FREE PRINTABLE PACK · WORD SEARCH

Detective Word Searches

Easy to hard · 10–15 minutes each · Age 8 and up

HOW IT WORKS

Find every word in the grid. One suspect’s name is not there: that is your culprit. The leftover letters and the code strip tell you where and what.

IN THIS PACK

Rookie cases (easy): words run across and down — pages 2–5

Inspector cases (medium): diagonals join in — pages 6–8

Chief cases (hard): backwards words and a harder code — pages 9–11

Answers — **pages 12–21**

PRINTING

Print pages 2–11 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/detective-word-search/

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.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Detective Word Search: The Embassy Affair

Decoder A-002

B Y V E T T E Y T H
E O L D G R A D I O
M I C R O F I L M R
M E E C O U R I E R
E N P A S S P O R T
M H V I K T O R O U
O S E L O O K O U T
K L A U S E C L C P
B E A U Y J T H E O
K I R A C A R M E N

WORD LIST

Beau
Courier
Klaus
Memo
Passport
Rashid
Viktor
Carmen
Kira
Lookout
Microfilm
Radio
Theo
Yvette

SOLVE THE CASE

1. The Double Agent (the name missing from the grid): _____

2. Hidden message (read the leftover letters, left to right):

_____

3. The Meeting Point: _____

4. Coded word: ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Decoder A-002

Coded	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Plain	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**	**G**	**H**	**I**	**J**	**K**	**L**	**M**	**N**	**O**	**P**	**Q**	**R**	**S**	**T**	**U**	**V**	**W**	**X**	**Y**	**Z**	**A**	**B**

5. The Target: ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Name: _____ Date: _____

Detective Word Search: The Embassy Affair

Decoder A-001

I	N	C	A	M	I	L	L	E	S
I	B	D	W	I	R	E	T	A	P
E	E	T	H	E	J	A	D	E	B
A	A	C	C	A	R	M	E	N	K
B	U	P	A	S	S	P	O	R	T
C	O	U	R	I	E	R	A	C	K
A	A	N	T	O	N	L	L	E	Y
I	N	G	R	I	D	C	D	E	D
V	I	S	A	T	C	H	E	L	B
L	O	O	K	O	U	T	S	N	Q

WORD LIST

Anton
Beau
Camille
Carmen
Courier
Ingrid
Jade
Lookout
Natasha
Passport
Satchel
Visa
Wiretap

SOLVE THE CASE

1. The Double Agent (the name missing from the grid): _____

2. Hidden message (read the leftover letters, left to right):

_____

3. The Meeting Point: _____

4. Coded word: ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Decoder A-001

Coded	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Plain	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**	**G**	**H**	**I**	**J**	**K**	**L**	**M**	**N**	**O**	**P**	**Q**	**R**	**S**	**T**	**U**	**V**	**W**	**X**	**Y**	**Z**	**A**

5. The Target: ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Name: _____ Date: _____

Detective Word Search: The Embassy Affair

Decoder R-000

B	E	H	C	I	N	B	D	L	T
H	M	E	A	M	P	R	P	O	A
I	E	N	R	B	A	I	R	R	R
O	M	O	M	U	S	B	I	E	D
R	O	V	E	N	S	E	Y	N	E
A	W	E	N	K	P	A	A	Z	C
S	E	R	F	E	O	U	T	O	O
H	N	A	O	R	R	P	T	N	Y
I	I	R	P	E	T	L	I	A	M
D	U	C	I	P	H	E	R	L	B

WORD LIST

Beau
Bribe
Bunker
Carmen
Cipher
Decoy
Liam
Lorenzo
Memo
Owen
Passport
Priya
Rashid
Vera
Viktor

SOLVE THE CASE

1. The Double Agent (the name missing from the grid): _____

2. Hidden message (read the leftover letters, left to right):

_____

3. The Meeting Point: _____

4. Coded word: ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Decoder R-000 Read the coded word backwards.

5. The Target: ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Name: _____ Date: _____

Detective Word Search: The Midnight Kitchen Caper

Decoder R-000

R	R	I	B	N	H	S	N	I	D
O	E	E	E	T	A	C	O	H	D
B	C	E	A	S	R	O	A	G	E
I	I	S	U	P	R	L	H	G	L
N	P	K	E	O	I	A	W	W	I
R	E	E	M	O	E	N	H	E	A
A	N	W	M	N	T	D	I	N	D
B	A	E	A	S	E	E	S	M	E
N	G	R	A	T	E	R	K	T	R
E	M	I	G	O	R	D	O	N	T

