Cold Case Number Mysteries

50 Detective Logic Puzzles for Adults: Find the One Phone Number, Timestamp or Lottery Ticket That Fits All the Clues

The No Job Lifestyle

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First edition.

How to Solve a Case

Each case comes with a register: a long list of phone numbers, door log times or lottery tickets. Every entry has a number in grey in front of it.

Every clue is true about the one entry you are looking for. Read the clues one at a time and cross out every entry that does not fit. When the clues are used up, exactly one entry is left.

Clue words mean exactly what they say. "30 or more" includes 30, and "between 2 and 4" includes 2 and 4. Digits that appear "side by side" must be next to each other in the same order.

Door logs use a 24 hour clock, so 21:47 is 9:47 in the evening. All door log entries are from 2026.

Every case was checked by computer against the whole register: only one entry fits, and every clue rules out at least one more entry when used in order. The solutions show the count left after each clue.

Chapter 1: The Phone Records

Easy, medium and hard cases

CASE 1 | EASY

The Final Ledger

Nancy Nash, a wine merchant, collapsed during dinner at a small town bakery. The phone company sent every number that called that evening: 240 numbers. One belongs to the killer. Every clue is true about that number.

CLUES

1. The seven digits use 5 different digits or less.
2. The seven digits use 5 different digits or more.
3. The last four digits form a number of 6117 or less.
4. The digit 3 appears at least once.
5. The digit 2 appears at most once.
6. The seven digits after the area code add up to 36 or less.
7. The last four digits form a number of between 3149 and 7301.
8. The digit 3 appears at least twice.
9. The digit 4 appears at most once.
10. The count of even digits is 4 or less.
11. The digit 8 appears 1 to 2 times.
12. The three digits after the area code form a number of between 311 and 603.

The killer's number is entry _____ (555) _____

Case 1 Register (entries 1 to 240 of 240)

