FREE PRINTABLE PACK · CRACK THE CODE

Crack the Code: Wanted Faces

Easy to hard · 3–10 minutes each · Age 7 and up

HOW IT WORKS

Each sketch is stamped with how many features that witness got right. Cross out what cannot be true, and draw the one face that fits every stamp.

IN THIS PACK

Rough Sketch cases (easy) pages 2–3

Fair Likeness cases (medium) pages 4–5

Dead Ringer cases (hard) pages 6–7

Answers **pages 8–13**

PRINTING

Print pages 2–7 for the puzzles and keep the answers back. The sheets are A4 and plain black and white. On US Letter paper, choose “Fit to page”.

Detective Puzzles

Every puzzle here can be played free, with a new case each time, at detective-puzzles.com/sketch-artist/

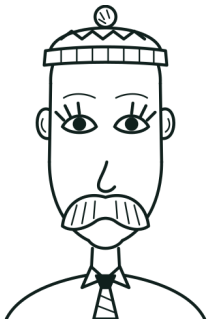
November 2026 edition. Free to print and copy for home, classroom, library and club use. Not for sale. Please keep the Detective Puzzles name on the pages.

The Sketch Artist

Case SA-RDXNR3W · Rough Sketch (Easy) · 4 witnesses

Somebody walked out of the town hall cloakroom with the Mayor’s ceremonial chain. Four witnesses saw the thief, and no two sketches agree. Each stamp says how many of the four features on that sketch are right: hat, eyes, mouth and collar. It never says which. Exactly one face fits every stamp. Find it.

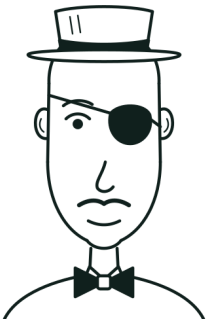
WITNESS SKETCHES



NOTHING RIGHT

1. Captain Snell

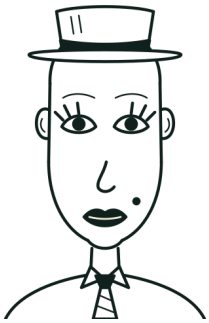
sneezed at the crucial moment



2 RIGHT

2. Lady Marchbank

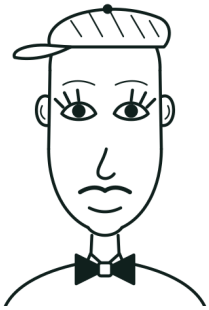
passed the thief on the stairs



2 RIGHT

3. Dr Quill

held a door open for the thief



1 RIGHT

4. The night porter

looked up from the crossword once

FEATURES IN PLAY

Cross out each one you rule out.

HAT

☐  top hat

☐  flat cap

☐  bobble hat

EYES

☐  bushy eyebrows

☐  long eyelashes

☐  eye patch

MOUTH

☐  walrus moustache

☐  pencil moustache

☐  painted lips

COLLAR

☐  bow tie

☐  necktie

☐  roll-neck jumper

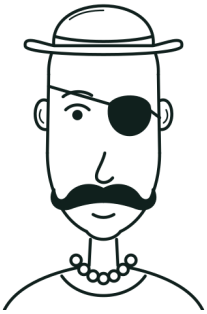
WANTED: Hat _____ Eyes _____ Mouth _____ Collar _____

The Sketch Artist

Case SA-RDNO5EX · Rough Sketch (Easy) · 4 witnesses

Somebody walked out of the lending library with a first-edition railway timetable. Four witnesses saw the thief, and no two sketches agree. Each stamp says how many of the four features on that sketch are right: hat, eyes, mouth and collar. It never says which. Exactly one face fits every stamp. Find it.

