



Murder in the Night

Brian Carter's hand trembled as he tried to put the key into the lock to open the door. **Beads** of sweat broke on his forehead and his mouth was dry. It was the same as this every month when he had to pick up the parcel of diamonds from his contact in Leeds and then get it back to his shop. Not only was he in fear of being robbed, but there was always the danger that the police were watching him. Il-legally importing diamonds could get him a large **fine** and possibly a prison sentence.

Sometimes it seemed to be worth the trouble, especially when he looked at his bank account. Soon he would be able **to retire** and live a life of luxury in the sun.

It was dark and **eerie** here in the yard at the **rear** of the building. Carter had to come this way, however, as he did not dare to use the front door at this time of night. Despite constantly glancing over his shoulder to check the yard, he eventually managed **to insert** the key in the lock and turn it. He breathed a **sigh of relief** and bent to pick up the briefcase, which he had placed on the floor whilst he opened the door. As he did so, he did not notice the figure that moved **swiftly** in his direction from the shadows in the corner of the yard.



bead	Perle, Tropfen
fine	Strafe, Strafzahlung
to retire	sich zur Ruhe setzen
eerie	unheimlich
rear	Hinter...; Rückseite
to insert	einfügen, einführen
sigh of relief	Seufzer der Erleichterung
swiftly	schnell, rasch

Exercise 1: Simple past. Setzen Sie die Sätze ins Simple Past!

1. He wants to open the door as quickly as possible.

2. The diamonds are from a contact in Leeds.

3. He is worried because it is illegal.

4. Eventually, the key turns in the lock.

5. With a sigh of relief, he picks up the briefcase.

6. The figure appears from the shadows in the corner of the yard.

The first Carter knew that anyone was there was when he was struck **fiercely** on the back of his head with something hard. With



fiercely	heftig
groan	Stöhnen
to slump	zusammensinken
consciousness	Bewusstsein

a **groan** he **slumped** forward and began to lose **consciousness**. He felt the briefcase being pulled from his grasp by his attacker. Carter tried to hang on to it, but the thief was stronger

than he was and ripped the case away. Even in his condition, Brian Carter realized that all his work of the past months would be for nothing if he lost the case. If he had to replace the diamonds, there would be no early retirement in the sun. No, he would be lucky if he did not have to sell his house. This thought gave him renewed strength, and he sprang after his attacker. Carter caught him just by the gate and grabbed his arm. As he spun him around, the light from the streetlamp in the alley ⁱ fell across the face of the robber.

“You!” Carter **gasp**ed, shocked.

“You shouldn’t have done that,” **snarl**ed his attacker. He reached into his jacket and pulled out a pistol. “Now you leave me no choice.”

The last words Brian Carter ever **utter**ed were lost in the crack of the pistol shot. To Carter it felt as though a **tremendous** fist had punched him in the chest. The force of the **impact** drove the air from his lungs and knocked him backwards. He fell to the damp ⁱ floor of

the yard, still unable to believe that this man had shot him, this man who now stood over him, pointing the pistol at him.

With the sound of further shots still echoing around the nearby buildings, the **assailant** calmly placed the gun back into his jacket. He bent over and removed Carter’s wallet. He then left the yard and walked off quickly down the alley, the briefcase under his arm.



to gasp	keuchen, nach Luft schnappen
to snarl	knurren
to utter	äußern, von sich geben
tremendous	enorm, riesig
impact	Einschlag, Aufprall
assailant	Angreifer

Vorsicht vor falschen Freunden!

damp	feucht
steam	Dampf

alley	Gasse
avenue	Allée



Exercise 2: Fill in the prepositions. Lesen Sie weiter und setzen Sie die richtigen Präpositionen ein!

of (2x) on at (2x) to for (2x) by out

Two days later, Sophie Jones entered the offices
1. [] "Armitage and Godfrey" 2. [] the rear door
She always used this door when she came back 3. []
the office to meet him 4. [] a Friday evening. She
thought it was unwise to use the front door, since if
someone saw her, it might cause people to ask questions.
The last thing she wanted was 5. [] his wife to find
out about their relationship. Recently, their Friday meet-
ings had taken place 6. [] a hotel in Rochdale, but
today he had sent her a text message. For some reason,
he wanted to meet her 7. [] the office this evening.
Tonight was also different 8. [] another reason.
Tonight the emotions she felt as she crossed the **deserted**
garage area were not passion and desire, but anger and
fear. She could not believe that he had killed Mr Carter.
That was not **meant to happen**. He was just supposed to
knock 9. [] the jeweller and steal the diamonds.
Murder had never been part 10. [] the plan.