

"Columbo" was my favorite TV series when I was a child, so it sounded natural when I told my family I decided to be a detective. After years of hard work I realize my duties have less to do with the glamour of Hollywood movies than I thought at the beginning, but it's still more challenging and full of emotion than most of the jobs my friends have. When I arrive at a crime scene my first duty is to pay attention to every detail and collect proof of what had happened. I have to check the suspects list and discover if they have any motives to want the person dead. When I find a clue I have to use it in order to find a solution to the crime.

Fortunately there aren't many murders where I live, so in most of the days I investigate bank assaults or house invasions. There aren't nice either, but it's much better to try to catch a thief than an assassin.



**Columbo** is an American crime fiction TV series, starring Peter Falk as Lieutenant Columbo, a homicide detective with the Los Angeles Police Department. It was created by William Link and Richard Levinson. The show popularized the inverted detective story format. With the exception of a couple of special episodes with added twists, almost every episode began by showing the commission of the crime and its perpetrator. As such, there is no "whodunit" element. The plot mainly revolves around how the perpetrator, whose identity is known, would finally be exposed and

Match the words and expressions to their definitions (look up in a dictionary if necessary):

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. assault         | ( ) excitement, adventure, and unusual activity  |
| 2. challenging     | ( ) stimulating, interesting, and thought-provoking  |
| 3. clue            | ( ) the place where a crime has been committed   |
| 4. crime scene     | ( ) evidence to establish something as true, or to produce belief it is true   |
| 5. glamour         | ( ) a person who is suspected, especially of a crime, offense or the like  |
| 6. invasion        | ( ) a list of people who are suspected of committing a crime   |
| 7. investigate, to | ( ) anything that serves to guide or direct in the solution of a crime, mystery, etc.                                |
| 8. proof           | ( ) to examine, study, or inquire into systematically; search or examine into the particulars of; examine in detail. |
| 9. suspect         | ( ) an unlawful physical attack upon another; an attempt or offer to do violence to another                          |
| 10. suspects list  | ( ) the act of breaking into a house or building   |
| 11. thief          | ( ) a person who steals  |



Complete the sentences with one of the words / expressions from the previous exercise (make the necessary changes):

1. The detectives couldn't find any \_\_\_\_\_ to accuse Jimmy.
2. I like this kind of exercises because they're always so \_\_\_\_\_!
3. Now we have to analyze the \_\_\_\_\_ to see if one of them was elsewhere when the crime was committed.
4. The police officer \_\_\_\_\_ carefully the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. We need to install window bars to avoid an \_\_\_\_\_ while we are away.
6. The detective found hair strands on the victim's clothes, and that'll be an important \_\_\_\_\_ to solve the case.
7. Most of the teenagers who want to be models don't mind about the difficulties they'll face, they are fascinated by the job \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Let's check all the \_\_\_\_\_ again and see where they were at the time of the murder.
9. The police arrested the \_\_\_\_\_ who stole your jewelry, Ana.
10. The woman passed out during the bank \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer the questions about the first text:

- Why wasn't a surprise for the man's family when he decided to be a detective?

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- What did he realize about his job?

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- How does he describe it?

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- What's his first duty at a crime scene? What does that mean?

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- What does he do next?

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What does he do when he finds a clue?  
Mark True (T) or False (F) according to the second text (be prepared to explain it orally when it's false):

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- Columbo is a television soap opera of the days? Why?

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- Columbo is a homicide detective. ( )

- The fictional detective Columbo works in Los Angeles. ( )

- The series shows a detective story in inverted format because we already know who the criminal is since the very beginning. ( )

- Most of the detective stories don't have the "whodunit" element. ( )

- "Whodunit" means "to discover who was killed". ( )

## TEACHER'S KEYS

- ( 5 ) excitement, adventure, and unusual activity
- ( 2 ) stimulating, interesting, and thought-provoking
- ( 4 ) the place where a crime has been committed
- ( 8 ) evidence to establish something as true, or to produce belief it is true
- ( 9 ) a person who is suspected, especially of a crime, offense or the like
- ( 10 ) a list of people who are suspected of committing a crime
- ( 3 ) anything that serves to guide or direct in the solution of a crime, mystery, etc.
- ( 7 ) to examine, study, or inquire into systematically; search or examine into the particulars of; examine in detail.
- ( 1 ) an unlawful physical attack upon another; an attempt or offer to do violence to another
- ( 6 ) the act of breaking into a house or building
- ( 11 ) a person who steals

1. The detectives couldn't find any **proofs** to accuse Jimmy.
2. I like this kind of exercises because they're always so **challenging**!
3. Now we have to analyze the **suspects list** to see if one of them was elsewhere when the crime was committed.
4. The police officer **investigated** carefully the **crime scene**.
5. We need to install window bars to avoid an **invasion** while we are away.
6. The detective found a strand of hair on the victim's clothes, and that'll be an important **clue** to solve the case.
7. Most of the teenagers who want to be models don't mind about the difficulties they'll face, they are fascinated by the job **glamour**.
8. Let's check all the **suspects** again and see where they were at the time of the murder.
9. The police arrested the **thief** who stole your jewelry, Ana.
10. The woman passed out during the bank **assault**.

### Answer the questions about the first text:

- Why wasn't a surprise for the man's family when he decided to be a detective?

**BECAUSE HIS FAVORITE TV SERIES WAS COLUMBO.**

- What did he realize about his job?

**IT DOESN'T HAVE THE GLAMOUR OF HOLLYWOOD MOVIES BUT IS STILL CHALLENGING.**

- How does he describe it?

**IT'S CHALLENGING.**

- What's his first duty at a crime scene? What does that mean?

**TO PAY ATTENTION TO EVERY DETAIL AND COLLECT PROOF OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED.**

- What does he do next?

- "Columbo" is a Mexican soap opera. ( F )
- Columbo is a homicide detective. ( T )
- The fictional detective Columbo works in Los Angeles. ( T )
- The series shows a detective story in inverted format because we already know who the criminal is since the very beginning. ( T )
- Most of the detective stories don't have the "whodunit" element. ( F )
- "Whodunit" means "to discover who was killed". ( F )
- The challenge in this series is how to expose and arrest the criminal. ( T )
- Instead of having a "whodunit" element, the series can be referred as "howdoit". ( F )

A **whodunit** or **whodunnit** (for "Who['s] done it?") is a complex, plot-driven variety of the detective story in which the puzzle is the main feature of interest.