001	(555) 408-2006	061	(555) 314-2125	121	(555) 336-7732	181	(555) 343-2752
002	(555) 302-0866	062	(555) 878-2080	122	(555) 454-4561	182	(555) 756-6847
003	(555) 602-0176	063	(555) 955-1888	123	(555) 858-6525	183	(555) 944-2158
004	(555) 554-0018	064	(555) 760-4323	124	(555) 599-3122	184	(555) 381-0180
005	(555) 271-8389	065	(555) 708-3916	125	(555) 940-8866	185	(555) 297-9079
006	(555) 595-0970	066	(555) 603-7110	126	(555) 223-4717	186	(555) 243-3265
007	(555) 690-7650	067	(555) 299-1776	127	(555) 576-0852	187	(555) 896-6785
008	(555) 741-8252	068	(555) 708-1045	128	(555) 819-7557	188	(555) 890-5462
009	(555) 276-2810	069	(555) 453-0522	129	(555) 725-6220	189	(555) 498-7978
010	(555) 333-1617	070	(555) 425-5354	130	(555) 991-0264	190	(555) 604-3450
011	(555) 224-7151	071	(555) 831-8350	131	(555) 694-7078	191	(555) 229-1310
012	(555) 827-7879	072	(555) 263-3457	132	(555) 878-5671	192	(555) 936-6236
013	(555) 899-1060	073	(555) 726-6297	133	(555) 527-5625	193	(555) 699-3390
014	(555) 333-3509	074	(555) 673-9699	134	(555) 201-3608	194	(555) 890-3844
015	(555) 576-9053	075	(555) 915-6459	135	(555) 759-0067	195	(555) 594-3239
016	(555) 755-9125	076	(555) 215-6862	136	(555) 864-2279	196	(555) 894-7556
017	(555) 656-7979	077	(555) 555-6414	137	(555) 380-9083	197	(555) 774-4671
018	(555) 880-8903	078	(555) 414-4454	138	(555) 367-5574	198	(555) 864-3259
019	(555) 783-2740	079	(555) 796-9277	139	(555) 785-9742	199	(555) 364-6193
020	(555) 375-0327	080	(555) 859-5326	140	(555) 477-4415	200	(555) 269-3879
021	(555) 791-7077	081	(555) 471-9354	141	(555) 291-9106	201	(555) 352-8789
022	(555) 390-4215	082	(555) 494-4117	142	(555) 580-8540	202	(555) 463-4535
023	(555) 452-3370	083	(555) 565-0223	143	(555) 766-0660	203	(555) 962-1332
024	(555) 865-7214	084	(555) 963-7715	144	(555) 868-6904	204	(555) 563-2697
025	(555) 572-8763	085	(555) 394-5797	145	(555) 634-3322	205	(555) 846-6033
026	(555) 778-5991	086	(555) 554-6382	146	(555) 701-9719	206	(555) 440-0555
027	(555) 613-3668	087	(555) 976-3413	147	(555) 684-9035	207	(555) 640-0837
028	(555) 547-1285	088	(555) 429-7241	148	(555) 226-0276	208	(555) 832-6305
029	(555) 843-3359	089	(555) 318-5139	149	(555) 846-4381	209	(555) 257-8740
030	(555) 440-2145	090	(555) 468-3387	150	(555) 588-5237	210	(555) 750-7039
031	(555) 852-3744	091	(555) 832-7263	151	(555) 835-7333	211	(555) 823-0242
032	(555) 746-5251	092	(555) 695-1573	152	(555) 648-1728	212	(555) 417-4051
033	(555) 607-8004	093	(555) 469-7931	153	(555) 814-2549	213	(555) 431-4350
034	(555) 994-8320	094	(555) 490-5250	154	(555) 820-8090	214	(555) 269-4502
035	(555) 789-8310	095	(555) 965-6521	155	(555) 682-9687	215	(555) 965-0587
036	(555) 696-6386	096	(555) 443-1638	156	(555) 344-3960	216	(555) 654-6985
037	(555) 315-2920	097	(555) 218-7431	157	(555) 658-9459	217	(555) 666-8514
038	(555) 274-4275	098	(555) 645-7397	158	(555) 868-1997	218	(555) 241-7988
039	(555) 655-9353	099	(555) 596-3590	159	(555) 727-8116	219	(555) 483-3941
040	(555) 354-3344	100	(555) 296-6506	160	(555) 204-4807	220	(555) 348-8705
041	(555) 729-3215	101	(555) 764-2486	161	(555) 280-8474	221	(555) 638-2299
042	(555) 770-4203	102	(555) 939-1967	162	(555) 230-6369	222	(555) 820-8275
043	(555) 494-7820	103	(555) 950-7967	163	(555) 571-1837	223	(555) 466-8672
044	(555) 224-0268	104	(555) 834-2807	164	(555) 511-3566	224	(555) 489-9405
045	(555) 327-8805	105	(555) 795-8343	165	(555) 258-0280	225	(555) 380-2761
046	(555) 917-2535	106	(555) 459-4065	166	(555) 906-6394	226	(555) 214-2780
047	(555) 745-9655	107	(555) 241-0927	167	(555) 789-5423	227	(555) 279-1635
048	(555) 565-8746	108	(555) 412-0896	168	(555) 559-8781	228	(555) 331-1251
049	(555) 963-5342	109	(555) 399-9008	169	(555) 791-6117	229	(555) 801-9060
050	(555) 410-2960	110	(555) 310-0272	170	(555) 547-4274	230	(555) 925-5952
051	(555) 686-8061	111	(555) 974-9361	171	(555) 823-3036	231	(555) 959-9526
052	(555) 487-9948	112	(555) 577-5453	172	(555) 635-7080	232	(555) 536-9059
053	(555) 234-5856	113	(555) 638-7193	173	(555) 849-1856	233	(555) 798-3302
054	(555) 472-5352	114	(555) 538-7329	174	(555) 939-8599	234	(555) 707-8915
055	(555) 556-9540	115	(555) 812-6207	175	(555) 330-7968	235	(555) 595-1883
056	(555) 972-1223	116	(555) 248-1609	176	(555) 365-6709	236	(555) 649-5260
057	(555) 924-3657	117	(555) 820-0874	177	(555) 617-3922	237	(555) 847-4902
058	(555) 550-6838	118	(555) 257-7757	178	(555) 429-3184	238	(555) 266-7995
059	(555) 260-5741	119	(555) 906-0621	179	(555) 262-6170	239	(555) 890-6115
060	(555) 849-5502	120	(555) 407-7484	180	(555) 231-6930	240	(555) 315-2004