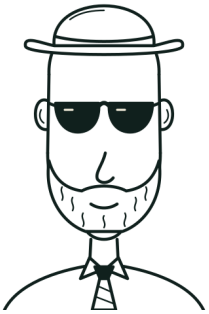
WITNESS SKETCHES



1 RIGHT

1. Mr Pettigrew

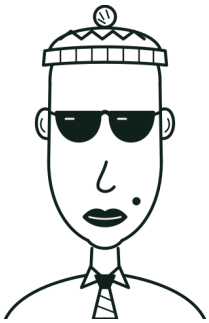
was three streets away with opera glasses



NOTHING RIGHT

2. Old Mr Finch

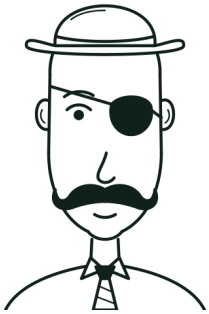
was looking the other way on principle



2 RIGHT

3. Nurse Abernathy

shared a bench with the thief



1 RIGHT

4. The Vicar

caught a glimpse through the fog

FEATURES IN PLAY

Cross out each one you rule out.

HAT

☐  bowler hat

☐  beret

☐  bobble hat

EYES

☐  monocle

☐  dark glasses

☐  eye patch

MOUTH

☐  handlebar moustache

☐  full beard

☐  painted lips

COLLAR

☐  necktie

☐  string of pearls

☐  roll-neck jumper

WANTED: Hat _____ Eyes _____ Mouth _____ Collar _____

The Sketch Artist

Case SA-FG8EOHP · Fair Likeness (Medium) · 5 witnesses

Somebody walked out of the Grand Midnight Hotel with the Brass Nightingale. Five witnesses saw the thief, and no two sketches agree. Each stamp says how many of the four features on that sketch are right: hat, eyes, mouth and collar. It never says which. Exactly one face fits every stamp. Find it.

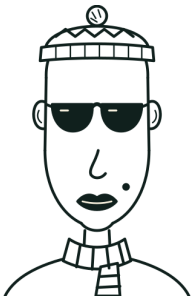
WITNESS SKETCHES



1 RIGHT

1. The flower seller

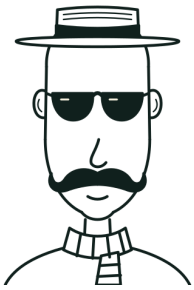
was running for the tram



NOTHING RIGHT

2. The postmistress

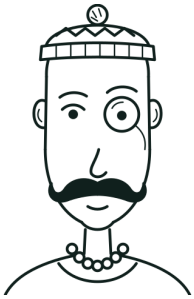
saw it all reflected in a spoon



2 RIGHT

3. Dr Quill

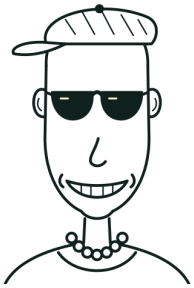
held a door open for the thief



2 RIGHT

4. Mrs Plum

had a fair look from across the street



1 RIGHT

5. Mr Pettigrew

saw the thief by candlelight

FEATURES IN PLAY

Cross out each one you rule out.

HAT



top hat



flat cap



straw boater



bobble hat

EYES



round spectacles



monocle



dark glasses



eye patch

MOUTH



handlebar moustache



full beard



toothy grin



painted lips

COLLAR



bow tie



striped scarf



string of pearls



roll-neck jumper

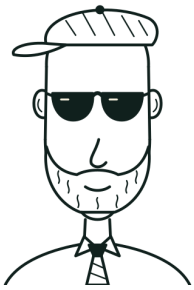
WANTED: Hat _____ Eyes _____ Mouth _____ Collar _____

The Sketch Artist

Case SA-FGIEGAN · Fair Likeness (Medium) · 5 witnesses

Somebody walked out of the Gallery of Miniatures with the museum's smallest painting. Five witnesses saw the thief, and no two sketches agree. Each stamp says how many of the four features on that sketch are right: hat, eyes, mouth and collar. It never says which. Exactly one face fits every stamp. Find it.

