Detective Calling

🔍 Whodunnit Mystery Game





Teacher Companion & Printables · ESL / EFL A1–B1

- 🕵️ 12 funny mysteries, 3 levels
- 👤 6–12 suspects per case
- 🔍 Find clues with prepositions
- 📄 Reading & 🎧 listening witnesses
- ❓ Yes/no detective questions
- 🗣️ “because…” sentences
- 👥 Team mode for 2–4 teams
- ✏️ Make your own cases



How to play

Inspector Pip the Penguin needs your help!

1 · Watch the story

Something is missing – or something silly happened! Read or listen to the story.

2 · Meet the suspects

Tap a suspect to hear a description: hair, glasses, clothes, pets and things they are holding.

3 · 🔍 Search the scene

Read the tip (under, on, behind, in, next to, between) and tap the right place. Each clue goes into the Detective Notebook.

4 · 📄 Read · 🎧 Listen

Two witnesses saw something. Read one card and listen to the other, then answer the question to collect the clue.

5 · ❓ Ask questions

Choose a question and the right first word (Is / Has / Was / Did). The answer is YES or NO. Suspects who don't match are crossed off.

6 · ☝ Accuse!

Tap the suspect who did it. Then build the sentence: "It was … because …". Wrong guesses are fine – Pip explains why and you try again.

Stars & badges

⭐⭐⭐ for every solved case. You lose a star for a wrong accusation and another for using two or more hints (you always get at least one star). Collect stars to move up: Rookie → Junior Detective → Detective → Senior Detective → Chief Inspector → Master Detective. Print a Detective Certificate from the game or from the last page.

Team Mode (whiteboard)

Choose 2–4 teams and an optional turn timer (30, 60 or 90 seconds). On each turn a team does **one** thing: search once, answer a witness question, ask one question or accuse. Points: clue found +1 · witness question first try +2 · question asked +1 · correct accusation +5 · "because" sentence +2. The 💡 button gives a teacher hint at any time.

Classroom ideas

- **Warm-up:** print the suspect cards (pages 3–14). Describe one suspect – students point or guess the name.
- **Guess Who pairs:** each student secretly chooses a suspect card. Partners ask yes/no questions until they find it.
- **Witness reading:** cut out the clue cards. Put them around the room; teams read them and fill in the notebook sheet.
- **Listening:** read the 🎧 witness card aloud – students write the clue.
- **Writing:** students write "It was … because …" sentences, or invent a new case in the ✏️ Case Maker.

Grammar focus

Level	Grammar	Example questions
A1 Junior	is / has got	Has the thief got glasses? Is the thief tall?
A2 Detective	present continuous, prepositions	Is the thief wearing a hat? Is the thief holding an umbrella? Look behind the rock.
B1 Senior	past simple (was/were, did), comparatives	Was the thief in the hall at three o'clock? Did the thief have red hair? The thief was taller than Mrs Honey.

A1

Case 1: Who Took the Birthday Cake?

Junior Detective case · is / has got · 6 suspects



It is Tom's birthday party today. There is a big chocolate cake on the table. Oh no! Now the plate is empty. The cake is gone! Inspector Pip, can you find the cake thief?

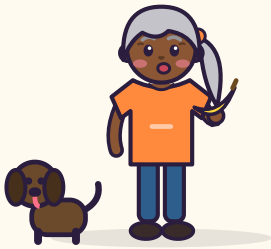
✂ Suspect cards



Auntie Rosa



Uncle Max



Granny Pearl



Cousin Leo



Chef Tony



Lily

✂ Clue cards

🔍 **Scene clue 1**

Look under the table. You found a glasses case! The thief has got glasses.



🔍 **Scene clue 2**

Look next to the fridge. You found a dog bone! The thief has got a dog.



📄 **Witness: Tom**

"I saw the thief in the kitchen! The thief has got a red T-shirt. The thief has got a big smile, too!"

🎧 **Witness: Mum (teacher reads aloud)**

"I didn't see the thief's face. But I saw the thief's hair. The thief has got short hair."

A1

Case 2: Who Painted the School Cat Blue?