WORD LIST

Beau
Colander
Delia
Emma
Florence
Gordon
Grater
Gwen
Harriet
Noah
Recipe
Robin
Skewer
Spoon
Whisk

SOLVE THE CASE

1. **The Saboteur (the name missing from the grid):** _____

2. **Hidden message (read the leftover letters, left to right):**

_____

3. **The Scene of the Caper:** _____

4. **Coded word:** ☐☐☐☐☐

Decoder R-000 Read the coded word backwards.

5. **The Missing Item:** ☐☐☐☐☐

Name: _____ Date: _____

Detective Word Search: The Midnight Kitchen Caper

Decoder Z-026

B	E	H	I	S	N	B	R	U	C	E
D	T	H	C	A	H	U	G	O	E	R
D	A	R	U	U	A	K	O	W	I	O
T	T	N	P	C	K	M	E	W	A	B
E	O	C	B	E	E	E	E	R	E	I
A	N	L	O	P	T	L	O	L	M	N
P	G	A	A	A	T	N	L	O	I	R
O	S	G	R	N	L	I	I	L	X	A
T	L	A	D	L	E	L	A	A	E	K
N	I	G	E	L	L	A	M	S	R	B
C	O	R	A	M	I	C	H	A	E	L

WORD LIST

Amelia
Bruce
Cora
Cupboard
Hugo
Kettle
Ladle
Liam
Lola
Marco
Michael
Mixer
Nigella
Nora
Owen
Robin
Saucepan
Teapot
Tongs

SOLVE THE CASE

1. The Saboteur (the name missing from the grid): _____

2. Hidden message (read the leftover letters, left to right):

_____

3. The Scene of the Caper: _____

4. Coded word: ☐☐☐☐☐☐

Decoder Z-026

Coded	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Plain	**Z**	**Y**	**X**	**W**	**V**	**U**	**T**	**S**	**R**	**Q**	**P**	**O**	**N**	**M**	**L**	**K**	**J**	**I**	**H**	**G**	**F**	**E**	**D**	**C**	**B**	**A**

5. The Missing Item: ☐☐☐☐☐☐

Name: _____ Date: _____

Detective Word Search: The Museum Heist

Decoder A-007

I	N	C	T	T	H	C	R	O	W	N
E	F	O	H	B	C	A	N	V	A	S
O	I	N	E	E	O	J	M	I	L	O
L	N	R	O	A	T	U	L	D	S	A
U	N	A	T	T	I	D	G	B	T	M
C	R	D	S	R	S	E	A	R	A	A
I	F	C	K	I	C	C	L	O	T	R
A	E	L	E	X	L	O	L	N	U	B
I	L	A	T	U	E	R	E	Z	E	L
M	I	R	C	E	O	A	R	E	H	E
V	X	A	H	R	U	B	Y	D	X	M

WORD LIST

Beatrix
Bronze
Canvas
Clara
Cleo
Conrad
Cora
Crown
Felix
Finn
Gallery
Jude
Lucia
Marble
Mateo
Milo
Otis
Ruby
Sketch
Statue
Theo

SOLVE THE CASE

1. The Mastermind (the name missing from the grid): _____

2. Hidden message (read the leftover letters, left to right):

_____

3. The Hideout: _____

4. Coded word: ☐☐☐☐☐☐

Decoder A-007

Coded	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Plain	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G

5. The Stolen Object: ☐☐☐☐☐☐

Name: _____ Date: _____

Detective Word Search: The Midnight Kitchen Caper

Decoder A-012

O I N S A I D E D F L
V T G R A T E R E A O
E H O F E S L O L Y L
N C H S L C P E I E A
R K E A D O L O A C U
E T O U R T R H O A N
C O S C T R C E E N N
I N E E R I I B N I W
P G K P M V A E B C R
E S T A H U G O T O E
R Y H N F C R D V M N

