Christmas Party Mystery

THE MISSING CHOCOLATE CAKE

A2 FLYERS / KEY

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Part 1: Detective words

Read the definitions. Choose a word from the box and write it on the line. There are two words you do not need.

kitchen	**candle**	**crumbs**	**footprints**	**suspect**	**fridge**	**plate**	**tray**

Example: The room where you cook food: _____*kitchen*_____

1. These are tiny pieces of cake or bread: _____
2. This is a person the police think did something wrong: _____
3. These are the marks that shoes make on the floor: _____
4. You keep milk and cheese cold in this: _____
5. You put a cake on this: _____

Part 2: The case begins



Read the story.

The Missing Chocolate Cake

On 24th December, Mia's family had a Christmas party at their house. In the morning, Mia's mum made a big chocolate cake and put it on a blue plate on the kitchen table. The cake had five red candles on the top.

At four o'clock, five guests arrived: Mia's friends Tom and Lily, her cousin Zoe, her Uncle Max, and the neighbour, Mr Brown. Everybody was happy. They ate sandwiches, drank orange juice and sang songs.

At half past five, Mia went to the kitchen to get the cake. The plate was empty! There were only some chocolate crumbs on it and a few small chocolate footprints on the floor.

"Who ate my cake?" Mia shouted.

Mia asked everybody, "Where were you between five o'clock and half past five?"

	Tom: "I was playing a computer game in the living room with Lily. We were there all the time."
	Lily: "Tom is right. He was winning, so I was waiting for my turn!"
	Zoe: "I was in the garden. Mr Brown and I were looking at the new bird house."
	Mr Brown: "That's true. Zoe was with me, and it was very cold! After a few minutes, Zoe went inside to look for her gloves.
	Uncle Max: "I was in the hall, talking on the phone. Mia's dad was there too. He was fixing the Christmas lights."

Mia looked at the footprints again. They were very small. She also saw some chocolate on the handle of the low cupboard, next to the table

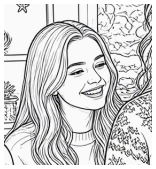
Now read the sentences. Write yes or no.

Example: The party was in Mia's house. _____*yes*_____

1. Mia's mum put the cake on the kitchen table. _____
2. Five guests came to the party. _____
3. Tom and Lily were in the garden. _____
4. Mr Brown and Zoe looked at the new bird house. _____
5. Uncle Max was alone in the hall. _____
6. Zoe stayed in the garden all the time. _____

Part 3: The detective's notebook

Complete the notebook. Write short answers.

Name	Where was s/he?	What was s/he doing?	Who was with him/her?
	Tom:		
	Lily		
	Zoe		
	Mr Brown		
	Uncle Max		

Think like a detective. Read what each suspect said. Look at the footprints too. One story does not match what another person said. Who ate the cake?

☐ Tom ☐ Lily ☐ Zoe ☐ Uncle Max ☐ Mr Brown

Write one sentence with **because** to explain your idea.

_____.









Part 4: The solution

Mia looked at the footprints again. They (1) _____ very small, much (2) _____ than Uncle Max's shoes, and each one had a little star in the chocolate. Then Mia looked at the mat by the back door. Zoe's new red boots were (3) _____ , and they had stars on the bottom! "Zoe!" said Mia. "These are your boots!" Zoe's face (4) _____ red. "Sorry, Mia," she said. "I went inside to get my gloves, (5) _____ I saw the cake in the kitchen. It was so delicious (6) _____ I ate it all!"

Read the end of the story. Circle **a**, **b** or **c**.

1. a) are b) was c) were
2. a) small b) smaller c) smallest
3. a) these b) there c) here
4. a) get b) got c) getting
5. a) because b) but c) or
6. a) that b) because c) but



Part 5: Speaking.

Work with a partner. **Student A, you are the detective.** You suspect your classmate stole the chocolate cake! Ask your partner questions to find out the truth. **Student B, you are the suspect.** Invent an alibi: say where you were between five o'clock and half past five, what you were doing and who was with you. Then swap roles.



Detective, use these questions:

- Where **were** you at five o'clock?
- What **were** you doing?
- Who **was** with you?
- **Was** the cake on the table when you left the kitchen?

Suspect, start your answer like this: *At five o'clock I was in the ... with ... We were ... .*

Detective, at the end, say if you believe the alibi and why

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Teacher Section

Answer key

• Part 1: 1 crumbs, 2 suspect, 3 footprints, 4 fridge, 5 plate (not used: candle, tray)

• Part 2: 1 no, 2 yes, 3 yes, 4 no, 5 yes, 6 no

• Part 3 notebook: Tom: in the living room, with Lily, playing a computer game. Zoe: in the garden, with Mr Brown, looking at the (new) bird house. Uncle Max: in the hall, with Mia's dad, talking on the phone.

• Part 3 detective question: Somebody else (Sam, Mia's little brother). Possible reason: every guest has an alibi, the footprints are very small and the chocolate is on a low handle.

• Part 4: 1 c, 2 a, 3 b, 4 b, 5 a, 6 b

• Part 5: free writing. For A, look for The cake thief was Sam because… plus two reasons (small footprints, low handle, chocolate on his face, he was under the tree). For B, check the past simple.

Teaching notes

• Time: about 35 to 45 minutes. Parts 1 and 2 take about 15 minutes; Parts 3 to 5 take the rest. The Extra can be a separate 10-minute speaking activity.

• Targets: past continuous (was/were + -ing) for alibis, past simple for the story, comparatives (smaller, lower), because, prepositions of place and time.

• Flyers links: Part 1 mirrors Reading and Writing Part 1 (definitions), Part 4 mirrors the story cloze with options, and Part 5 mirrors the guided writing task.

• Keeping the mystery: Fold the page so pupils cannot see Part 4 until they have made their guess in Part 3, or hand out Part 4 separately.

• Fun finish: Pupils invent a second mystery (a missing present or a broken star) and swap clues with a partner.