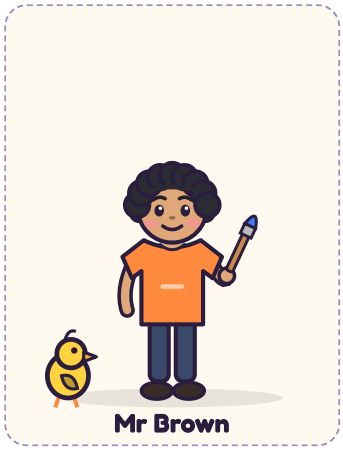
Junior Detective case · is / has got · 6 suspects



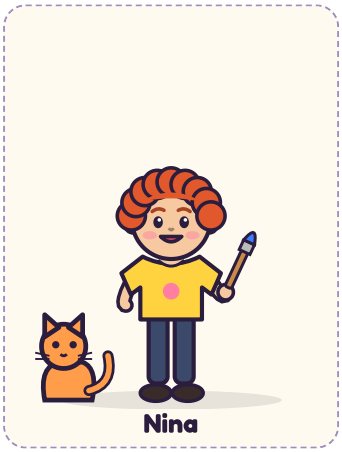
This is Snowy, the school cat. Snowy is white. Every morning she sleeps on the teacher's desk. But today Snowy is BLUE! Who painted Snowy? Let's find the painter!

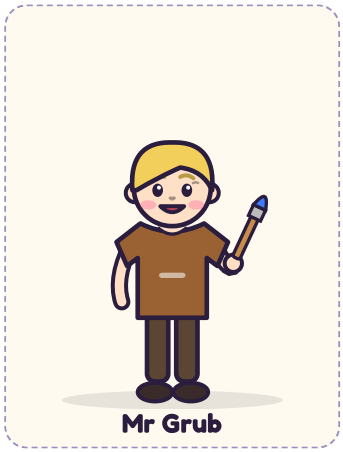
✂ Suspect cards

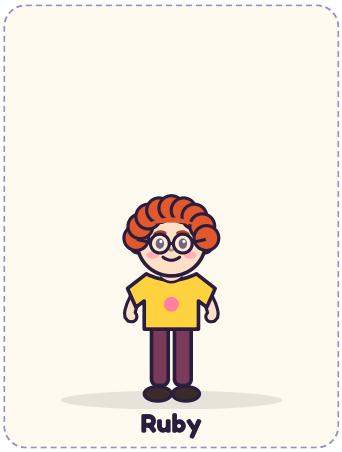












✂ Clue cards

🔍 **Scene clue 1**

Look on the desk. You found blue paint drops! The painter has got a paintbrush.



🔍 **Scene clue 2**

Look in the box. You found a curly hair! The painter has got curly hair.



📄 **Witness: Mr Brown**

"I saw the painter in the art room. The painter has got a yellow T-shirt."

🎧 **Witness: Sam (teacher reads aloud)**

"I saw the painter from the window. The painter hasn't got a hat."

A1

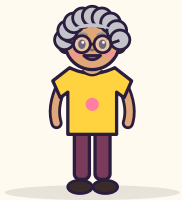
Case 3: Who Took Baby Bella's Teddy?

Junior Detective case · is / has got · 8 suspects



This is Baby Bella. She loves her teddy bear. Every night she sleeps with Teddy. But tonight Teddy is not in her bed! Bella is crying. Inspector Pip, please find Teddy!

✂ Suspect cards



Grandpa Ted



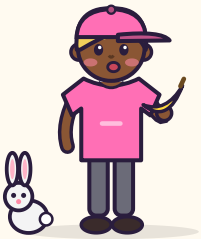
Aunt Lulu



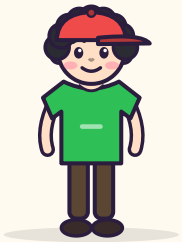
Big Brother Ben



Sister Sophie



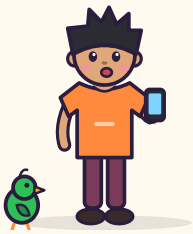
Mr Fix



Nanny Nora



Doctor Dot



Mr Post

✂ Clue cards

🔍 **Scene clue 1**

Look on the bed. You found a blond hair! The thief has got blond hair.



🔍 **Scene clue 2**

Look under the bed. You found a toy mouse for a cat! The thief has got a cat.



📄 **Witness: Aunt Lulu**

"I saw the thief near Bella's room. The thief has got a hat. It is a funny hat!"

