FREE PRINTABLE PACK · CROSSWORD

# Mystery Crosswords

Easy to medium · 10–20 minutes each · Age 9 and up

## HOW IT WORKS

Solve the crossword first. Four suspects' alibi words appear in the finished grid and one does not. The shaded squares and the number code finish the case.

## IN THIS PACK


Open-and-Shut cases: 5 × 5 grids — pages 2–5

Tricky cases: 7 × 7 grids — pages 6–7

**Answers** — **pages 8–9**


## 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/detective-crosswords/

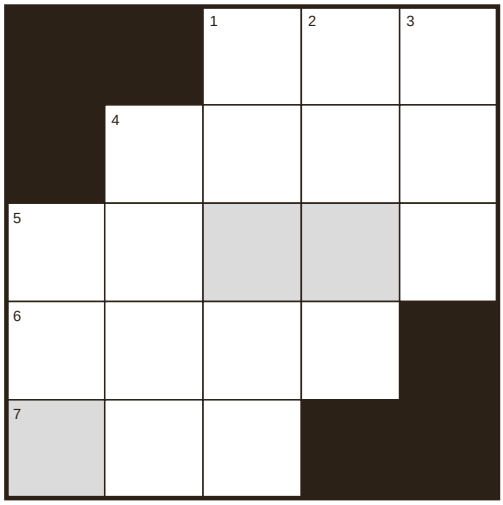

November 2026 edition. Free to print and copy for home, classroom, library and club use. Not for sale. Please keep the Detective Puzzles name on the pages.

# Detective Crosswords

Name _____ Date _____

## Puzzle 1 — Case #877

*Grandma’s secret cookie recipe has been pinched from the tin. Five suspects. Four solid alibis. One is lying.*



### WHO?

One alibi word is missing from the grid — that suspect is lying.

**Mia — ERAS**
**Ivan — HELIX**
**Pip — VERY**
**Rosa — OTIS**
**Priya — TOFU**

### WHERE?

The shaded squares spell it (read left to right, top to bottom):

___ ___ ___

### WHAT?

Squares 16 · 14 · 18 · 13 · 10 — count white squares only:

___ ___ ___ ___ ___

**My accusation:**

_____

### ACROSS

1. Coop bird fluffed up against the cold
4. Extremely
5. Do nothing at all on the beach
6. Redding of the Dock of the Bay
7. Penalty ___ in soccer

### DOWN

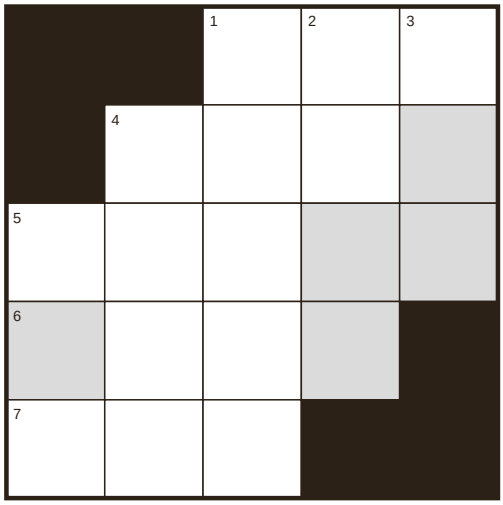
1. DNA's spiral shape
2. Ice ages and such
3. Her name means night — she brings the dark
4. Power to block a bill
5. Plunder

# Detective Crosswords

Name _____ Date _____

## Puzzle 2 — Case #842

*The library’s rarest pop-up book never came back. Five suspects. Four solid alibis. One is lying.*




### WHO?

One alibi word is missing from the grid — that suspect is lying.

**Vera — CHAD**
**Yusuf — RUSTY**
**Finn — CHILL**
**Suki — COLA**
**Dan — ALLY**

### WHERE?

The shaded squares spell it (read left to right, top to bottom):

___ ___ ___ ___ ___

### WHAT?

Squares 15 · 3 · 5 · 17 · 1 — count white squares only:

___ ___ ___ ___ ___

**My accusation:**

_____

### ACROSS

1. Short sleep under a blanket
4. Classic canned soft drink
5. What a fire chases away
6. Like a stroll on a mild evening
7. Verse written for a snow day, maybe

### DOWN

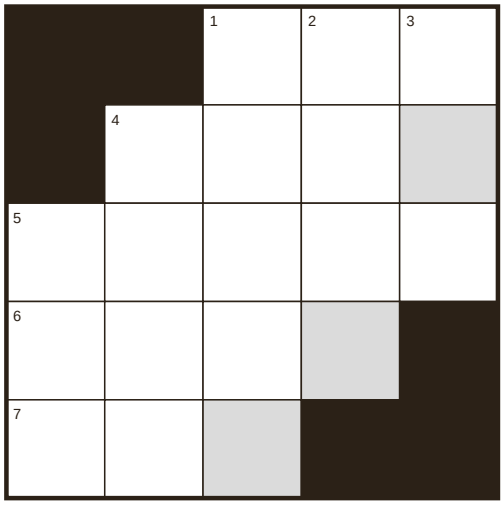
1. Racket
2. Nation on your side
3. Pen ___ (letter-writing friend)
4. African country named for a shrinking lake
5. Company's top boss, for short

# Detective Crosswords

Name _____ Date _____

## Puzzle 3 — Case #822

*The garden gnome collection is exactly one gnome short. Five suspects. Four solid alibis. One is lying.*




### WHO?

One alibi word is missing from the grid — that suspect is lying.