WORD LIST

Beau
Cora
Delia
Faye
Florence
Grater
Harriet
Hugo
Kettle
Lola
Marco
Michael
Oven
Recipe
Robin
Saucepan
Spoon
Tongs
Wren

SOLVE THE CASE

1. The Saboteur (the name missing from the grid): _____

2. Hidden message (read the leftover letters, left to right):

_____

3. The Scene of the Caper: _____

4. Coded word: ☐☐☐☐☐☐

Decoder A-012

Coded	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Plain	**M**	**N**	**O**	**P**	**Q**	**R**	**S**	**T**	**U**	**V**	**W**	**X**	**Y**	**Z**	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**	**G**	**H**	**I**	**J**	**K**	**L**

5. The Missing Item: ☐☐☐☐☐☐

Name: _____ Date: _____

Detective Word Search: The Museum Heist

Decoder V-004

I	M	U	M	M	Y	D	E	D	A	J	O
N	S	I	D	A	M	I	A	N	D	L	E
B	R	O	N	Z	E	T	H	R	I	E	K
T	A	P	E	S	T	R	Y	M	N	I	G
C	R	E	Y	A	F	S	C	S	R	O	F
I	O	E	T	A	M	U	T	A	I	E	C
A	A	F	N	S	R	E	D	A	L	T	A
S	B	C	R	A	K	O	M	I	T	T	O
O	U	R	T	A	E	E	X	S	E	U	R
M	T	O	A	Y	M	A	T	R	E	R	E
D	R	U	Q	M	M	E	G	C	H	T	V
A	R	A	L	C	A	R	O	C	H	F	H

WORD LIST

Bram
Clara
Cora
Damian
Esme
Felix
Greta
Kira
Milo
Mummy
Raoul
Statue
Bronze
Conrad
Curator
Emma
Faye
Frame
Jade
Mateo
Mosaic
Otis
Sketch
Tapestry

SOLVE THE CASE

1. The Mastermind (the name missing from the grid): _____

2. Hidden message (read the leftover letters, left to right):

_____

3. The Hideout: _____

4. Coded word: ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Decoder V-004 Keyword "CODE" — subtract its letters in turn (Vigenère).

5. The Stolen Object: ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Name: _____ Date: _____

Detective Word Search: The Midnight Kitchen Caper

Decoder K-005

O E N K I R A E K N X G
C D L T E T E E I O R T
R U E T H D T B S A E T
A J A G A T O A V R A O
M R H J L R U Y N D S P
G A C E C C A I L E M A
U R I R E D N A L O C E
N O M P L O D S L E R T
O N A S E E G O R D O N
A N K L L N Y A M M E P
H Y C I O G N I K O O C
E N A T V F M N E W G N

WORD LIST

Amelia
Colander
Delia
Gordon
Gravy
Jade
Kettle
Marco
Noah
Robin
Skye
Teapot
Cleo
Cooking
Emma
Grater
Gwen
Jude
Kira
Michael
Nora
Saucepan
Sofia
Tongs

SOLVE THE CASE

1. The Saboteur (the name missing from the grid): _____

2. Hidden message (read the leftover letters, left to right):

_____

3. The Scene of the Caper: _____

4. Coded word: ☐☐☐☐☐☐

Decoder K-005

Coded	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Plain	**B**	**F**	**G**	**H**	**D**	**I**	**J**	**K**	**L**	**M**	**N**	**O**	**P**	**E**	**Q**	**R**	**S**	**A**	**T**	**U**	**V**	**C**	**W**	**X**	**Y**	**Z**

5. The Missing Item: ☐☐☐☐☐☐

Name: _____ Date: _____

Detective Word Search: The Midnight Kitchen Caper

Decoder V-004

S B W T E A P O T C D E
H A I H S N A D T O R H
F E U I I L B S A O A K
A H R C B S K N I K O E
Y I A E E Y K A L I B T
E A R R E P L E E N P T
G T H P R L A D M G U L
O V C U E I K N A A C E
R L E G G E E A R I O S
D K I R A O L T D L E M
O N E R A V T E G E L E
N S K E W E R I R D C T

WORD LIST

Albert
Amelia
Cleo
Cooking
Cupboard
Dean
Delia
Esme
Faye
Gordon
Harriet
Hugo
Iris
Kettle
Kira
Nigella
Peeler
Saucepan
Skewer
Skye
Sofia
Teapot
Vera
Whisk

