Murder Mystery Case Files

50 Whodunit Logic Puzzles for Adults: Suspects, Weapons and Locations, Murder and Theft Cases, Solutions Included

The No Job Lifestyle

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First edition.

How to Solve a Case

Every case has three suspects, three weapons (or tools, in theft cases) and three locations. Each one is drawn on a card with a name and one detail, like "Wears a feather boa" or "Heavy".

Each suspect had exactly one of the items and was in exactly one of the locations. No two suspects shared an item or a location.

Read the clues. Every clue is true. Some clues use a name, like "Doctor Finch". Others only describe a card, like "the suspect with the silver cane" or "the room full of books". Look back at the cards to see who or what is meant.

Mark the grid as you go: put an X where something is ruled out and an O where it is certain. Once a row has an O, every other square in that row of the block gets an X.

How to Solve, Part 2

The grid has three blocks. The top left block pairs suspects with items. The top right block pairs suspects with locations. The bottom block pairs locations with items, so a clue like "the heavy item was found in the Garden" goes there.

Pass facts between the blocks. If Miss Vale had the Teacup and Miss Vale was in the Attic, then the Teacup was in the Attic too.

When every suspect has one item and one location, read the coroner's finding (or the inspector's notes in a theft case). It tells you what kind of item was used. Match it to the item card with that detail. Whoever had that item is the one you want, and their location is where it happened.

Write your answer at the bottom: who, with what, and where. Each case was checked by computer, so there is exactly one answer. Murder and theft cases take turns, and the cases get harder as you go. Answers are at the back.

Start with Case Zero on the next pages: it is solved for you, step by step.

Case Notes

Case Zero: The Quiet Library

Lord Whitmore was found dead at Ravenscroft Manor after a long dinner. Three guests stayed the night. Let's solve this one together.

SUSPECTS



Lady Ashby
Wears a feather boa

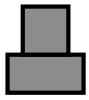


Doctor Finch
Carries a silver cane



Captain Rowe
Wears round glasses

WEAPONS



Brass Bookend
Heavy



Silk Scarf
Long and thin



Poison Vial
Could hide poison

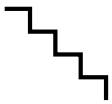
LOCATIONS



Library
Full of books



Garden
Outdoors



Wine Cellar
Below ground

CLUES

1. Lady Ashby was seen in the Garden.
2. The suspect with the silver cane was not in the place below ground.
3. The item that could hide poison was found in the place below ground.
4. Lady Ashby did not have the heavy item.

CORONER'S FINDING

The coroner found a bruise from one hard blow to the head.

	Brass Bookend	Silk Scarf	Poison Vial	Library	Garden	Wine Cellar
Lady Ashby	X	O	X	X	O	X
Doctor Finch	O	X	X	O	X	X
Captain Rowe	X	X	O	X	X	O
Library	O	X	X			
Garden	X	O	X			
Wine Cellar	X	X	O			

Who did it? _____ With what weapon? _____

Where? _____

Case Zero, Step by Step

Clue 1 says Lady Ashby was in the Garden. Put an O for Lady Ashby and the Garden, and an X for her other two locations. Nobody else was in the Garden, so X the Garden for the others too.

Clue 2 talks about the suspect with the silver cane. The cards show that is Doctor Finch. The place below ground is the Wine Cellar. Doctor Finch was not there and not in the Garden, so he was in the Library. That leaves the Wine Cellar for Captain Rowe.

Clue 3: the item that could hide poison is the Poison Vial, and it was in the Wine Cellar. Captain Rowe was in the Wine Cellar, so Captain Rowe had the Poison Vial.

Clue 4: Lady Ashby never touched the heavy item, the Brass Bookend. The Poison Vial is taken, so Lady Ashby had the Silk Scarf, and Doctor Finch had the Brass Bookend.

The coroner found a bruise from one hard blow to the head. The card marked Heavy is the Brass Bookend. Doctor Finch had it, and he was in the Library.

Answer: Doctor Finch, with the Brass Bookend, in the Library.

The filled grid on the page before shows every O and X from these steps.

Easy Cases

15 cases, murder and theft in turn

CASE 1 | EASY | MURDER

The Painted Garden Party

The novelist Ms. Dunn invited three guests to the Lakeside Club to read a new will. Before dessert, the novelist Ms. Dunn was found dead.

SUSPECTS



Mister Pike
Has a bushy beard



Gardener Tibbs
Has muddy shoes



Duchess Fairfax
Wears a flower pin

WEAPONS



Bell Pull
Long and thin

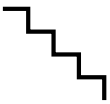


Teacup
Could hide poison



Garden Shears
Sharp edge

LOCATIONS



Wine Cellar
Below ground



Attic
Top of the house



Gatehouse
By the front gate