

## Staplehurst Railway Disaster - Listening Worksheet

### Before Listening

You will hear the story of a train accident in 1865 in Staplehurst, Kent.

Which of these words do you not expect to hear:

**track \* signal \* eurotunnel \* Paris \* boat-train \* carriage \* coach**

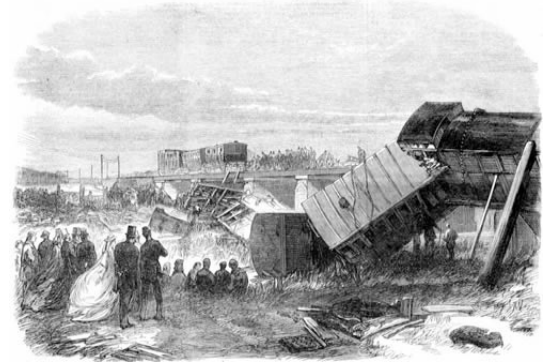
Can you guess the link between Charles Dickens and the Staplehurst accident?

- a. he travelled on the train
- b. the accident appears in one of his novels
- a. his wife was on the train

Now listen [here](#) and answer these question

### True or false

1. The wife of Charles Dickens was on the train
2. Passenger were travelling from Paris.
3. There were two rails still missing on the track
4. There was a two metre gap as the track crossed a bridge.
5. The foreman did not know about the boat-train.
6. The train driver did not have time to stop.
7. Some of the train crossed the gap.
8. Dickens was injured.



### Understanding: Focus on Numbers

Listen again. Answer these questions:

1. On what date did the accident happen?
2. How many more rails needed to be replaced?
3. How big was the gap in the tracks?
4. How many first-class coaches did not go into the ravine?
5. How many were killed? How many were injured?
6. For how long did Dickens help the injured?
7. For how long did Dickens live after the accident?

### Writing

You are the mother of Mrs Ternan, travelling with your daughter and Charles Dickens. Write your diary entry for the day of the disaster. You could mention:

- \* your journey from Paris
- \* what you remember about the accident
- \* your daughter's injury (invent details)
- \* how Charles helped other passengers