SOLVE THE CASE

1. The Saboteur (the name missing from the grid): _____

2. Hidden message (read the leftover letters, left to right):

_____

3. The Scene of the Caper: _____

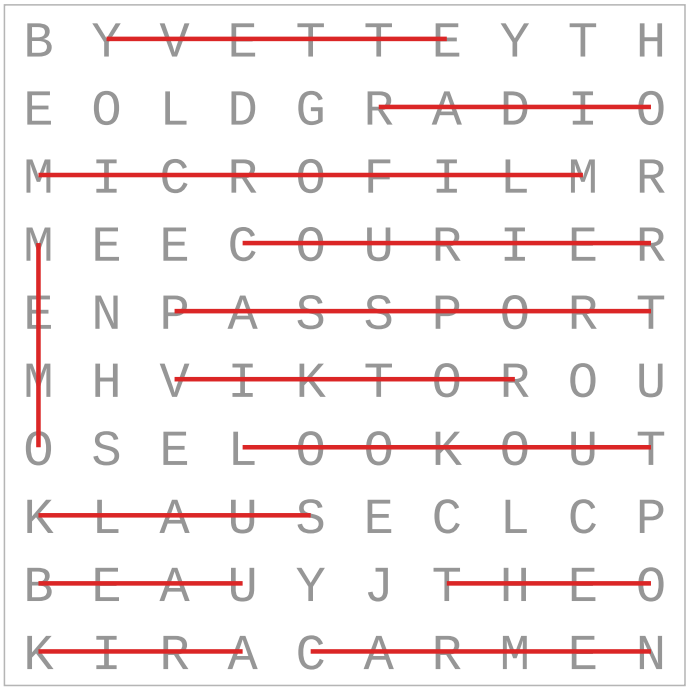
4. Coded word: ☐☐☐☐☐

Decoder V-004 Keyword "CLUE" — subtract its letters in turn (Vigenère).

5. The Missing Item: ☐☐☐☐☐

Detective Word Search: The Embassy Affair — Answer Key

Decoder A-002



WORD LIST

Beau
Courier
Klaus
Memo
Passport
Rashid
Viktor
Carmen
Kira
Lookout
Microfilm
Radio
Theo
Yvette

SOLUTION

The Double Agent: RASHID

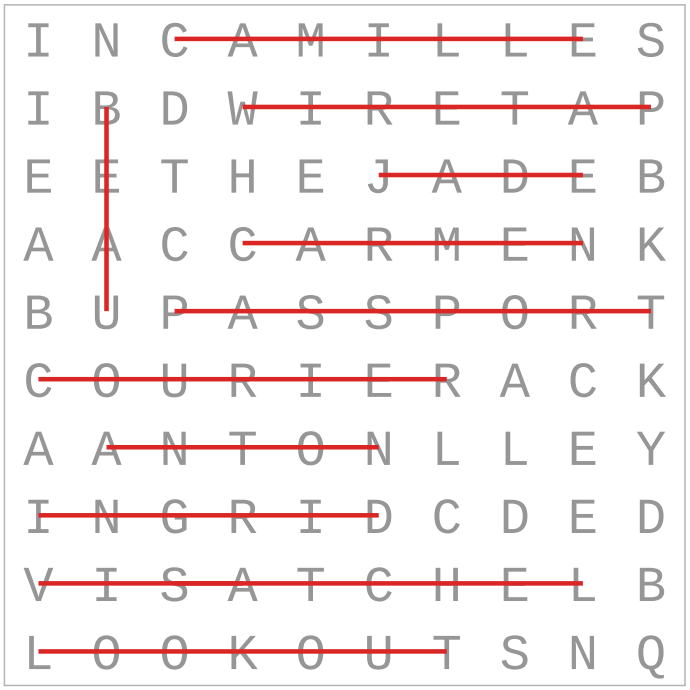
The Meeting Point: BY THE OLD GREENHOUSE

Coded word: ECLCPYJ

The Target: GENERAL

Detective Word Search: The Embassy Affair — Answer Key

Decoder A-001



WORD LIST

Anton
Beau
Camille
Carmen
Courier
Ingrid
Jade
Lookout
Natasha
Passport
Satchel
Visa
Wiretap