CASE 2 | EASY

The Winter Greenhouse

Keith Hayes, a wine merchant, was found in the garden at dawn at the opening night of a gallery show. The phone company sent every number that called that evening: 240 numbers. One belongs to the killer. Every clue is true about that number.

CLUES

1. The three digits after the area code form a number of 758 or less.
2. The number has no 8 in it.
3. The digit 3 appears at least once.
4. The biggest digit in the number is 8 or less.
5. The seven digits after the area code add up to between 25 and 48.
6. The digit 6 appears at least once.
7. The digit 6 appears at most once.
8. The seven digits use exactly 5 different digits.
9. The digit 7 appears at most once.
10. The digit 4 appears at most once.
11. The digit 2 appears 1 to 2 times.
12. The digits 6 and 2 appear side by side, in that order.

The killer's number is entry _____ (555) _____

Case 2 Register (entries 1 to 240 of 240)

001	(555) 992-7776	061	(555) 741-7335	121	(555) 574-5535	181	(555) 852-7984
002	(555) 270-2531	062	(555) 710-2062	122	(555) 775-7409	182	(555) 550-9485
003	(555) 509-9554	063	(555) 257-1748	123	(555) 628-3214	183	(555) 443-6421
004	(555) 203-8679	064	(555) 652-3452	124	(555) 444-6721	184	(555) 241-5932
005	(555) 410-1335	065	(555) 749-3142	125	(555) 758-5803	185	(555) 504-0202
006	(555) 858-1490	066	(555) 937-5966	126	(555) 487-6948	186	(555) 856-6605
007	(555) 259-3701	067	(555) 777-8570	127	(555) 508-9029	187	(555) 756-3221
008	(555) 997-4055	068	(555) 907-4028	128	(555) 594-2094	188	(555) 484-5253
009	(555) 506-6589	069	(555) 811-5067	129	(555) 975-1666	189	(555) 639-2524
010	(555) 996-5691	070	(555) 932-3144	130	(555) 985-5067	190	(555) 867-5170
011	(555) 691-6895	071	(555) 372-9904	131	(555) 354-4730	191	(555) 867-6817
012	(555) 354-7377	072	(555) 353-8138	132	(555) 353-5431	192	(555) 929-0580
013	(555) 377-5185	073	(555) 935-8511	133	(555) 306-8429	193	(555) 279-0306
014	(555) 341-9619	074	(555) 836-2260	134	(555) 289-0024	194	(555) 293-0866
015	(555) 621-9992	075	(555) 611-2471	135	(555) 398-4607	195	(555) 240-4640
016	(555) 721-8695	076	(555) 510-3671	136	(555) 441-1803	196	(555) 285-4734
017	(555) 582-2807	077	(555) 443-0186	137	(555) 200-6604	197	(555) 681-5821
018	(555) 725-0829	078	(555) 660-6822	138	(555) 584-1197	198	(555) 811-7728
019	(555) 311-2627	079	(555) 429-8889	139	(555) 473-5122	199	(555) 525-4049
020	(555) 959-8601	080	(555) 202-7220	140	(555) 225-1619	200	(555) 203-6446
021	(555) 674-4813	081	(555) 693-1882	141	(555) 903-2904	201	(555) 506-2602
022	(555) 850-9688	082	(555) 928-9282	142	(555) 220-7029	202	(555) 832-6912
023	(555) 736-0972	083	(555) 848-7166	143	(555) 901-4335	203	(555) 859-7465
024	(555) 526-3247	084	(555) 936-6937	144	(555) 788-4253	204	(555) 352-5674
025	(555) 835-5999	085	(555) 208-9264	145	(555) 972-2132	205	(555) 953-4613
026	(555) 206-0594	086	(555) 504-3284	146	(555) 638-2193	206	(555) 434-7657
