who obtained a contract for them with EMI and then they got noticed by some critics. Eventually, they became real stars.

X : Stars? That's the least you can say! Thousands of fans would wait for them in airports each time they travelled. When they went to Adelaide, in Australia, in 1964, they were greeted by over 300 000 people.

Y : And I think the Queen of England appointed them to the Order of the British Empire...

X : You're right! They set an incredible number of world records in their short career: best-selling musical group of all times, highest number of weeks at number one in the albums chart, fastest selling CD of all time, and so on...

Y : But still, the end was a bit sad, wasn't it?

X : You're thinking of John Lennon's death, aren't you? Yes, that was a tragic moment, indeed. He was killed in New York city by a crazy fan. But that took place in 1980 - ten years after the band broke up - don't forget that! Listen to this one! (*singing 'Let it Be, let it be...'*)



28 Aide lexicale

headquarters : quartiers généraux. *a motto* : une devise. *threats* : menaces. *to investigate* : mener l'enquête. *robberies* : cambriolages. *DNA* : AND. *to be fit* : être apte. *a traitor* : un traître. *a life sentence* : condamnation à vie.

► Le script

I'm the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the investigative arm of the United States Department of Justice. My headquarters are in Washington, D.C. I was established in 1908 as the Bureau of Investigation and my name was changed to the three famous letters in 1935. These initials are present in my motto, which is: "Fidelity, Bravery, Integrity".

My mission is to protect and defend the United States 'against terrorist and foreign intelligence threats', to fight crime and corruption.

My agents investigate on frauds, illegal drug traffic, robberies, conspiracy, and so on. When they have found information, they present it to the Department of Justice which decides if the criminal will be prosecuted and judged.

I have a laboratory for DNA, biological and physical tests.

It is difficult to become an agent: you have to pass many tests to prove that you are physically and intellectually fit, that you are not using drugs. Then you spend 21 weeks in my academy to receive a lot of lessons. Finally, you must accept to go where they send you, in the US or anywhere else around the world. My special agents must also promise to keep their job secret. Nobody must know they're special agents, or else they could be threatened or killed by the enemy!

Unfortunately, there are sometimes enemies inside the Bureau. In 2002, Robert Hanssen, one of these agents, was caught selling information to the Russians: he was a traitor. He was sent to prison with a life sentence.

Some people also said that I was partly responsible for the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Centre, that I could have stopped the attacks.

But even if my agents are not always perfect, they still make people dream, they are like heroes: there are many films and series about them. Just think of *X Files* or *Twin Peaks*. We see them chasing criminals, driving very fast in American cities at night. That's why the three letters of my name are so famous to the public.



29 Aide lexicale

a scientist : un scientifique. *a discovery* : une découverte. *the countryside* : la campagne. *sideways* : de travers. *upwards* : vers le haut. *a field* : un domaine. *mercury* : le mercure.

► Le script

Today, we're going to speak about a great English man, a scientist who was born in the 17th century. He was interested in many aspects of science: he was a physicist, a mathematician, an astronomer, a natural philosopher, an alchemist and a theologian. That's pretty impressive, isn't it? Some people even say that his influence on the history of science was more important than Albert Einstein's. It's hard to believe that his mother wanted him to become a farmer!

His most famous discovery concerns universal gravitation. There's a story about how he started thinking about that subject. He had left Cambridge where he lived and worked to visit his mother in the countryside, in Lincolnshire. One day, as he was walking in his garden, he saw an apple falling from a tree. He started wondering: 'Why does that apple fall perpendicularly to the ground? Why doesn't it go sideways, or upwards? What force attracts it to the ground?' This question gave birth to theory of universal gravitation. A descendant of the original tree is now growing outside the main gate of Trinity College, one of the most prestigious colleges in Cambridge.

But he also made important discoveries in other fields: alchemy, optics, mathematics and physics.

Even if this man was a real genius, he was very modest. In his *Memoirs*, he wrote:

'I do not know what I may appear to the world, but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the sea-shore, and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me.'

The scientist died in London in 1727 and was buried in Westminster Abbey. In his body, doctors found a lot of mercury, probably resulting from his experiments.



30 Aide lexicale

a team : une équipe. *gold medal* : médaille d'or. *annoying* : énervant.
cheerful : gai. *HIV-positive* : séropositif. *AIDS*: SIDA.

▶ Le script

M : Hi, everybody ! Today, our mystery guest is a sportsman. You all know the principle of the game: I ask questions to my guest, and you must guess who he is. Okay, let's start.

When and where were you born?

MJ : I was born in 1959 in Lansing, Michigan.

M : What's your job?

MJ : Well, nowadays, I'm a boss, I have a chain of movie theatres. But when I was younger, I was a basketball player, and this is what made me famous.

M : What team did you belong to?

MJ : I played for the Los Angeles Lakers and was elected NBA Most Valuable Player. I was quite successful, indeed! I was also a member of the Dream Team that won the Olympic gold medal in 1992.

M : What was your function in the team?

MJ : I played point guard.

M : How tall are you?

MJ : I'm very tall: 6 feet and 9 inches, which corresponds to 2.06 meters in your system. This was very convenient for basketball, of course.

M : What made your style so special?

MJ : I think it was my passing and dribbling skills. My trademark was 'no look passes'. Nobody knew who was going to get the ball! That was really annoying for the other team, of course. I loved playing with the ball!

M : You won't say it, but I know everybody liked you because of your cheerful personality as well... and your courage.

MJ : You must be alluding to my confession, in 1991.

M : Exactly. Could you tell us what happened then?

MJ : Well, I decided to make public that I was HIV-positive. Yeah, that was a difficult moment. I had to retire for a while. But then, my colleagues decided to accept me as I was, and I'm proud to have been the first HIV-positive player to play in the NBA. Since then, I've been fighting for AIDS prevention.