**Enzo — BLUR**
**Dot — OMAN**
**Freya — OVEN**
**Vik — SEDAN**
**Iris — LAME**

### WHERE?

The shaded squares spell it (read left to right, top to bottom):

___ ___ ___

### WHAT?

Squares 6 · 15 · 16 — count white squares only:

___ ___ ___

**My accusation:**

_____

### ACROSS

1. Fifth note of the solfege scale
4. Priestly tribe of Israel
5. Space ___ (astronaut in training)
6. Sultanate on the Arabian Sea
7. Strong longing

### DOWN

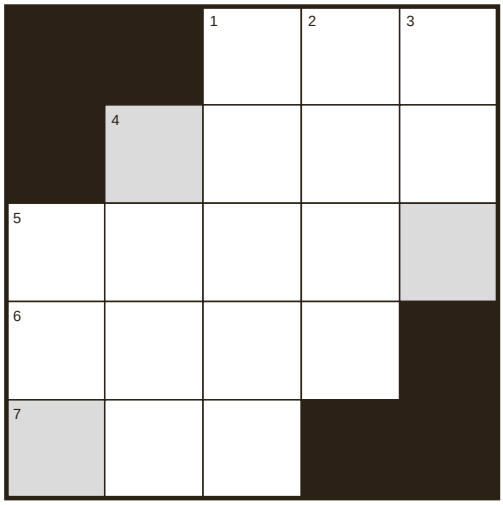
1. Four-door rental car
2. It warms the whole kitchen
3. Glowing, as candles
4. Unable to walk without help
5. Not saying, on purpose

# Detective Crosswords

Name _____ Date _____

## Puzzle 4 — Case #282

*Grandma’s secret cookie recipe has been pinched from the tin. Five suspects. Four solid alibis. One is lying.*




### WHO?

One alibi word is missing from the grid — that suspect is lying.

**Freya — ALMS**
**Leo — SOLO**
**Sam — STOP**
**Ella — ONCE**
**Ava — EONS**

### WHERE?

The shaded squares spell it (read left to right, top to bottom):

___ ___ ___

### WHAT?

Squares 6 · 2 · 11 · 18 — count white squares only:

___ ___ ___ ___

**My accusation:**

_____

### ACROSS

1. Animal that says meow
4. Travelling all on your own
5. What is left when a tree is felled
6. Cosmic ages
7. Quick to learn

### DOWN

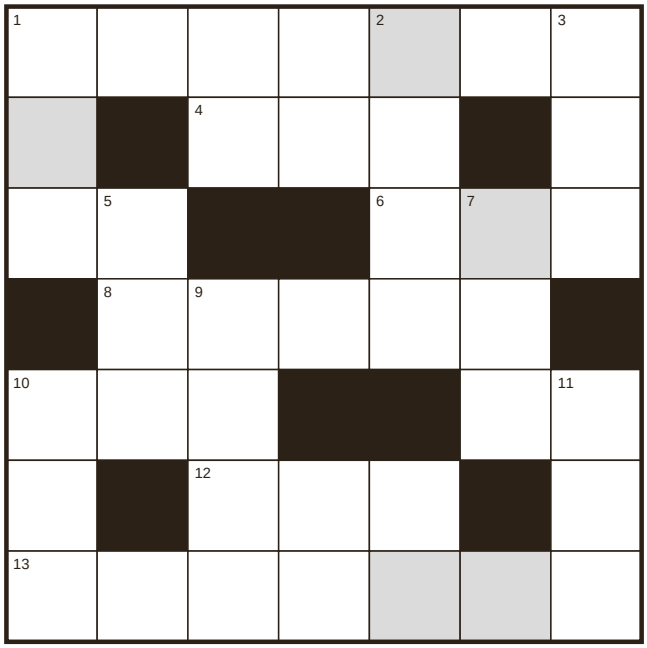
1. Tally the stars — good luck
2. Charity dropped in the box
3. Spinning toy, or a mountain's peak
4. A brief ___ between two legs
5. Breeze source at the beach

# Detective Crosswords

Name _____ Date _____

## Puzzle 1 — Case #646

*The picnic's entire cheese board has been spirited away. Five suspects. Four solid alibis. One is lying.*



### WHO?

One alibi word is missing from the grid — that suspect is lying.

