

# What really happened?

## Introduction

- **Level:** B2
- **Skills:** Listening or Reading
- **Topics:** Vocabulary (Celebrities) and Grammar (future in the past, unreal past, all pasts)

## The enigma

- **Keywords**

Listening, Reading, Celebrities

- **Toolbox**

A grid, a pawn, a speaker to play the audio record (one track per sentence) or a printed sheet with the sentences.

- **Description of the enigma**

How many of the events in the following letter happened?

Students receive a grid with a starting point marked in black. They must find the correct answer (color or code element) by moving to the right if an action took place in the past, or going backwards when an action hasn't occurred.



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← If the action happened				If the action did not happen →		
Answer1	Answer	Answer	Answer4	Answer	Answer	Answer
	2	3		5	6	7

For instance, if the players are supposed to find a color, the grid could look like this.

← If the action happened			Start	If the action did not happen →		

For instance if the players are supposed to find a code, the grid could look like this.

← If the action happened			Start	If the action did not happen →		
7780	9689	3878	9612	4755	5069	5805

You can provide the following testimony from a detective to your students either:

As recorded voice notes, making sure to leave enough time between each sentence for students to decide how to move their pawn,

As typed notes.

I met Mary when I was looking for information about Lizzie. -> FORWARD

She had been to all of her concerts in Europe, it was impressive. -> FORWARD

She had been dying to see her show in Paris this year. -> BACKWARDS

She hadn't been refraining from booking several tickets around her seat to make sure no one next to her would bother her. -> FORWARD

She was sad about Lizzie disappearing, she was going to go to the fanclub to see her friends after our little chat. -> BACKWARDS

I had to leave her after a while. -> FORWARD



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Anyway, she would be at the concert hall with me the next day to investigate. It was good to have a local guide. -> FORWARD

I wish I had met her before. -> BACKWARDS

ANSWER:

Therefore, the sixth answer is the correct one: dark blue or indigo if players have to find colours, or '5069' if players have to find a code.

## Hints

If students struggle to understand the enigma and look like they are getting stuck, you can suggest them the correct answer or go with them through each sentence.

## More information

### Possible restrictions

If you choose to play the text, students with **hearing impairments** could have trouble to understand part of the message. If some of your students have hearing impairments, do not hesitate to prepare a reading comprehension enigma by giving them a transcript of the text. If some students with hearing impairments have hearing aids that can connect to Bluetooth, you could even tell them to connect it to the player you are using.

Finally, if you ask players to find a colour, make sure that the majority of your group of players is not colour blind, or give them the answer once they see understand the mechanism of the enigma.

