

HOW TO PLAY

Welcome, detective. Every page hides a small crime, and the only tools you need to solve it are a sharp pencil and a sharp eye. There is no clock and no outside knowledge required — every answer is right there on the page.

Your Job: Name Three Things

KILLER — *the person who did it.*

METHOD — *how the deed was carried out.*

LOCATION — *where it all took place.*

How the Clues Work

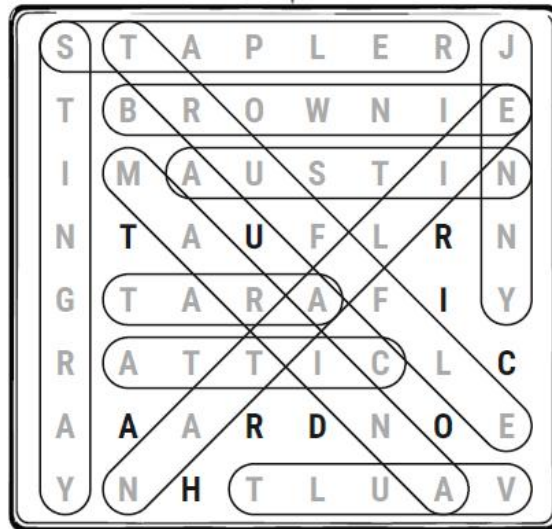
Below each grid is a list of CLUE WORDS. Most are hidden in the grid; one is not. Two kinds of evidence crack the case:

- **The missing word** — *the one clue word that is nowhere in the grid. That is your METHOD.*
- **The leftover letters** — *after every hidden word is crossed off, the letters left behind spell the KILLER and the LOCATION; arrange them into names that fit the empty boxes.*

The next two pages solve one real case so you can see it in action.

Step 1. Find the Clue Words

Search the grid for every word on the CLUE WORDS list. Words run across, down, or on a slant, forwards or backwards. Draw a line through each one you find and cross it off the list.



Step 2. Spot the Word That Isn't There

One clue word will not be in the grid no matter how hard you look. Here it is **LANCE** — the only object on the list. That missing word is your METHOD.



Step 3. Read the Leftover Letters

Look at the grid again. The letters you never crossed out — the dark ones still standing — are the leftover letters. Together they spell two answers: the *KILLER* and the *LOCATION*. Try arranging them into names that fit, and use the number of empty boxes on each answer line as your guide to how long each one should be.

Here they spell **RICARDO** (the *KILLER*), then **HUT** (the *LOCATION*).

Step 4. Close the Case

Fill in the *SOLVE THE CASE* tiles and you are done. The number of empty boxes tells you how long each answer is.

SOLVE THE CASE	
 KILLER	R I C A R D O
 METHOD	L A N C E
 LOCATION	H U T

Ricardo did it, in the hut, with a lance. **Case closed.**

A Few Friendly Tips

- *Cross off each clue word the moment you find it — a clean list makes the missing word jump out.*
- *If the leftover letters look like a jumble, you missed a hidden word. Find it, then read the leftovers again.*
- *Words can hide backwards and on the diagonal, not just forwards. The trickier ones love a slant.*
- *Count the empty answer boxes to check the length of each answer before you commit.*
- *No penalty for starting over. If a case gets tangled, a good eraser is your best friend.*

Every solution is in the back of the book, so you can confirm your answer once the case is cracked.

Sharpen your pencil. The first case is waiting.