**Amir — ASKS**
**Pip — SAWDUST**
**Ella — STRUDEL**
**Hugo — DYED**
**Xavi — CANDY**

### WHERE?

The shaded squares spell it (read left to right, top to bottom):

___ ___ ___ ___ ___

### WHAT?

Squares 3 · 30 · 27 · 33 — count white squares only:

___ ___ ___ ___

**My accusation:**

_____

### ACROSS

1. Flaky rolled apple pastry
4. Casual hello
6. What the spring thaw brings to winter
8. Sweet treat from the fair
10. The dog wagged ___ tail
12. Fancy pond fish of Japan
13. Opposite of western

### DOWN

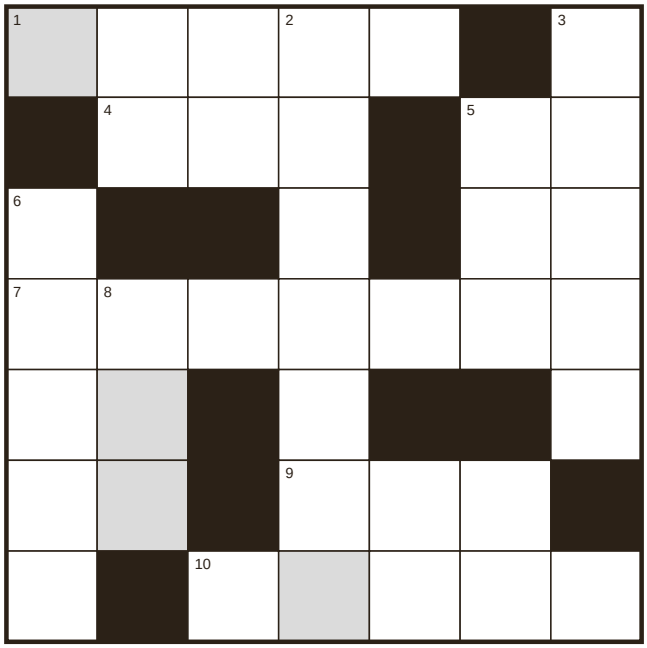
1. Take a seat by the fire
2. Coloured with a bright tint
3. Stable boy, for one
5. Civil Rights ___ of 1964
7. Her name means night — she brings the dark
9. Inquires
10. Anger
11. Sharp little fastener

# Detective Crosswords

Name _____ Date _____

## Puzzle 2 — Case #176

*The prize pumpkin has vanished from the village fair. Five suspects. Four solid alibis. One is lying.*



### WHO?

One alibi word is missing from the grid — that suspect is lying.

**Dot — ATTEMPT**
**Cara — POETS**
**Freya — SPEND**
**Opal — ADAPT**
**Iris — WILDCAT**

### WHERE?

The shaded squares spell it (read left to right, top to bottom):

___ ___ ___ ___

### WHAT?

Squares 26 · 30 · 14 · 11 · 23 — count white squares only:

___ ___ ___ ___ ___

**My accusation:**

_____

### ACROSS

**1.** Use money
**4.** Paid, top-level athlete
**7.** Endeavor
**9.** Finished the stew
**10.** Adjust to fit

### DOWN

**2.** Desk scribble spot
**3.** Verse writers
**5.** Tool for slushy boot puddles
**6.** Has a conversation
**8.** Most-used English article

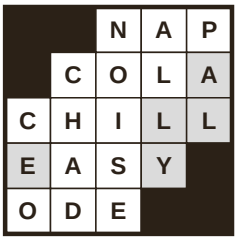
# Detective Crosswords — Answer Key

### Puzzle 1



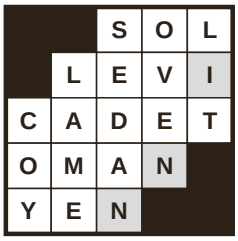

It was Priya (missing: TOFU), in the LAB, with the STOOL.

### Puzzle 2



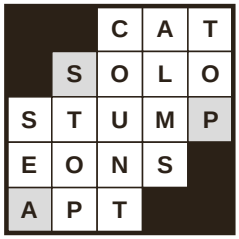

It was Yusuf (missing: RUSTY), in the ALLEY, with the SPOON.

### Puzzle 3




It was Enzo (missing: BLUR), in the INN, with the VAN.

### Puzzle 4




It was Ella (missing: ONCE), in the SPA, with the LAMP.

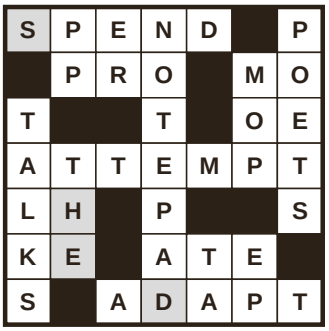
# Detective Crosswords — Answer Key

### Puzzle 1




It was Pip (missing: SAWDUST), in the DINER, with the ROPE.

### Puzzle 2




It was Iris (missing: WILDCAT), in the SHED, with the STOOL.