SOLUTION

The Double Agent: NATASHA

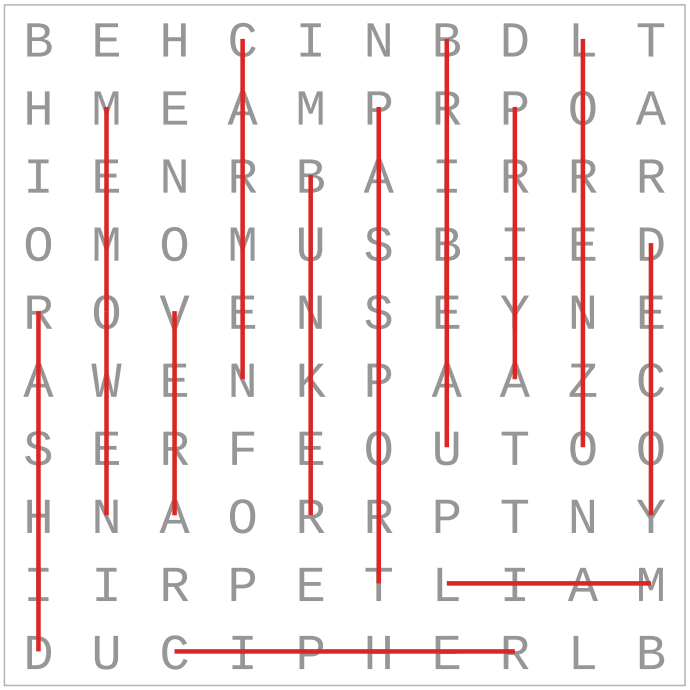
The Meeting Point: INSIDE THE BACK BACK ALLEY

Coded word: CDEDBSNQ

The Target: DEFECTOR

Detective Word Search: The Embassy Affair — Answer Key

Decoder R-000



WORD LIST

Beau
Bribe
Bunker
Carmen
Cipher
Decoy
Liam
Lorenzo
Memo
Owen
Passport
Priya
Rashid
Vera
Viktor

SOLUTION

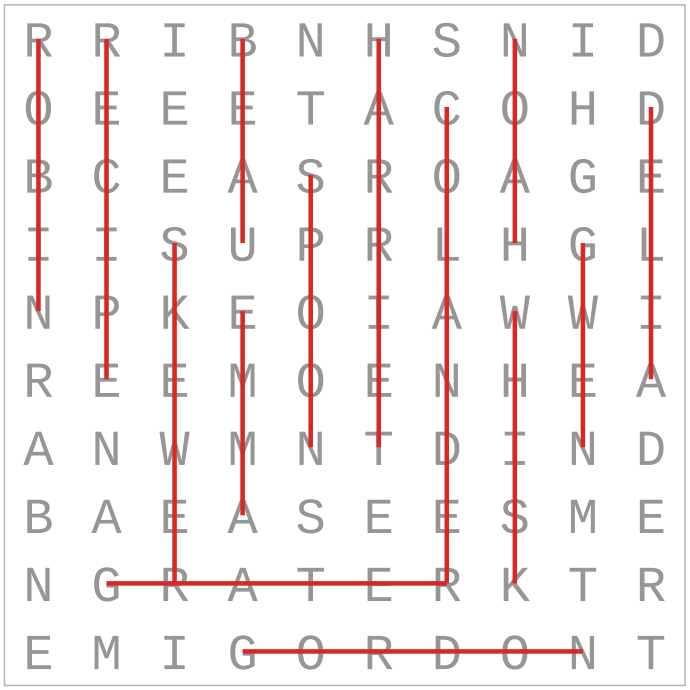
The Double Agent: VIKTOR

The Meeting Point: BEHIND THE MAIN ROOFTOP

Coded word: TNIRPEULB

The Target: BLUEPRINT

Detective Word Search: The Midnight Kitchen Caper — Answer Key



WORD LIST

Beau
Colander
Delia
Emma
Florence
Gordon
Grater
Gwen
Harriet
Noah
Recipe
Robin
Skewer
Spoon
Whisk