🎧 **Witness: Grandpa Ted (teacher reads aloud)**

"I saw the thief on the stairs. The thief is short. The thief is not tall."

A1

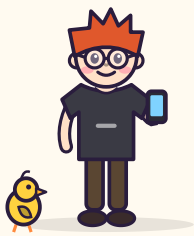
Case 4: Who Ate the Picnic Pizza?

Junior Detective case · is / has got · 8 suspects



It is a sunny day in the park. There is a big pizza on the picnic blanket. Everybody plays football. Then… the pizza is gone! Who ate the picnic pizza?

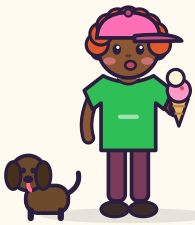
✂ Suspect cards



Farmer Fred



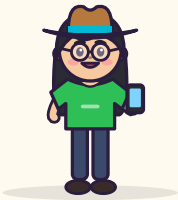
Lucy



Coach Kim



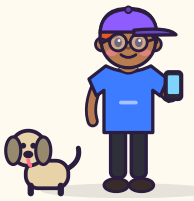
Mr Pickles



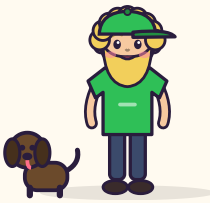
Tina



Jack



Grandma Rose



Officer Omar

✂ Clue cards

🔍 **Scene clue 1**

Look on the bench. You found a red hair! The thief has got red hair.



🔍 **Scene clue 2**

Look behind the tree. You found a piece of green T-shirt! The thief has got a green T-shirt.



📄 **Witness: Lucy**

"I saw the thief near the blanket! The thief has got a cap. The thief is running very fast."

🎧 **Witness: Officer Omar (teacher reads aloud)**

"I saw the thief in the park. The thief has got a dog. The dog is eating pizza too!"

A2

Case 5: Who Stole the Golden Banana?

Detective case · present continuous · prepositions · 8 suspects



Welcome to Sunny Zoo! The monkeys have got a special prize: the Golden Banana. This morning the Golden Banana is not on its stand! The monkeys are very sad. Who is the banana thief?

✂ Suspect cards



Zookeeper Zara



Mr Mango



Professor Pong



Lola



Captain Kip



Mrs Moss



Billy



Ella

✂ Clue cards

🔍 **Scene clue 1**

Look behind the rock. You found a black hair! The thief has got black hair.



🔍 **Scene clue 2**

Look in the bin. You found a piece of orange T-shirt! The thief is wearing a orange T-shirt.



📄 **Witness: Zookeeper Zara**

"I am cleaning the monkey house. I can see a person near the banana stand. The person is wearing a hat and running to the gate!"

🎧 **Witness: Billy (teacher reads aloud)**

"I'm looking at the thief now. The thief isn't wearing glasses. The thief is laughing!"

A2

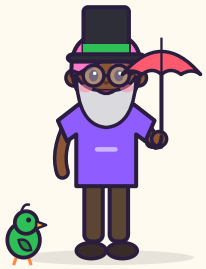
Case 6: Who Let the Frogs Out?

Detective case · present continuous · prepositions · 9 suspects

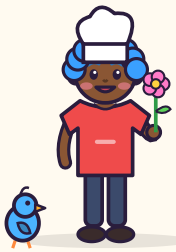


Welcome to the school science room. Ten little green frogs live in the big glass tank. But this morning the tank is empty! There are frogs on the desks, frogs in the sink and frogs on the teacher's head! Who let the frogs out?

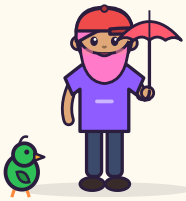
✂ Suspect cards



Professor Plum



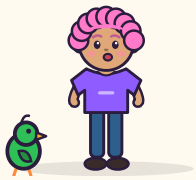
Doctor Lin



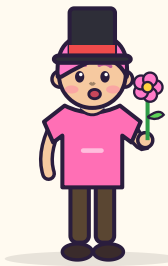
Lou the Helper



Kitty



Zoe



Mr Tank



Mrs Bubbles



Oscar



Hana

✂ Clue cards

🔍 **Scene clue 1**

Look next to the tank. You found a pink hair! The frog helper has got pink hair.



