

# Lesson 17: A Mysterious Movie

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*Listen to Paula and Jack discuss the movie they just saw, and answer the comprehension questions based on their conversation:*

## **Listening Comprehension**

- 1. Paula thought the movie was...**
  - a. boring
  - b. disturbing
  - c. great
- 2. The killer was...**
  - a. a history teacher
  - b. a high school student
  - c. a man wearing black
- 3. How many people were killed?**
  - a. six
  - b. sixteen
  - c. sixty
- 4. The real events took place in...**
  - a. 1964
  - b. 1974
  - c. 1984
- 5. One thing the movie didn't explain was...**
  - a. how the killer escaped
  - b. what motivated the murders
  - c. where the bodies were hidden
- 6. Jack was frightened by the movie because...**
  - a. he knew one of the people who was killed
  - b. he misjudged one of the characters
  - c. it showed a lot of blood and gruesome images
- 7. Paula is determined to...**
  - a. find out more about the case
  - b. launch a career as a detective
  - c. see the movie's sequel

# Conversation Text

**Jack:** That movie was **weird**, don't you think?

**Paula:** What do you mean? I thought it was terrific. It's not often you see a movie with such a great **twist** at the end.

**Jack:** But that's what makes it so **creepy**. I was positive the man in the black suit was the killer, but it turned out to be the high school history teacher, Mrs. Kepler.

**Paula:** I was really **thrown for a loop**. Mrs. Kepler seemed so sweet, there was nothing **sinister** about her whatsoever. But she was killing off the **faculty**, one by one. You know, on the way out of the theater I **overheard** someone saying the movie was based on a true story.

**Jack:** No way! If there was a **killing spree** like that, we would have heard about it. I mean come on, she killed sixteen people, that kinda thing would have been all over the news.

**Paula:** I didn't say the case was recent. The person was saying **it all went down** in a small European town in 1974. The writer **dug up** the story when he visited Europe. He just changed a few details to make the movie more dramatic.

**Jack:** Ugh! I'll never look at a history teacher the same way again.

**Paula:** The *real* mystery was her motive. The movie **left us hanging** on that part. Now I'm

## Vocabulary

**weird** = strange, unusual

**twist** = unexpected change of events

**creepy** = produces a sensation of uneasiness or fear

**I was thrown for a loop** = completely surprised and upset

**sinister** = threatening or suggesting evil

**faculty** = group of teachers at a school or college

**overheard** = heard part of someone else's conversation

**a killing spree** = a lot of people killed in a short amount of time

**it all went down** = a slang way to say "it all happened"

**dug up the story** = searched for & discovered some hidden or little-known information

**left us hanging** = didn't fully explain it; left us in suspense

going to look up the case. What was Mrs. Kepler's background? What **drove her** to kill so many people?

**Jack:** Maybe there was no reason. Could be she was just an evil person **masquerading as** a kind, motherly teacher. I don't understand why you're so **intrigued** by these cases.

**Paula:** But aren't you *curious*?

**Jack:** Paula, when Mrs. Kepler confessed, it **made my blood turn cold**. I really **pegged her** as a harmless old lady who **wouldn't hurt a fly**. I was **fooled**, and that scares me. I would have trusted Mrs. Kepler, just like those people in the movie did – and I would have ended up **six feet under**, too. And that's what makes me **shudder**.

**Paula:** We also gotta find out who the man in black was. The movie never revealed his identity.

**Jack:** Uh-oh. I can see by that look on your face that you're not going to leave me alone unless I help you research this movie.

**Paula:** There are still so many **loose ends** in the story! Mrs. Kepler was pretty old and **frail** – how did she manage to hide the bodies? Hey – the man in black might have been Mrs. Kepler's **accomplice**. He could still be **prowling** the streets... just **lurking** in the dark until he finds his next victim...

**Jack:** Don't say that – now I'm gonna have **nightmares** for sure!

## Vocabulary

**drove her** = motivated her

**masquerading as** =  
pretending to be

**intrigued** = extremely  
interested

**made my blood turn cold** =  
caused an intense sensation  
of fear

**pegged her** = an informal  
way to say "classified her"

**wouldn't hurt a fly** = would  
not hurt anyone

**fooled** = deceived

**six feet under** = (slang) dead

**shudder** = shake with fear

**loose ends** = unresolved  
issues

**frail** = weak

**accomplice** = partner/helper  
in a crime

**prowling** = going around  
looking for a victim

**lurking** = existing unobserved

**nightmares** = scary dreams

## Vocabulary Quiz

*Complete each sentence with a word from the box. Three words are not used.*

accomplices	fool	leave me hanging	nightmares	shuddered
drove	frail	loose ends	overheard	threw me for a loop
faculty	intrigued	lurking	pegged me	weird

1. He couldn't have committed the crime alone; he had to have at least two \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The survivors of the shipwreck were very \_\_\_\_\_, as they hadn't eaten for weeks.
3. It was supposed to be a surprise party, but I knew about it because I \_\_\_\_\_ my sister talking about it on the phone.
4. Losing his parents to cancer at a young age was what \_\_\_\_\_ him to become a doctor.
5. Many war veterans have \_\_\_\_\_ afterwards about their traumatic experiences in combat.
6. So what happened at the end of the date? Tell me, don't \_\_\_\_\_!
7. The divorce is almost finalized; the lawyer is just working on tying up a few \_\_\_\_\_ from the process.
8. I was \_\_\_\_\_ by her stories about life in China; they made me want to go there myself.
9. Chocolate and vinegar is a rather \_\_\_\_\_ combination of flavors; not everyone likes it.
10. Those fake letters that look like official bank statements are able to \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of people.
11. You shouldn't go hiking in the jungle alone - there could be a lot of dangerous animals \_\_\_\_\_ out there.
12. The final question on the exam \_\_\_\_\_ because it wasn't something we'd covered in the class.

## **Speaking Task**

Describe a book, movie, TV show, or article that you found either **disturbing** (it bothered you, made you uneasy) or **thought-provoking** (it made you think about things and/or reconsider your beliefs).

Record your answer at [www.speakpipe.com/espressoenglish](http://www.speakpipe.com/espressoenglish) or send the MP3 to [homework@espressoenglish.net](mailto:homework@espressoenglish.net)

## **Answers**

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. c
2. a
3. b
4. b
5. b
6. b
7. a

### **Vocabulary Quiz**

1. accomplice
2. frail
3. overheard
4. drove
5. nightmares
6. leave me hanging
7. loose ends
8. intrigued
9. weird
10. fool
11. lurking
12. threw me for a loop