SOLUTION

The Saboteur: FLORENCE

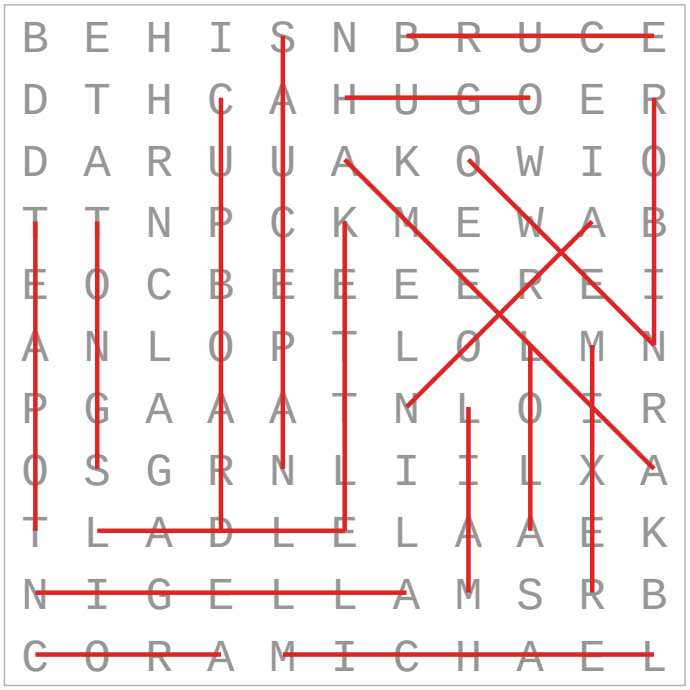
The Scene of the Caper: INSIDE THE GRAND BASEMENT

Coded word: REMIT

The Missing Item: TIMER

Detective Word Search: The Midnight Kitchen Caper — Answer Key

Decoder Z-026



WORD LIST

Amelia
Bruce
Cora
Cupboard
Hugo
Kettle
Ladle
Liam
Lola
Marco
Michael
Mixer
Nigella
Nora
Owen
Robin
Saucepan
Teapot
Tongs

SOLUTION

The Saboteur: MARCO

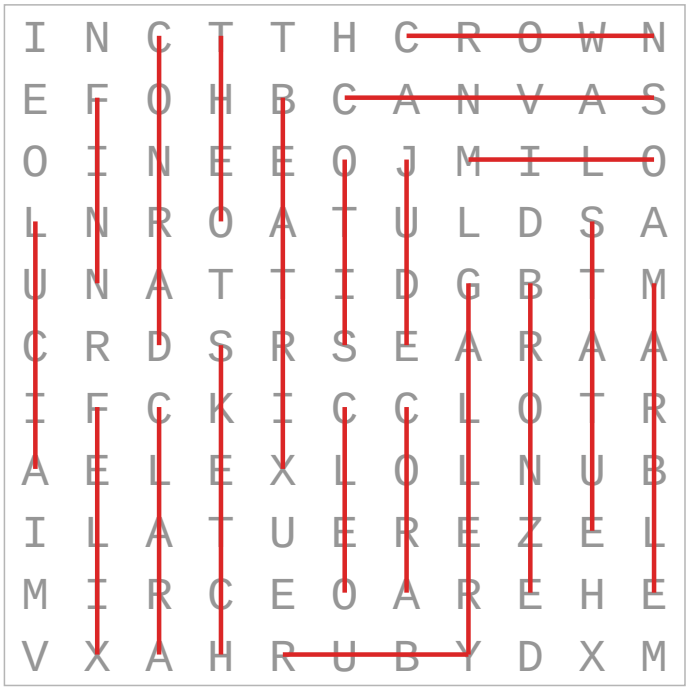
The Scene of the Caper: BEHIND THE DARK WINE CELLAR

Coded word: GILKSB

The Missing Item: TROPHY

Detective Word Search: The Museum Heist — Answer Key

Decoder A-007



WORD LIST

Beatrix
Bronze
Canvas
Clara
Cleo
Conrad
Cora
Crown
Felix
Finn
Gallery
Jude
Lucia
Marble
Mateo
Milo
Otis
Ruby
Sketch
Statue
Theo