M : You're really a great man, and I'm sure everybody's guessed who you are.



31 Aide lexicale

a play : une pièce de théâtre. *a playwright* : un dramaturge. *an open roof* : un toit ouvert. *to play a part* : jouer un rôle. *to pretend to do* : faire semblant de faire.

► Le script

I was born in 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon. If you go there today, you can visit my house: it has been turned into a museum. There is little information about my private life, so it remains quite mysterious: people imagine a lot of things about my religion, my work, and even my sexuality!

I am considered as the greatest writer in the English language: I wrote plays, sonnets and narrative poems, so I was both a playwright and a poet. I belonged to a theatre company called Lord Chamberlain's Men (and then The King's Men): it was a group of actors playing in London. Queen Elizabeth, who was reigning at the time, loved theatre, and she encouraged us. When she died, James I, the new king, decided to support our company.

My favourite theatre was *The Globe*. It was a round building, with an open roof. It was rebuilt in London a few years ago; and you can visit it and even watch one of my plays. They shot a famous film about my love life there!

So, let's talk about my plays now. I wrote different kinds of plays: comedies, tragedies, histories (a history is a play about a historic figure, like *Julius Caesar* or *Henri V*).

- In my comedies, like *Much Ado About Nothing*, *As You Like It* or *Twelfth Night*, characters often have fun playing parts: they pretend to be someone else, girls pretend to be boys, for example, or someone pretends to be dead. It's all about illusion, because theatre is all about illusion and how to make people believe that fiction is reality. And for me, life is an illusion too, it's like a play. You may know this famous sentence:

'All the World's a stage

And all the men and women merely players'

- My tragedies are more... tragic! Plays like *Hamlet* or *Macbeth* talk about power, death and treason. In tragedies, a love story usually has a sad ending. I'm sure you've heard about the horrible death of Romeo and Juliet.

I wrote a long time ago, so the language in my plays is a bit difficult. But the stories are so interesting that you should try to read them!



32 Aide lexicale

gambling : parier, jouer de l'argent. *entertainment* : divertissement.
sin : le péché. *fake* : faux. *a foreign country* : un pays étranger.

► Le script

This American city is located in Nevada. Nevada is famous for its huge desert. This area was part of Mexico until 1855, when it became part of the Unites States. First, it was a fort, a place where people crossing the desert could stop for the night and find water: there are important water resources here, which is rare in the desert, of course! Then, there was an important railway station. So, there have always been many travellers and hotels here.

But in 1931, gambling became legal here and this is when the city really started becoming what it is today.

It is called the Entertainment Capital of the World because people come here to have fun: they go shopping, they drink alcohol (no restriction here, contrary to other places) and they gamble, they play with money in casinos. Some people, who think this kind of life is immoral, call it *Sin City*.

In the middle of the desert, you have all these hotels-casinos, which are all different: they imitate famous places around the world, like Venice, Paris, with the Eiffel Tower, or Egypt with its Pyramids. Another famous place is the Circus Circus casino, where everything looks like a circus. In the hotel, there are more than 3700 rooms and suites! All these casinos and hotels look really strange and unreal, everything is fake! But many tourists like this: people come from all over the world to stay here!

Many couples also come here to marry, because wedding procedures are really quick and simple: it's very easy to get married in one day, even if you come from a foreign country, like France, Spain or Germany!

Many films and series are shot here, like the movie *Casino*, starring Robert de Niro and Sharon Stone.



33 Aide lexicale

a *masterpiece* : un chef-d'oeuvre. *to direct a film* : réaliser un film. *to release a film* : sortir un film. *silent film* : film muet. *talking picture* : film parlant. *to dub* : doubler. *a shooting* : un tournage. *to improve* : améliorer. *be aware of* : être conscient de

► Le script

- J : Hello Gene Kelly, I'm so happy to welcome you on this programme, *The Films Of My Life*. Now you've been invited to tell us about your masterpiece. You know what film I'm talking about...
- GK : Of course, you're talking about the musical comedy directed by Stanley Donen in 1951?
- J : And directed by you too, you're being too modest! Can you remind us of the story of the film?
- GK : Well, it's about actors and actresses in Hollywood at the time of the first talking pictures, in 1927.
- J : The year when *The Jazz Singer* was released?
- GK : Exactly. So, here is the story: one actress, called Lina, is a real star of silent films. When talking pictures arrive, the producer wants her (and me, I'm her partner on the screen) to make a talking picture. But he realises that her voice is horrible, ridiculous! So, he decides that her voice will be dubbed: another girl, Kathy, will speak and sing for her. She has a beautiful voice. Of course, Lina feels humiliated by this situation.
- J : But you're quite happy about it, aren't you?
- GK : Of course... You see I'm in love with Kathy, and I hate Lina, so I enjoy the moments when dialogues and songs are recorded, with just Kathy and me in the studio.
- J : What are your favourites scenes in the film?
- GK : Well, there's one scene I love because I remember the shooting and it was so funny! It's the scene with the voice coach: I have to take lessons to improve my pronunciation, and the teacher asks me to repeat tongue-twisters - you know, like '*If Moses supposes his toeses are roses*' and me and my friend Cosmo start making fun of the teacher. We imitate and mock him but he's not aware of it, you see. We had great fun shooting that one!
- J : What about the most famous scene? The one when you're in an empty street at night, with an umbrella. The rain is falling, but you

keep dancing and singing.

GK : That's my second favourite scene. (humming the tune)

J : Thank you so Gene, thank you so much for answering my questions. So Gene Kelly, good-bye!

GK : Bye!



Marilyn Monroe
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