🔍 **Scene clue 2**

Look on the bookcase. You found a bird feather! The frog helper has got a bird.



📄 **Witness: Doctor Lin**

"It is raining today. I am looking out of the window. A person is walking to the pond. The person is holding an umbrella and carrying a bucket of frogs!"

🎧 **Witness: Oscar (teacher reads aloud)**

"I'm standing next to the pond. I can see the frog helper. The frog helper is wearing a purple T-shirt."

A2

Case 7: The Missing Football Trophy

Detective case · present continuous · prepositions · 10 suspects



The Blue Lions are the best football team in the school. Their gold trophy is always on the shelf in the sports hall. Today there is a big match, but the trophy is missing! Who took the football trophy?

✂ Suspect cards



Goalie Gus



Coach Carla



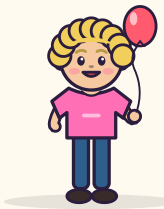
Danny



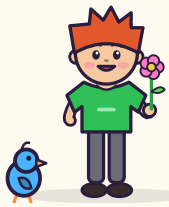
Fatima



Mr Whistle



Penny



Ravi



Mrs Kick



Tom Turner



Sara

✂ Clue cards

🔍 **Scene clue 1**

Look behind the goal. You found a glasses case! The thief is wearing glasses.



🔍 **Scene clue 2**

Look under the bench. You found a blond hair! The thief has got blond hair.



📄 **Witness: Coach Carla**

"I am watching the players now. Somebody is going out of the door with the trophy. That person is wearing a cap!"

🎧 **Witness: Ravi (teacher reads aloud)**

"I can see the thief from the window. The thief is holding a big bag. The trophy is in the bag!"

A2

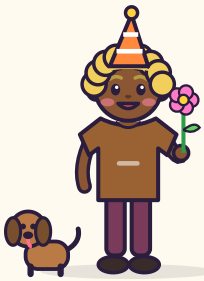
Case 8: Muddy Footprints in the Library

Detective case · present continuous · prepositions · 10 suspects

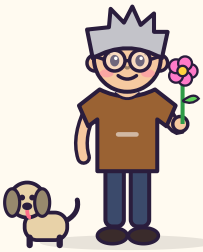


The school library is clean and quiet. But this morning there are big muddy footprints everywhere! They are on the floor, on the chairs and even on the books! Who is the muddy visitor?

✂ Suspect cards



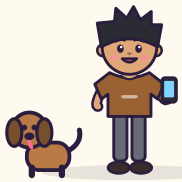
Farmer Flo



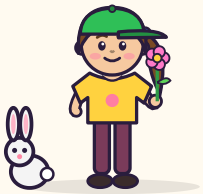
Mr Quiet



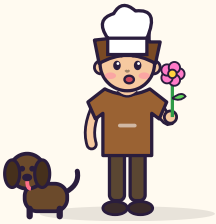
Miss Page



Leo Loud



Anna



Mr Fern



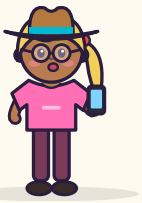
Kai



Mrs Tidy



Jamie



Mina

✂ Clue cards

🔍 **Scene clue 1**

Look next to the bookcase. You found a big footprint! The visitor is tall.



🔍 **Scene clue 2**

Look under the table. You found a dog bone! The visitor has got a dog.



📄 **Witness: Miss Page**

"I am sitting behind my desk. I can see the visitor! The visitor is holding a flower and looking at the books."

🎧 **Witness: Kai (teacher reads aloud)**

"I'm reading a book. The visitor is walking past me. The visitor is wearing a brown T-shirt."

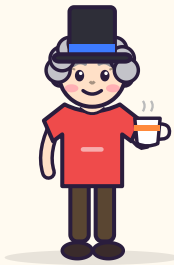
B1

Case 9: Who Ate the Prize Pumpkin Pie?

Senior Detective case · past simple · comparatives · 10 suspects

Last Saturday there was a big village fair. Mrs Honey made a beautiful pumpkin pie for the baking competition. At three o'clock she went to get a drink. When she came back, the pie was gone! Only crumbs were left. Who ate the prize pumpkin pie?

