***The Blind Banker***

***Part 2 – The Museum and the Circus***

*http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/products/8193*

*http://arianedevere.livejournal.com/45111.html*

**Teacher’s Notes**

Level: Pre-advanced – Advanced

Time: 90 minutes

Focus: listening, speaking, vocabulary

Introduction:

This is the second part of the second episode of Sherlock, Series 1. You don’t need to have seen episode 1 (*A Study in Pink*,) but it is important to watch both parts of *The Blind Banker* in order to get the whole story.

The activities involving answering questions will be quite challenging for weaker students, so for these scenes you may choose to turn on the subtitles.

Vocabulary Activity

Give out the worksheets so that students are working in A-B pairs. Each student has a list of vocabulary items, and also the definitions for their partner’s items. They read their lists of words to each other, and try to match up the correct definitions, without reading each other’s worksheets.

*Answers: 1s 2l 3q 4u 5r 6v 7o 8m 9p 10n 11t*

*12i 13f 14g 15a 16d 17k 18h 19e 20c 21j 22b*

*The metaphorical meaning of puppet is a person who seems to be the leader, but is actually controlled by someone else. The slang meaning of crack (v) is to solve a mystery. (NB as a noun, crack has various other slang meanings!) The slang meaning of pinch (v) is to steal.*

Scene 1 (investigating in Chinatown)

Focus students on the instructions and remind them that “not clear” is an option.

*Answers: 1. No – John tells him. 2. Not clear – suggests that they are being watched, but we don’t know who the watchers are. 3. No – it means 15 – 1. 4. Yes – at least, that’s what Sherlock thinks. 5. Not clear – he thinks that one of them stole something, but he doesn’t seem to suspect one more than the other. 6. No – because he noticed that the phone directory hadn’t been taken in for several days. 7. Yes – he thinks he’s behind the screen, but he isn’t. 8. No – he doesn’t realise Sherlock has been attacked. 9. Yes – the yellow graffiti on the statue.*

Scene 2 (looking for graffiti)

Tell students that it’s one word per gap. If you’re generally using subtitles, switch them off for this exercise.

*Answers: 1. code, evidence. 2. maximise, picture. 3. average, visual, 62%. 4. crack, without.*

Scene 3 (looking for Soo Lin)

If you have plenty of time, ask students to predict what Soo Lin’s story might be, and her connection to the crime.

*Answers: 1. Soo Lin is still working on them, so she must be alive and nearby. 2. She’s managed to avoid the killer so far. 3. All the members of the Tang (the criminal organisation she used to belong to) have this tattoo. 4. Her parents died and she became a smuggler. She managed to escape, come to England, and get a good job. She thought she had left that life behind. 5. He’s her brother. 6. The leader of the Black Lotus is called Shan, and the code is based on a book. 7. She’s shot.*

Scene 4 (at the circus)

Encourage students just to watch this scene – they can write notes afterwards if they want.

*Answer: A crossbow and arrow is set up so that the slightest weight in the dish on the bow will release the arrow. A warrior is tied up with chains and placed so that the arrow is aimed at him. A woman pierces a bag of sand, and as the sand runs out and the bag gets lighter, it rises, lowering a weight towards the dish. The warrior has to escape his chains before the weight hits the dish and releases the arrow.*

Scene 5 (kidnapping)

*Answers: 1. Soo Lin had started to translate the code. 2. The A-Z (a book of maps of London) 3. Get a takeaway. 4. 15-1 refers to “Deadman” 5. “Do you have the treasure?” 6. 9 million for jade pin, Dragon Den, Black Tramway. 7. They think that John is Sherlock, because John has Sherlock’s credit card, a cheque made out to him, and he picked up tickets in Sherlock’s name, and did an impersonation of him in Chinatown: “I am Sherlock Holmes and I always work alone.” 8. They’re not really trying. 9. A hairpin, the Empress Pin. She thinks a smuggler brought it back and Sherlock has found it. 10. He says that in the tunnel the bullet could ricochet and hit her. 11. The next date won’t be like this.*

Scene 6 (Eddie Van Coon’s PA)

Again, if you’re generally using subtitles, switch them off for this exercise.

 Although the sentences aren’t exact transcripts of what is said, the words they need are all spoken in the film.