SOLUTION

The Mastermind: MATEO

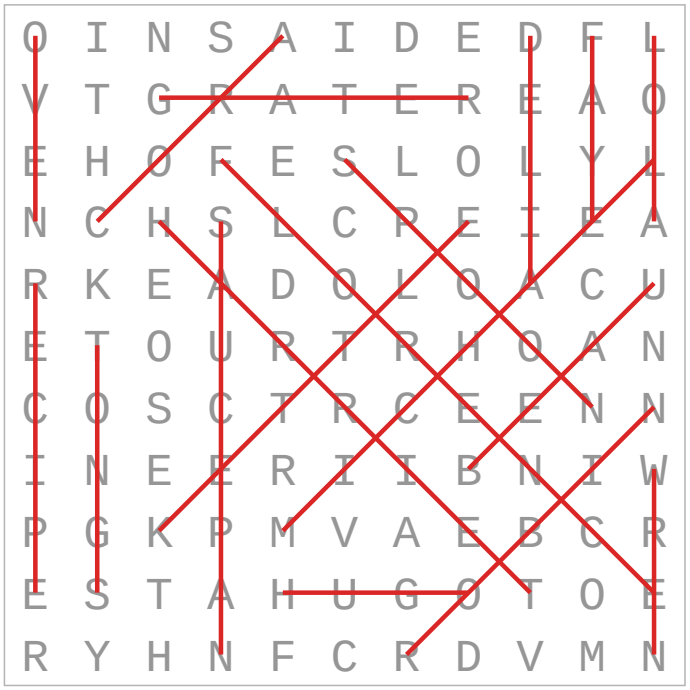
The Hideout: IN THE OLD ATRIUM

Coded word: EHVDXM

The Stolen Object: LOCKET

Detective Word Search: The Midnight Kitchen Caper — Answer Key

Decoder A-012



WORD LIST

Beau
Cora
Delia
Faye
Florence
Grater
Harriet
Hugo
Kettle
Lola
Marco
Michael
Oven
Recipe
Robin
Saucepan
Spoon
Tongs
Wren

SOLUTION

The Saboteur: MARCO

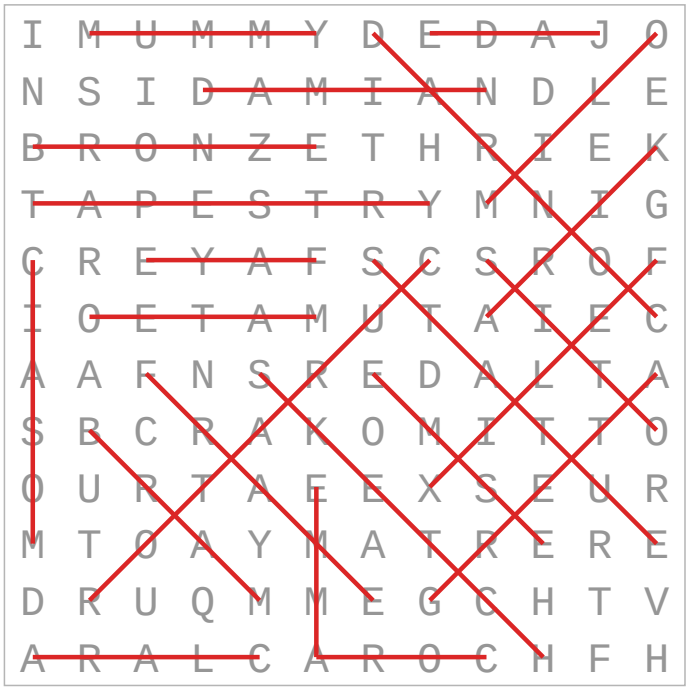
The Scene of the Caper: INSIDE THE LOCKED CONSERVATORY

Coded word: HFCDVM

The Missing Item: TROPHY

Detective Word Search: The Museum Heist — Answer Key

Decoder V-004



WORD LIST

Bram
Clara
Cora
Damian
Esme
Felix
Greta
Kira
Milo
Mummy
Raoul
Statue
Bronze
Conrad
Curator
Emma
Faye
Frame
Jade
Mateo
Mosaic
Otis
Sketch
Tapestry