✂ Suspect cards



Mr Crumb



Mrs Honey



Baker Bea



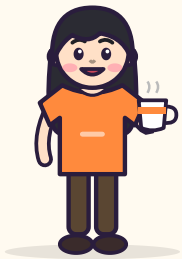
Mayor Mo



Jake



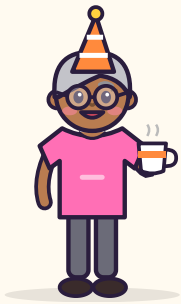
Olivia



Uncle Ned



Miss Plum



Grandma June



Pete

✂ Clue cards

🔍 **Scene clue 1**

The clue is on the table. You found a grey hair! The thief had grey hair.



🔍 **Scene clue 2**

The clue is in the box. You found a tea bag! The thief was holding a cup.



📄 **Witness: Baker Bea**

"The competition was in the big hall. At three o'clock I saw someone go into the hall. That person was in the hall when the pie disappeared. Then I heard a loud 'Mmmm!'"

🎧 **Witness: Jake (teacher reads aloud)**

"I was hiding under the stage. I saw the thief's shoes! The thief was taller than Mrs Honey. Then the thief walked away very quickly."

B1

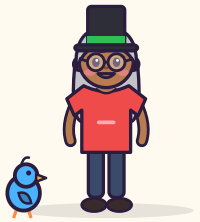
Case 10: The Case of the Dinosaur Egg

Senior Detective case · past simple · comparatives · 12 suspects



The City Museum has a very old dinosaur egg. Yesterday hundreds of people came to see it. At four o'clock the guard looked at the glass box. The egg wasn't there! Who took the dinosaur egg?

✂ Suspect cards



Professor Bones



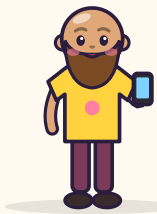
Miss Fossil



Captain Stone



Lady Pebble



Guard Gary



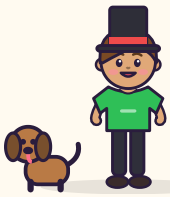
Maya



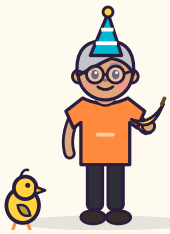
Felix



Doctor Rex



Ivy



Mrs Amber



Hugo



Clara

✂ Clue cards

🔍 **Scene clue 1**

The clue is behind the statue. You found a glasses case! The thief was wearing glasses.



🔍 **Scene clue 2**

The clue is under the bench. You found a bird feather! The thief had a bird.



📄 **Witness: Guard Gary**

"I checked the cameras. At three o'clock somebody bought a big bag in the gift shop. That person was the thief! Nobody else was in the shop."

🎧 **Witness: Maya (teacher reads aloud)**

"I saw the thief near the dinosaur room. The thief was shorter than Captain Stone, and the thief was walking very carefully with a big bag."