027	(555) 938-8038	087	(555) 853-8167	147	(555) 365-8872	207	(555) 983-9881
028	(555) 425-2568	088	(555) 374-5338	148	(555) 914-6486	208	(555) 718-1964
029	(555) 773-9308	089	(555) 610-4265	149	(555) 259-2282	209	(555) 598-4261
030	(555) 343-7127	090	(555) 603-6987	150	(555) 978-5091	210	(555) 998-5223
031	(555) 415-5513	091	(555) 419-7661	151	(555) 463-9398	211	(555) 827-2501
032	(555) 679-2974	092	(555) 994-0129	152	(555) 853-8994	212	(555) 756-5049
033	(555) 377-1641	093	(555) 331-1754	153	(555) 401-7613	213	(555) 353-7111
034	(555) 384-1299	094	(555) 865-7767	154	(555) 855-6830	214	(555) 852-3662
035	(555) 962-2549	095	(555) 223-3195	155	(555) 931-3876	215	(555) 549-0494
036	(555) 903-0558	096	(555) 969-9530	156	(555) 266-9674	216	(555) 889-3937
037	(555) 764-4453	097	(555) 224-0058	157	(555) 594-4305	217	(555) 477-5081
038	(555) 852-9340	098	(555) 236-6427	158	(555) 303-3576	218	(555) 544-7563
039	(555) 529-3286	099	(555) 892-1290	159	(555) 954-1243	219	(555) 392-5949
040	(555) 939-1082	100	(555) 397-9166	160	(555) 615-9119	220	(555) 688-6149
041	(555) 513-4670	101	(555) 794-0040	161	(555) 424-5242	221	(555) 943-2274
042	(555) 455-5946	102	(555) 716-6703	162	(555) 240-7737	222	(555) 433-9155
043	(555) 323-0752	103	(555) 355-6231	163	(555) 654-6645	223	(555) 591-4407
044	(555) 829-4015	104	(555) 670-6802	164	(555) 889-6898	224	(555) 619-3216
045	(555) 329-2371	105	(555) 981-3262	165	(555) 505-3795	225	(555) 250-2871
046	(555) 401-5703	106	(555) 932-5894	166	(555) 232-0965	226	(555) 465-4363
047	(555) 520-4607	107	(555) 979-7475	167	(555) 569-3375	227	(555) 356-1364
048	(555) 284-1882	108	(555) 385-4602	168	(555) 331-3103	228	(555) 755-8615
049	(555) 991-6441	109	(555) 563-0559	169	(555) 264-0546	229	(555) 772-1856
050	(555) 214-9711	110	(555) 896-2342	170	(555) 636-9780	230	(555) 655-5368
051	(555) 513-3262	111	(555) 882-2834	171	(555) 298-1818	231	(555) 681-1837
052	(555) 681-0759	112	(555) 854-8099	172	(555) 688-9294	232	(555) 895-2863
053	(555) 527-6081	113	(555) 836-5059	173	(555) 730-4723	233	(555) 269-8651
054	(555) 704-7394	114	(555) 605-6101	174	(555) 982-5926	234	(555) 300-3479
055	(555) 436-4959	115	(555) 512-4835	175	(555) 354-7666	235	(555) 933-3730
056	(555) 804-0598	116	(555) 487-4294	176	(555) 955-5814	236	(555) 442-3774
057	(555) 280-9497	117	(555) 567-7597	177	(555) 477-9777	237	(555) 827-9821
058	(555) 579-6043	118	(555) 346-9168	178	(555) 572-3277	238	(555) 888-9547
059	(555) 663-6083	119	(555) 806-3974	179	(555) 727-6007	239	(555) 822-9344
060	(555) 261-5481	120	(555) 745-3769	180	(555) 685-1070	240	(555) 927-7151

CASE 3 | EASY

The Final Waltz

Ida Ridley, a watch maker, was found in the locked study at a lakeside hotel. The phone company sent every number that called that evening: 240 numbers. One belongs to the killer. Every clue is true about that number.