*Answers: 1. hairpin, hand cream, hand soap. 2. stood her up, say sorry. 3. street market, pinched. 4. escaped. 5. cracked, book.****The Blind Banker Part 2 – The Museum and the Circus***

***Vocabulary Activity – Student A***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Nouns**1. acrobat (n)
2. assassin (n)
3. cipher (n)
4. crime syndicate (n)
5. drop-off (n)
6. foot soldier (n)
7. general (n)
8. hoard (n)
9. intellect (n)
10. lotus (n)
11. puppet (n) *(what’s the metaphorical meaning?)*
 | **Definitions of verbs, adjectives and expressions**1. asking lots of questions.
2. to follow and find someone.
3. to take something from one country to another illegally.
4. it’ll happen soon.
5. to bounce quickly off a wall.
6. to work out what a code means.
7. to carry (often something heavy)
8. to hold something tightly between your finger and thumb.
9. to break.
10. to survive, or remain successful after difficulties.
11. with a habit of stealing things.
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***Vocabulary Activity – Student B***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Verbs, Adjectives and Expressions**1. crack (v) *(what’s the slang meaning?)*
2. decipher (v)
3. haul (v)
4. inquisitive (adj)
5. it’s only a matter of time (exp)
6. light-fingered (adj)
7. pinch (v) *(what’s the slang meaning?)*
8. ricochet (v)
9. smuggle (v)
10. stay afloat (exp)
11. track down (phr v)
 | **Definitions of verbs, adjectives and expressions**1. someone who kills someone else, often with a secret and subtle plan.
2. a collection of valuable things.
3. an Asian flower.
4. a military leader.
5. the ability to think.
6. a code.
7. a place where people can leave something to be picked up later.
8. a person who performs amazing tricks using their body.
9. a toy that looks like a person and is moved with strings.
10. an organisation which carries out illegal activities.
11. a person in the lowest level of an army.
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*Sherlock looks at the banker’s receipts, while John looks at the journalist’s diary. They work out that both Van Coon and Lukis had travelled to Hong Kong, and then went to Chinatown in London on the day they died.*

**Watch the scene where they investigate in Chinatown (30:50 – 38:57).**

*True, false or not clear?*

1. Sherlock deduces that Van Coon must have visited a particular shop.
2. Sherlock and John are being watched by a criminal organisation.
3. The yellow graffiti is a code that means sixteen – ten.
4. Van Coon made his millions by smuggling.
5. Sherlock thinks that Lukis probably stole one of the smuggled items.
6. Sherlock decides to investigate a flat because of the name on the doorbell.
7. Sherlock makes a mistake in where he thinks the burglar is hiding.
8. John comes to Sherlock’s rescue.
9. The guy who works at the museum shows Sherlock an important clue.

**Watch the scene where they go looking for graffiti (38:57 – 42:50).**

*Fill in the missing words.*

1. If we’re going to decipher this …………… , we’re going to need to look for more ………………. .
2. I need you to ……………….. your visual memory. Try to ……………. what you saw.
3. The …………… human memory, on ………….…. matters, is only …………….. accurate.
4. We can’t ……………… this ………………… Soo Lin Yao.

**Watch the scene where they go looking for Soo Lin (42:50 – 52:16).**

*Answer the questions.*

1. What does the fact that the teapots are shining tell Sherlock?
2. Why does Sherlock say that Soo Lin has been clever?
3. What is the significance of Soo Lin’s tattoo?
4. What is her story?
5. How did Soo Lin know the burglar?
6. What important information does she give Sherlock about the Black Lotus, and about the code they use?
7. What happens to Soo Lin?

*Sherlock gets all the books from the victims’ flats. He tries to work out which book could be the key to the code, to decipher the message from the railway line.*

*Meanwhile, John gets a job as a GP, and arranges to go on a date with one of his colleagues, Sarah. Sherlock persuades him to take her to see a visiting Chinese circus, because he realises that Jeju’s skills and background mean that he could easily be posing as an acrobat.*

***Watch the first act (1:02:22 – 1:05:45). What does it involve?***

*The date is a disaster, and they come back to the flat. Sherlock is still desperately trying to work out which book could be the key to the code.*

**Watch the scene with the kidnapping. (1:10:50 – 1:22:05).**

*Answer the questions.*

1. What does Sarah see that Sherlock had missed?
2. What book is the key?
3. What do John and Sarah decide to do next?
4. Why was the graffiti threatening?
5. What does the guy at the door ask John?
6. What does the coded message mean?
7. What mistake have the smugglers made? Why?
8. What does Shan say about assassins who cannot shoot straight?
9. What is the treasure, and what does Shan think has happened to it?
10. How does Sherlock persuade Shan not to shoot?
11. What does John promise Sarah?

**Watch the scene where they talk to Eddie Van Coon’s PA. (1:23:28 – 1:26:40)**

*Fill in the gaps.*

1. Sherlock knows that Van Coon stole the ………………. because the ………….. ……………. on his PA’s desk is the same as the …………… ………... in his apartment.
2. She says that she broke up with Van Coon because he often ………….. ……… …….. , and Sherlock says that he gave her something to ………… ………….. .
3. The PA says Eddie bought it in a …………….. ……………. , but Sherlock thinks he ……………….. it.
4. John thinks that Sherlock is disappointed because Shan ……………… .
5. Sherlock says that although he ………………. this code, the smugglers only have to choose another …………….. .