



# SPEAKEASIES\*

'SPEAKEASIES were generally ill-kept secrets, and owners\* exploited low-paid police officers with payoffs to look the other way\*, enjoy a regular drink or tip them off about planned raids by prohibition agents. Bootleggers\* who supplied\* the private bars would add water to good whiskey, gin and other liquors to sell larger quantities.'



As Bootlegging enriched criminals throughout America, New York became America's center for organized crime with bosses such as Charles 'lucky' Luciano, Meyer Lansky and Frank Costello. At the height of Prohibition in the late 1920s, there were 32,000 speakeasies in New York alone.

In fact, organized crime in America exploded because of bootlegging. Al Capone, leader of the Chicago Outfit, made an estimated \$60 million a year supplying illegal beer and hard liquor to thousands of speakeasies he controlled in the late 1920s.

<http://prohibition.themobmuseum.org/the-history/the-prohibition-underworld/the-speakeasies-of-the-1920s/>

- \* **a speakeasy** = bar qui vend de l'alcool illégalement      \* **owners** = les propriétaires
- \* **a payoff** = un pot-de-vin      to look the other way\* = fermer les yeux (ignorer quelque chose)
- \* **Bootleggers** = les contrebandiers      \* **to supply**: fournir, approvisionner



## TROUVE DANS LE TEXTE LES EXPRESSIONS SUIVANTES :

Un secret mal gardé : \_\_\_\_\_ mal payé: \_\_\_\_\_

Exploiter : \_\_\_\_\_ ajouter: \_\_\_\_\_

## REPOND AUX QUESTIONS SUIVANTES :



1. Qu'étaient les Speakeasies ? Dans quel pays ? à quelle époque ? Pourquoi ?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Pourquoi les propriétaires n'étaient-ils pas arrêtés ?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Combien y en avait-il à New York dans les années 20 ?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Qui était Al Capone ? Quel était son lien avec les speakeasies ?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_