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- Rob:** Hi Helen. I thought I would pop round to talk to you about today's Authentic Real English but ...err ... it looks like you're busy ... what are all these police cars doing here?
- Helen:** Quick, come in, shut the door...now this is very serious. There has been murder, 凶杀事件。
- Rob:** What?
- Helen:** A murder. I know it's not very nice....but to be honest the police can't find any blood or a body. 这个凶杀事件到底是怎么回事谁也不知道, 仍然是个谜 – I say Rob, it's like a murder mystery.
- Rob:** Hmm, we need to do our own investigation. So what exactly happened?
- Helen:** Well, my friend came to see me this morning ...
- Rob:** I see....
- Helen:** .... and we were having a nice chat when she said I could murder a coffee – 她想杀掉一杯咖啡 – and then she disappeared and I haven't heard from her since.
- Rob:** Right. Well Helen, relax, I think she's still alive and everything is ok.
- Helen:** There's no murder?
- Rob:** No. When people say they could murder something it's an informal way of saying they are starving or thirsty and are desperate to have something to eat or drink.
- Helen:** 啊。原来这是一种夸张的说法表示一个人饥渴到了极点, 需要吃点东西或喝点什么东西。 But murder is a strong word.
- Rob:** Yes. A direct translation would mean you are so desperate for something you would kill it! But in reality, we don't go that far.

**Helen:** Thank goodness!

**Rob:** Here are some more examples:

Examples

*It's been a really tough day at work, I could murder a beer or two – anyone want to join me at the pub?*

*I'm starving, I could murder a curry.*

**Helen:** 这个英语单词很有意思，用凶杀这个词来形容一个人处于极度饥渴的状态。

**Rob:** People also describe a situation or a feeling as murder – but again there is no killing involved – they are just trying to explain that something is bad or uncomfortable.

**Helen:** Murder 还有另一个意思表示不舒服甚至痛苦。Such as Rob?

**Rob:** Such as in these examples:

Examples

*Running a marathon is murder on my knees.*

*I've been decorating all day and my back is murder.*

*Don't go on the London underground during the rush hour, it's murder!*

**Rob:** So by saying 'it's murder' he means it's awful; it's terrible. Anyway Helen, now we know there's not been a real murder, I think we should tell these policemen to go home now.

**Helen:** Good idea. Excuse me...there's been a terrible misunderstanding. There's not been a murder so you can all go home.

**Policeman:** Oh right. So we've been wasting our time then? But hold on...I think there might be another murder soon.

**Helen:** Oh, why's that?

**Policeman:** Well, I could murder a cup of tea!

**Helen:** ...of course.

**Rob:** I'll put the kettle on.

**Helen & Rob:** Bye.

**Policeman:** Milk, two sugars please.