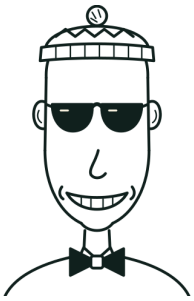
WITNESS SKETCHES



1 RIGHT

1. The organ grinder

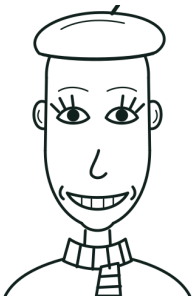
only saw the thief from the side



1 RIGHT

2. Lady Marchbank

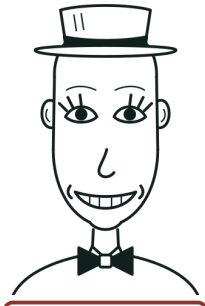
was running for the tram



2 RIGHT

3. Mr Pettigrew

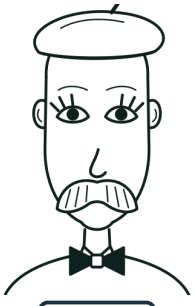
sold the thief a newspaper



NOTHING RIGHT

4. Mrs Plum

was asleep, "but a light sleeper"



1 RIGHT

5. Miss Darling

saw the thief by candlelight

FEATURES IN PLAY

Cross out each one you rule out.

HAT



top hat



flat cap



beret



bobble hat

EYES



monocle



bushy eyebrows



dark glasses



long eyelashes

MOUTH



handlebar moustache



walrus moustache



full beard



toothy grin

COLLAR



bow tie



necktie



striped scarf



string of pearls

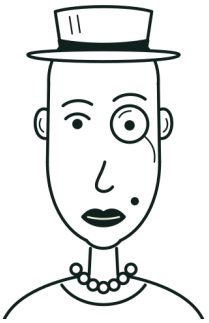
WANTED: Hat _____ Eyes _____ Mouth _____ Collar _____

The Sketch Artist

Case SA-RBEK60A · Dead Ringer (Hard) · 4 witnesses

Somebody walked out of the flower show marquee with a prize-winning marrow. Four witnesses saw the thief, and no two sketches agree. Each stamp says how many of the four features on that sketch are right: hat, eyes, mouth and collar. It never says which. Exactly one face fits every stamp. Find it.

WITNESS SKETCHES



1 RIGHT

1. The baker’s boy

looked up from the crossword once



2 RIGHT

2. The lamplighter

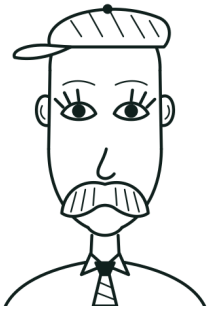
passed the thief on the stairs



2 RIGHT

3. Captain Snell

sold the thief a newspaper



2 RIGHT

4. The night porter

watched from the tea-shop window

FEATURES IN PLAY

Cross out each one you rule out.

HAT



☐ top hat ☐ flat cap ☐ beret ☐ straw boater ☐ bobble hat

EYES



☐ round spectacles ☐ monocle ☐ dark glasses ☐ long eyelashes ☐ eye patch

MOUTH



☐ handlebar moustache ☐ walrus moustache ☐ pencil moustache ☐ toothy grin ☐ painted lips

COLLAR



☐ necktie ☐ striped scarf ☐ string of pearls ☐ fur collar ☐ roll-neck jumper

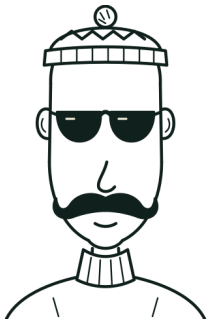
WANTED: Hat _____ Eyes _____ Mouth _____ Collar _____

The Sketch Artist

Case SA-RB4KWJ9 · Dead Ringer (Hard) · 4 witnesses

Somebody walked out of the harbour office with the lighthouse keeper’s telescope. Four witnesses saw the thief, and no two sketches agree. Each stamp says how many of the four features on that sketch are right: hat, eyes, mouth and collar. It never says which. Exactly one face fits every stamp. Find it.

