Agatha Christie was born in 1890 and died in 1976. She wrote a lot of very popular detective novels. She is – along with William Shakespeare – the best selling writer of all time. Her play, The Mousetrap, holds the record for the longest run in the world. The first performance in London was on 25 November 1952, and it is still running in the same theatre after more than 20,000 performances.

Agatha Christie did not go to school. During the First World War she worked in a hospital dispensary. There she learnt about chemicals and poisons. This knowledge became very useful to her in her later career of detective-story writer.

She was married twice. Her first husband was Colonel Archibald Christie. She divorced in 1928 and married an archaeologist. She helped him in his excavation of historical sites in Syria and Iraq. This activity gave her some detective skills.
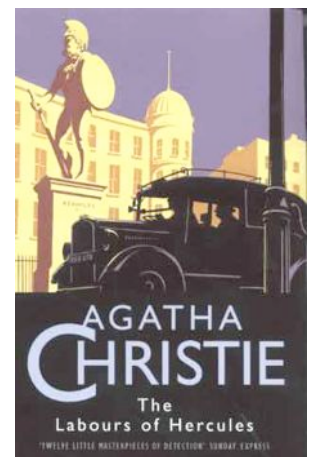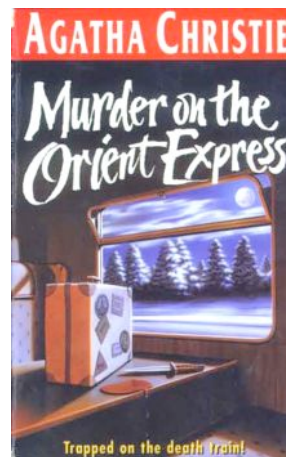
mousetrap: device to catch mice
performance: presentation
dispensary: pharmacy
poison: deadly drug
useful: of use
divorce: break up marriage
excavation: digging out
site: place
skill: talent
excellent: very good
several: more than a few
successful: profitable

She wrote a few plays and over 70 detective novels. Her books are excellent stories. Several of them have been successfully turned into films. Her two most famous detectives are Miss Marple and Hercule Poirot.

Three of these 15 titles are not books by Agatha Christie. Which ones?

The Man in the Brown Suit	suit: costume
The Mystery of the Blue Train	mystery: obscurity
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer	adventure: exploit
Murder on the Orient Express	murder: killing
Death in the Clouds	cloud: fog
And Then There Were None	none: no one
The Body in the Library	body: dead person
The Moving Fingers	moving: going
All Quiet on the Western Front	quiet: still
They Came to Baghdad	Baghdad: in Iraq
4.50 from Paddington	Paddington: London train station
Cat Among the Pigeons	pigeon: dove
Romeo and Juliet	Juliet: girl's name
Passenger to Frankfurt	passenger: person on a train
Elephants Can Remember	remember: recall

Make the sentences negative:

1. Have you read "Murder on the Orient Express"? *...Haven't you read "Murder on the Orient Express"?....*

2. She wrote many love stories. ....

3. She went to school. ....

4. She liked writing letters. ....

4. Hercule Poirot was British. ....

5. Did you visit a performance of the "Mousetrap"? ....