B1

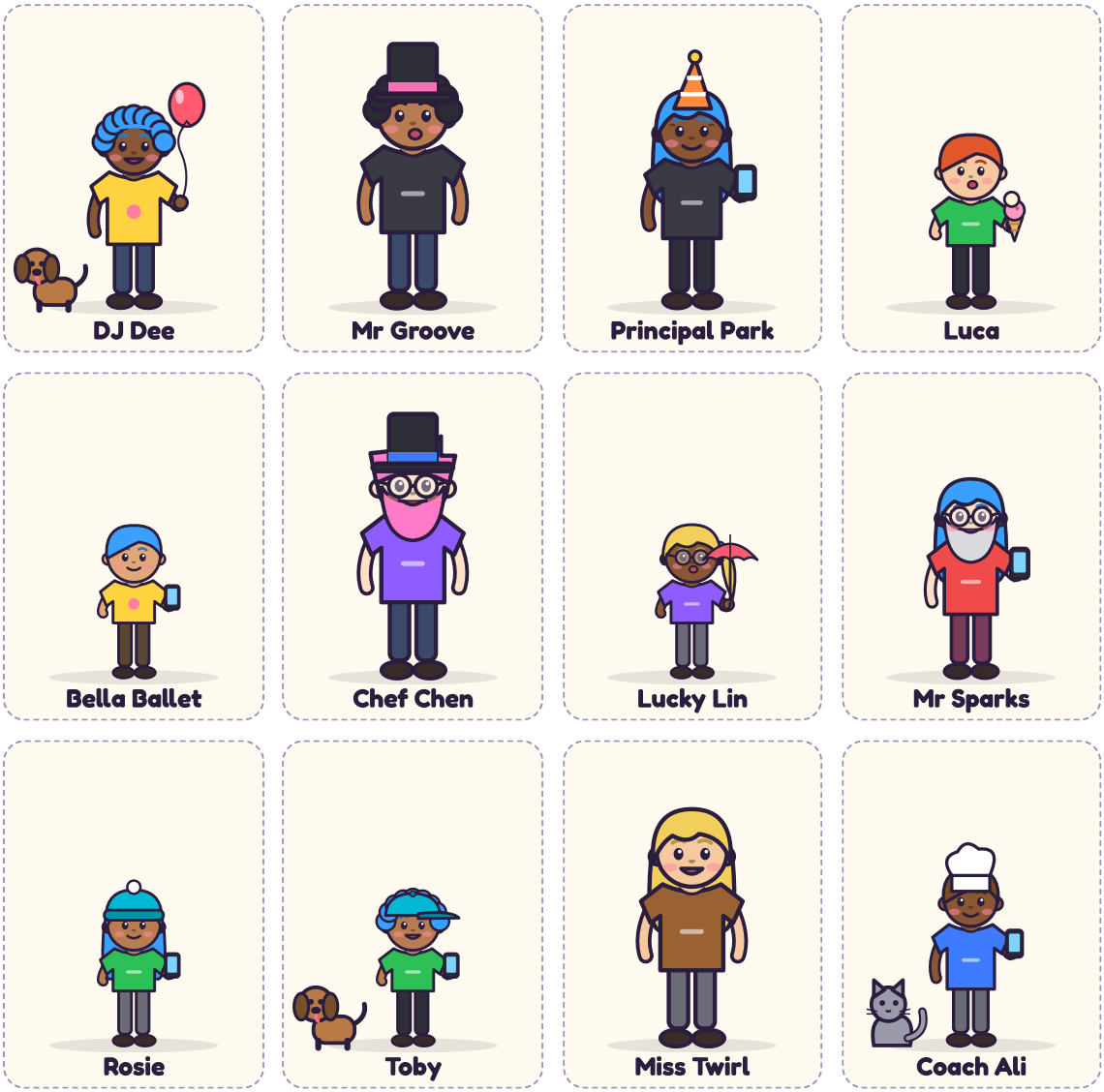
Case 11: Who Switched Off the Lights at the School Disco?

Senior Detective case · past simple · comparatives · 12 suspects



Last Friday afternoon there was a school disco in the hall. The music was loud and everybody was dancing. Suddenly, at three o'clock, all the lights went off! Everybody screamed. The light switch is in the school office. Who switched off the lights?

✂ Suspect cards



✂ Clue cards

🔍 **Scene clue 1**

The clue is between the stage and the door. You found a blue hair! The joker had blue hair.

🔍 **Scene clue 2**

The clue is under the table. You found a phone cover! The joker was holding a phone.

📄 **Witness: Principal Park**

"I looked at the office door at three o'clock. It was open! Somebody was in the office, and that somebody switched off the lights."

🎧 **Witness: Chef Chen (teacher reads aloud)**

"I was carrying the pizzas. I didn't see the joker's face, but the joker wasn't wearing glasses. I'm sure!"

B1

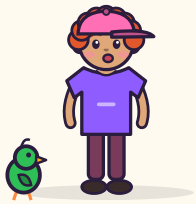
Case 12: Where Is the Queen's Crown?

Senior Detective case · past simple · comparatives · 12 suspects



Yesterday the Queen had a big garden party at the palace. Before the party, she put her crown on a red cushion. After the party, the cushion was empty! The Queen wasn't angry, but she was very sad. Who took the crown?