WITNESS SKETCHES



2 RIGHT

1. The baker’s boy

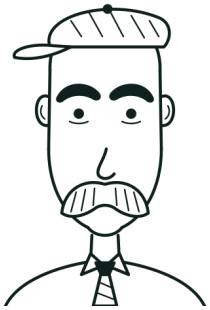
shared a bench with the thief



1 RIGHT

2. Captain Snell

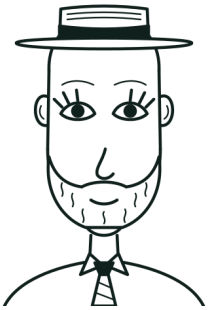
was running for the tram



2 RIGHT

3. Mr Pettigrew

held a door open for the thief



NOTHING RIGHT

4. Madame Rosalba

saw it all reflected in a spoon

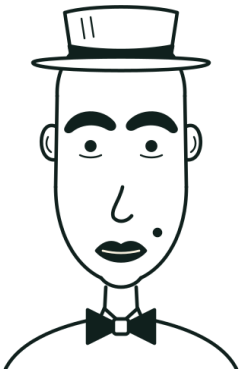
FEATURES IN PLAY

Cross out each one you rule out.

HAT	☐ bowler hat	☐ top hat	☐ flat cap	☐ straw boater	☐ bobble hat
EYES	☐ round spectacles	☐ monocle	☐ bushy eyebrows	☐ dark glasses	☐ long eyelashes
MOUTH	☐ handlebar moustache	☐ walrus moustache	☐ pencil moustache	☐ full beard	☐ painted lips
COLLAR	☐ bow tie	☐ necktie	☐ string of pearls	☐ fur collar	☐ roll-neck jumper

WANTED: Hat _____ Eyes _____ Mouth _____ Collar _____

Answer key



“Brows” Bridget Larkin

Hat: top hat

Eyes: bushy eyebrows

Mouth: painted lips

Collar: bow tie

THE DEDUCTIONS

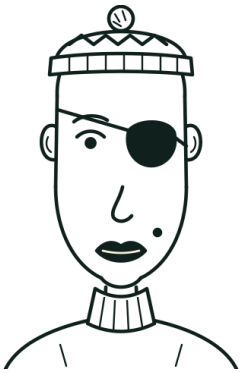
1. Captain Snell got nothing right, so none of the features on sketch 1 belong to the thief. Cross out the bobble hat, the long eyelashes, the walrus moustache and the necktie.

2. Dr Quill got 2 right, and only 2 of the features on sketch 3 are still possible. So the top hat and the painted lips are right: cross out the flat cap and the pencil moustache.

3. The night porter got 1 right, and only 1 of the features on sketch 4 is still possible. So the bow tie is right: cross out the roll-neck jumper.

4. Lady Marchbank got 2 right, and 2 of the features on sketch 2 are already certain. The rest must be wrong: cross out the eye patch.

Answer key



“Rouge” Rosalind Marrow

Hat: bobble hat

Eyes: eye patch

Mouth: painted lips

Collar: roll-neck jumper

THE DEDUCTIONS

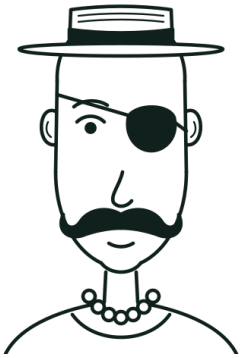
1. Old Mr Finch got nothing right, so none of the features on sketch 2 belong to the thief. Cross out the bowler hat, the dark glasses, the full beard and the necktie.

2. Nurse Abernathy got 2 right, and only 2 of the features on sketch 3 are still possible. So the bobble hat and the painted lips are right: cross out the beret and the handlebar moustache.

3. The Vicar got 1 right, and only 1 of the features on sketch 4 is still possible. So the eye patch is right: cross out the monocle.

4. Mr Pettigrew got 1 right, and 1 of the features on sketch 1 is already certain. The rest must be wrong: cross out the string of pearls.

Answer key



“Pearls” Prudence Custard

Hat: straw boater

Eyes: eye patch

Mouth: handlebar moustache

Collar: string of pearls

THE DEDUCTIONS

1. The postmistress got nothing right, so none of the features on sketch 2 belong to the thief. Cross out the bobble hat, the dark glasses, the painted lips and the striped scarf.

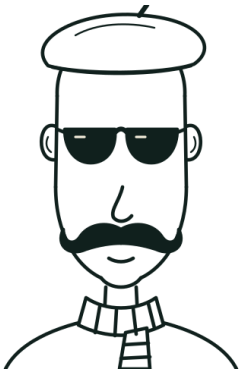
2. Dr Quill got 2 right, and only 2 of the features on sketch 3 are still possible. So the straw boater and the handlebar moustache are right: cross out the top hat, the flat cap, the full beard and the toothy grin.