CLUES

1. The last four digits form a number of 3501 or more.
2. The digit 6 appears at least once.
3. The last four digits form a number of between 5438 and 9202.
4. The number has no 0 in it.
5. The digit 7 appears at least once.
6. The three digits after the area code form a number of 519 or more.
7. The digit 1 appears 1 to 2 times.
8. The first digit after the area code is 7, 8 or 9.
9. The number has no 9 in it.
10. The digit 8 appears at most twice.
11. The last digit is 1 or 6.
12. The digit 4 appears at least once.

The killer's number is entry _____ (555) _____

Case 3 Register (entries 1 to 240 of 240)

001	(555) 855-9765	061	(555) 856-4746	121	(555) 814-0278	181	(555) 723-9142
002	(555) 998-3507	062	(555) 682-7218	122	(555) 847-5791	182	(555) 683-0547
003	(555) 694-2019	063	(555) 470-5541	123	(555) 392-9405	183	(555) 888-6177
004	(555) 876-5437	064	(555) 739-2359	124	(555) 411-7237	184	(555) 325-1016
005	(555) 967-3246	065	(555) 277-4931	125	(555) 677-7695	185	(555) 696-2518
006	(555) 219-7174	066	(555) 303-3380	126	(555) 606-3404	186	(555) 394-6294
007	(555) 484-5624	067	(555) 406-4978	127	(555) 602-9124	187	(555) 606-4360
008	(555) 717-8356	068	(555) 953-9972	128	(555) 617-6510	188	(555) 385-0666
009	(555) 491-5541	069	(555) 556-8095	129	(555) 771-9174	189	(555) 218-1923
010	(555) 435-6716	070	(555) 889-6435	130	(555) 313-1196	190	(555) 724-9412
011	(555) 479-6230	071	(555) 723-5610	131	(555) 662-4072	191	(555) 721-6146
012	(555) 586-9191	072	(555) 312-8934	132	(555) 359-2212	192	(555) 379-4284
013	(555) 747-7491	073	(555) 920-7991	133	(555) 335-6324	193	(555) 424-2734
014	(555) 454-8986	074	(555) 271-3361	134	(555) 820-3444	194	(555) 849-2763
015	(555) 751-6369	075	(555) 469-3961	135	(555) 288-5967	195	(555) 562-9658
016	(555) 605-1526	076	(555) 453-0759	136	(555) 851-2471	196	(555) 510-4892
017	(555) 872-1835	077	(555) 796-9648	137	(555) 713-4690	197	(555) 606-1233
018	(555) 905-5393	078	(555) 574-9762	138	(555) 657-6009	198	(555) 975-7344
019	(555) 887-3222	079	(555) 770-1108	139	(555) 400-2949	199	(555) 911-0951
020	(555) 889-3388	080	(555) 443-2989	140	(555) 843-6312	200	(555) 795-5870
021	(555) 879-1741	081	(555) 862-6931	141	(555) 329-6539	201	(555) 926-0434
022	(555) 330-0153	082	(555) 276-8117	142	(555) 260-1556	202	(555) 417-9900
023	(555) 760-0606	083	(555) 531-8558	143	(555) 704-3593	203	(555) 285-5123
024	(555) 933-2117	084	(555) 718-3261	144	(555) 269-3043	204	(555) 964-2675
025	(555) 385-9162	085	(555) 702-7897	145	(555) 459-7680	205	(555) 686-9352
026	(555) 878-4693	086	(555) 645-7746	146	(555) 902-4994	206	(555) 456-7266