✂ Suspect cards



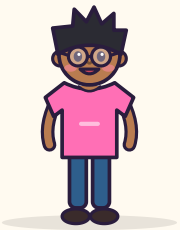
Lady Lemon



Lord Muffin



Prince Percy



Chef Pierre



Duchess Dora



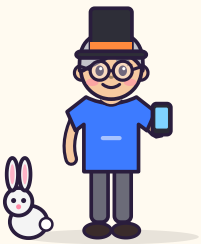
Sir Sneezy



Maid Molly



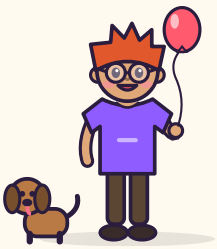
Gardener Gill



Butler Bob



Princess Poppy



Captain Cole



Little Lottie

✂ Clue cards

🔍 **Scene clue 1**

The clue is behind the sofa. You found a piece of purple T-shirt! The thief was wearing a purple T-shirt.



🔍 **Scene clue 2**

The clue is next to the window. You found a red hair! The thief had red hair.



📄 **Witness: Gardener Gill**

"At three o'clock I was cutting the roses. I saw somebody in the garden. That person was hiding something shiny under a coat!"

🎧 **Witness: Prince Percy (teacher reads aloud)**

"I saw the thief walking to the garden. The thief was shorter than Captain Cole. The thief was smiling."



Detective question bank

Yes/no questions used in the game – practise them before you play

A1 · is / has got

Has the thief got curly hair?
Has the thief got long hair?
Has the thief got short hair?
Has the thief got black hair?
Has the thief got blond hair?
Has the thief got grey hair?
Has the thief got pink hair?
Has the thief got glasses?
Has the thief got a beard?
Has the thief got a hat?
Has the thief got a woolly hat?
Has the thief got a cowboy hat?
Has the thief got a blue T-shirt?
Has the thief got a orange T-shirt?
Has the thief got a red T-shirt?
Has the thief got a cat?
Has the thief got a dog?
Has the thief got a bag?
Has the thief got a banana?
Has the thief got a cup?
Has the thief got an umbrella?
Is the thief tall?

A2 · present continuous · prepositions

Has the thief got curly hair?
Has the thief got long hair?
Has the thief got short hair?
Has the thief got black hair?
Has the thief got brown hair?
Has the thief got grey hair?
Has the thief got red hair?
Is the thief wearing glasses?
Is the thief wearing a hat?
Is the thief wearing a woolly hat?
Is the thief wearing a chef's hat?
Is the thief wearing a cowboy hat?
Is the thief wearing a party hat?
Is the thief wearing a black T-shirt?
Is the thief wearing a blue T-shirt?
Is the thief wearing a orange T-shirt?
Is the thief wearing a yellow T-shirt?
Has the thief got a cat?
Has the thief got a dog?
Has the thief got a rabbit?
Is the thief holding a balloon?
Is the thief holding a banana?

B1 · past simple · comparatives

Did the thief have curly hair?
Did the thief have long hair?
Did the thief have short hair?
Did the thief have black hair?
Did the thief have blond hair?
Did the thief have brown hair?
Did the thief have grey hair?
Was the thief wearing glasses?
Was the thief wearing a black T-shirt?
Was the thief wearing a brown T-shirt?
Was the thief wearing a orange T-shirt?
Was the thief wearing a pink T-shirt?
Was the thief wearing a purple T-shirt?
Was the thief wearing a red T-shirt?
Was the thief wearing a white T-shirt?
Was the thief wearing a yellow T-shirt?



My Detective Notebook

Name: _____ Case: _____

🔍 Clues I found

❓ My questions (Is...? Has...got...? Was...? Did...?)

YES / NO

YES / NO

YES / NO

YES / NO

YES / NO

👤 Suspects – write the names and cross them off ✗

☝ My answer

It was _____ because _____



Answer key

For teachers only – no peeking, detectives!

