

### 1. The Mary Celeste

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, 1872, a ship named the *Mary Celeste* was found drifting abandoned off the coast of Portugal. There were steaming cups of tea on the breakfast table along with an uneaten meal. The ship was warm and dry and everything felt normal, except there were no people on the ship... Is this one of those unsolved mysteries? Read on and find out the true story in an 'extra word' activity. There is one page to print. Click [here](#) to get your copy.

<http://www.insideout.net/warehouse/worksheets/2002/Dec/IO075S-maryceleste.pdf>

#### Level

Upper Intermediate and above

#### How to use the lesson

Optional lead in: Brainstorm what your students know about the story of the *Mary Celeste*. If they are unfamiliar with the story, a more general introduction about unsolved mysteries (The Bermuda Triangle, Crop Circles, etc.) would be just as good.

1. Give each of your students a copy of the worksheet and ask them to fold their piece of paper so that only the first exercise is visible.
2. Divide the class into pairs and ask your students to work together to find the extra word (where appropriate) in each line.
3. Check answers in open class.

#### Answers

- |         |         |
|---------|---------|
| 1. the  | 9. ✓    |
| 2. ✓    | 10. up  |
| 3. more | 11. it  |
| 4. has  | 12. of  |
| 5. for  | 13. ✓   |
| 6. she  | 14. at  |
| 7. a    | 15. ✓   |
| 8. was  | 16. get |

4. Tell your students they have two minutes to complete the rest of the story (the bottom half of their piece of paper). If they are not moving too quickly, give them an extra minute.
5. When the time limit is up, stop your students and ask them to check their answers with the person sitting next to them.
6. Check answers in open class.

Answers 1. an 2. a 3. a 4. the 5. the 6. the 7. the 8. a 9. the 10. a  
11. a 12. -

## 2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.deafwhale.com/maryceleste/index.html>

Was the *Mary Celeste* sunk in a seaquake? Read all about it.

[http://www.occultopedia.com/m/mary\\_celeste.htm](http://www.occultopedia.com/m/mary_celeste.htm)

Here are some more theories about what happened.

<http://www.numa.net/celeste/>

NUMA brings you pictures of the *Mary Celeste* from under the sea.

<http://www.electricscotland.com/haggis/haggis5.htm>

So *uisge beatha* (whisky) was to blame, was it? A new theory.