027	(555) 551-0742	087	(555) 520-5489	147	(555) 518-6102	207	(555) 344-6143
028	(555) 398-0536	088	(555) 362-9561	148	(555) 307-6826	208	(555) 233-4512
029	(555) 646-4730	089	(555) 265-6755	149	(555) 728-2032	209	(555) 546-4810
030	(555) 423-6344	090	(555) 450-1158	150	(555) 210-4882	210	(555) 653-9730
031	(555) 856-3763	091	(555) 345-8181	151	(555) 333-3846	211	(555) 273-3909
032	(555) 259-8913	092	(555) 560-5503	152	(555) 526-3266	212	(555) 949-1403
033	(555) 921-5152	093	(555) 680-9466	153	(555) 620-6991	213	(555) 379-2195
034	(555) 415-8299	094	(555) 985-0264	154	(555) 624-0226	214	(555) 376-4946
035	(555) 515-6373	095	(555) 995-5399	155	(555) 510-9780	215	(555) 825-6459
036	(555) 385-6277	096	(555) 886-6330	156	(555) 644-2624	216	(555) 679-6474
037	(555) 873-9227	097	(555) 220-1635	157	(555) 881-3822	217	(555) 661-8736
038	(555) 608-5857	098	(555) 316-2982	158	(555) 747-4685	218	(555) 676-0169
039	(555) 616-7431	099	(555) 661-9079	159	(555) 663-4281	219	(555) 954-9638
040	(555) 468-5920	100	(555) 347-6847	160	(555) 659-9270	220	(555) 979-8230
041	(555) 602-8830	101	(555) 862-4847	161	(555) 792-3180	221	(555) 850-5469
042	(555) 561-5904	102	(555) 942-9530	162	(555) 780-7720	222	(555) 875-8865
043	(555) 594-2080	103	(555) 450-0301	163	(555) 731-4954	223	(555) 219-7576
044	(555) 374-4516	104	(555) 568-8904	164	(555) 484-2029	224	(555) 732-6757
045	(555) 687-3765	105	(555) 414-1733	165	(555) 745-3575	225	(555) 816-7696
046	(555) 940-6963	106	(555) 320-0006	166	(555) 744-1158	226	(555) 219-0116
047	(555) 420-0472	107	(555) 713-6875	167	(555) 946-5610	227	(555) 843-4753
048	(555) 337-5091	108	(555) 506-6899	168	(555) 849-2489	228	(555) 631-7090
049	(555) 215-7412	109	(555) 909-1527	169	(555) 946-9695	229	(555) 343-5273
050	(555) 738-3975	110	(555) 301-7250	170	(555) 866-5489	230	(555) 292-6746
051	(555) 347-1011	111	(555) 449-8112	171	(555) 792-6034	231	(555) 221-8608
052	(555) 331-6914	112	(555) 371-0801	172	(555) 202-8249	232	(555) 468-1778
053	(555) 527-8039	113	(555) 804-5802	173	(555) 784-9530	233	(555) 391-0019
054	(555) 954-8541	114	(555) 648-0216	174	(555) 912-2793	234	(555) 873-8127
055	(555) 301-9331	115	(555) 724-5398	175	(555) 844-2484	235	(555) 426-8404
056	(555) 591-4105	116	(555) 431-1007	176	(555) 867-9503	236	(555) 342-0329
057	(555) 244-1241	117	(555) 877-1219	177	(555) 964-8826	237	(555) 360-4594
058	(555) 792-8089	118	(555) 939-0271	178	(555) 683-8371	238	(555) 529-0804
059	(555) 273-0610	119	(555) 279-6817	179	(555) 384-0592	239	(555) 581-3638
060	(555) 910-3241	120	(555) 587-3644	180	(555) 777-5895	240	(555) 688-4244