3. The flower seller got 1 right, and 1 of the features on sketch 1 is already certain. The rest must be wrong: cross out the round spectacles and the bow tie.

4. Mr Pettigrew got 1 right, and only 1 of the features on sketch 5 is still possible. So the string of pearls is right: cross out the roll-neck jumper.

5. Mrs Plum got 2 right, and 2 of the features on sketch 4 are already certain. The rest must be wrong: cross out the monocle.

Answer key



“Handlebar” Hector Bramble

Hat: beret

Eyes: dark glasses

Mouth: handlebar moustache

Collar: striped scarf

THE DEDUCTIONS

1. Mrs Plum got nothing right, so none of the features on sketch 4 belong to the thief. Cross out the top hat, the long eyelashes, the toothy grin and the bow tie.

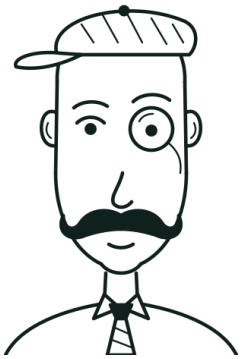
2. Mr Pettigrew got 2 right, and only 2 of the features on sketch 3 are still possible. So the beret and the striped scarf are right: cross out the flat cap, the bobble hat, the necktie and the string of pearls.

3. Lady Marchbank got 1 right, and only 1 of the features on sketch 2 is still possible. So the dark glasses is right: cross out the monocle and the bushy eyebrows.

4. The organ grinder got 1 right, and 1 of the features on sketch 1 is already certain. The rest must be wrong: cross out the full beard.

5. Miss Darling got 1 right, and 1 of the features on sketch 5 is already certain. The rest must be wrong: cross out the walrus moustache.

Answer key



“Handlebar” Horace Sparrow

Hat: flat cap

Eyes: monocle

Mouth: handlebar moustache

Collar: necktie

THE DEDUCTIONS

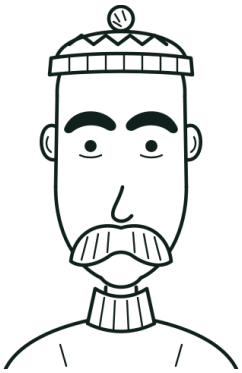
1. Read sketch 2 (The lamplighter) and sketch 3 (Captain Snell) together. No face that fits both stamps has the walrus moustache, the pencil moustache, the toothy grin or the painted lips, so cross them out.

2. Read sketch 1 (The baker’s boy) and sketch 4 (The night porter) together. No face that fits both stamps has the beret, the straw boater, the bobble hat, the round spectacles, the dark glasses, the eye patch, the striped scarf, the fur collar or the roll-neck jumper, so cross them out.

3. The lamplighter got 2 right, and only 2 of the features on sketch 2 are still possible. So the monocle is right as well: cross out the long eyelashes.

4. The baker’s boy got 1 right, and 1 of the features on sketch 1 is already certain. The rest must be wrong: cross out the top hat and the string of pearls.

Answer key



“Brows” Bertram Thimble

Hat: bobble hat

Eyes: bushy eyebrows

Mouth: walrus moustache

Collar: roll-neck jumper

THE DEDUCTIONS

1. Madame Rosalba got nothing right, so none of the features on sketch 4 belong to the thief. Cross out the straw boater, the long eyelashes, the full beard and the necktie.

2. Read sketch 1 (The baker’s boy) and sketch 2 (Captain Snell) together. No face that fits both stamps has the flat cap or the monocle, so cross them out.

3. Mr Pettigrew got 2 right, and only 2 of the features on sketch 3 are still possible. So the bushy eyebrows and the walrus moustache are right: cross out the round spectacles, the dark glasses, the handlebar moustache, the pencil moustache and the painted lips.

4. The baker’s boy got 2 right, and only 2 of the features on sketch 1 are still possible. So the bobble hat and the roll-neck jumper are right: cross out the bowler hat, the top hat, the bow tie, the string of pearls and the fur collar.