SOLUTION

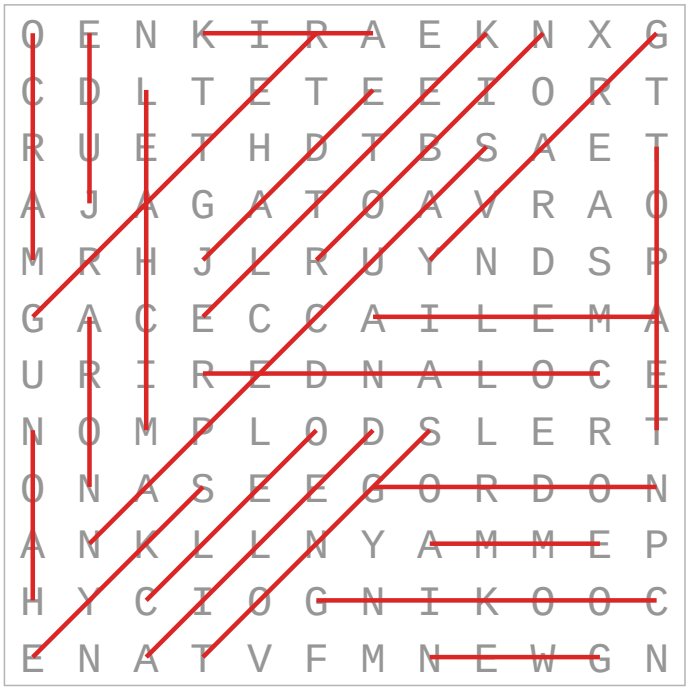
The Mastermind: RAOUL

The Hideout: INSIDE THE GRAND COURTYARD

Coded word: UQHTVFH

The Stolen Object: SCEPTRE

Detective Word Search: The Midnight Kitchen Caper — Answer Key



WORD LIST

Amelia
Colander
Delia
Gordon
Gravy
Jade
Kettle
Marco
Noah
Robin
Skye
Teapot
Cleo
Cooking
Emma
Grater
Gwen
Jude
Kira
Michael
Nora
Saucepan
Sofia
Tongs

SOLUTION

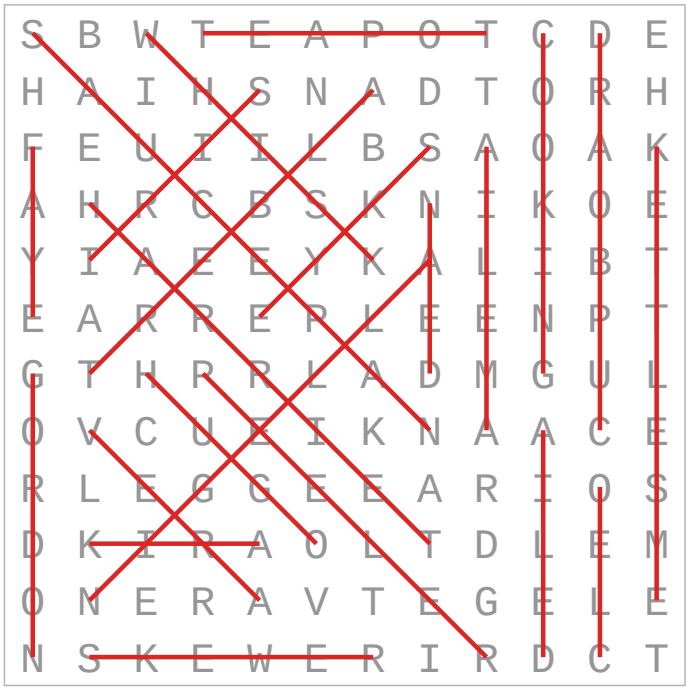
The Saboteur: SOFIA

The Scene of the Caper: NEXT TO THE GRAND SCULLERY

Coded word: PNVFMN

The Missing Item: RECIPE

Detective Word Search: The Midnight Kitchen Caper — Answer Key



WORD LIST

Albert
Amelia
Cleo
Cooking
Cupboard
Dean
Delia
Esme
Faye
Gordon
Harriet
Hugo
Iris
Kettle
Kira
Nigella
Peeler
Saucepan
Skewer
Skye
Sofia
Teapot
Vera
Whisk

SOLUTION

The Saboteur: SOFIA

The Scene of the Caper: BEHIND THE BACK LARDER

Coded word: VTGIT

The Missing Item: TIMER