Case	The 4 clues	Suspects left · a question that solves it	Culprit
1. Who Took the Birthday Cake? A1	The thief has got glasses. The thief has got a dog. The thief has got a red T-shirt. The thief has got short hair.	After the clues: Uncle Max, Lily *Has the thief got blond hair? – Yes* *Has the thief got pink hair? – No*	**Uncle Max** It was Uncle Max because he has got glasses.
2. Who Painted the School Cat Blue? A1	The painter has got a paintbrush. The painter has got curly hair. The painter has got a yellow T-shirt. The painter hasn't got a hat.	After the clues: Miss Daisy, Nina *Has the painter got black hair? – No* *Has the painter got red hair? – Yes*	**Nina** It was Nina because she has got a paintbrush.
3. Who Took Baby Bella's Teddy? A1	The thief has got blond hair. The thief has got a cat. The thief has got a hat. The thief is short.	After the clues: Big Brother Ben, Doctor Dot *Has the thief got long hair? – No* *Has the thief got short hair? – Yes*	**Big Brother Ben** It was Big Brother Ben because he has got blond hair.
4. Who Ate the Picnic Pizza? A1	The thief has got red hair. The thief has got a green T-shirt. The thief has got a cap. The thief has got a dog.	After the clues: Coach Kim, Mr Pickles *Has the thief got glasses? – No* *Has the thief got an ice cream? – Yes*	**Coach Kim** It was Coach Kim because she has got red hair.
5. Who Stole the Golden Banana? A2	The thief has got black hair. The thief is wearing a orange T-shirt. The thief is wearing a hat. The thief isn't wearing glasses.	After the clues: Zookeeper Zara, Mr Mango, Professor Pong *Has the thief got curly hair? – Yes* *Has the thief got short hair? – No*	**Mr Mango** It was Mr Mango because he has got black hair.
6. Who Let the Frogs Out? A2	The frog helper has got pink hair. The frog helper has got a bird. The frog helper is holding an umbrella. The frog helper is wearing a purple T-shirt.	After the clues: Professor Plum, Lou the Helper, Kitty *Has the frog helper got long hair? – Yes* *Has the frog helper got short hair? – No*	**Kitty** It was Kitty because she has got pink hair.



Answer key (continued)

For teachers only

Case	The 4 clues	Suspects left · a question that solves it	Culprit
7. The Missing Football Trophy A2	The thief is wearing glasses. The thief has got blond hair. The thief is wearing a cap. The thief is holding a bag.	After the clues: Goalie Gus, Mr Whistle, Tom Turner *Has the thief got a beard? – Yes* *Is the thief wearing a red T-shirt? – Yes*	**Goalie Gus** It was Goalie Gus because he is wearing glasses.
8. Muddy Footprints in the Library A2	The visitor is tall. The visitor has got a dog. The visitor is holding a flower. The visitor is wearing a brown T-shirt.	After the clues: Farmer Flo, Mr Quiet, Mrs Tidy *Has the visitor got curly hair? – Yes* *Has the visitor got blond hair? – Yes*	**Farmer Flo** It was Farmer Flo because she is tall.
9. Who Ate the Prize Pumpkin Pie? B1	The thief had grey hair. The thief was holding a cup. The thief was in the hall at three o'clock. The thief is taller than Mrs Honey.	After the clues: Mr Crumb, Mayor Mo, Grandma June *Did the thief have curly hair? – Yes* *Did the thief have short hair? – No*	**Mr Crumb** It was Mr Crumb because he has got grey hair.
10. The Case of the Dinosaur Egg B1	The thief was wearing glasses. The thief had a bird. The thief was at the shop at three o'clock. The thief is shorter than Captain Stone.	After the clues: Professor Bones, Miss Fossil, Mrs Amber *Did the thief have blond hair? – Yes* *Did the thief have grey hair? – No*	**Miss Fossil** It was Miss Fossil because she was wearing glasses.
11. Who Switched Off the Lights at the School Disco? B1	The joker had blue hair. The joker was holding a phone. The joker was in the office at three o'clock. The joker wasn't wearing glasses.	After the clues: Principal Park, Rosie, Toby *Did the joker have curly hair? – Yes* *Did the joker have long hair? – No*	**Toby** It was Toby because he has got blue hair.
12. Where Is the Queen's Crown? B1	The thief was wearing a purple T-shirt. The thief had red hair. The thief was in the garden at three o'clock. The thief is shorter than Captain Cole.	After the clues: Lady Lemon, Sir Sneezy, Princess Poppy *Was the thief wearing a cap? – Yes* *Did the thief have a bird? – Yes*	**Lady Lemon** It was Lady Lemon because she was wearing a purple T-shirt.

DETECTIVE CALLING

Detective Certificate

This certificate is proudly presented to

_____

for brilliant detective work and great English!



Cases solved: _____ Badge:

_____



Rookie | Junior | Detective | Senior | Chief Inspector | Master

_____ Teacher

_____ Date