

Murder Mystery Riddles

From brainpuzzles.games

1.

A woman shoots her husband, then holds him underwater for five minutes. Next she hangs him. Ten minutes later they enjoy a lovely dinner together. How?

3.

A man is found hanging in a locked room. The rope is around his neck, yet there is no chair, no table, nothing to climb on. The only clue is a puddle of water on the floor. How did he do it?

5.

The music stopped, and seconds later she died. What happened?

7.

A woman shared an apple with her rival. She cut it in half with one knife, ate her half, and watched her rival die from the other half. Both halves came from the same apple. How?

9.

A man is found slumped in a phone booth. The glass on both sides is smashed, his hands are bleeding, and a fishing rod leans against the wall outside. What happened?

11.

A man is found dead in the middle of a desert holding half a burnt match. There are no tracks and nothing else around. What happened?

2.

A man is found dead in a field. Next to him lies an unopened package. There are no footprints anywhere around him. How did he die?

4.

Romeo and Juliet lie dead on the floor. Around them: broken glass, a puddle of water, and an open window. The wind blows the curtains. No wounds, no poison. What happened?

6.

A man is found dead inside his car with a knife wound. The doors are locked from the inside and the windows are rolled all the way up. There are no cuts or holes anywhere in the car. How did the killer reach him?

8.

The wife told the detective she had just woken up at 8 a.m. and found her husband dead. The detective touched her coffee mug on the table, then arrested her. Why?

10.

A body lies at the base of a ten-story building. The detective rides to every floor and opens the window on each one. Then he declares it murder, not suicide. How does he know?

12.

A night watchman told his boss, "Don't board that ship. I dreamed last night it would sink." The ship sank, the boss survived, and then he fired the watchman. Why?

13.

Two men are found dead in a cabin high on a mountainside. The cabin is not burned, not damaged, and the men have no wounds from any weapon. What happened?

15.

A shopkeeper reported a burglary: "Someone smashed the window and took the cash." The detective looked at the glass on the sidewalk outside and arrested the shopkeeper for fraud. Why?

17.

A man was found dead at his desk with a pistol in his hand and a tape recorder beside him. The detective pressed play: "I can't go on," then a gunshot. He immediately ruled it murder. How did he know?

19.

A man walked into a bar and asked for a glass of water. The bartender pulled out a gun and pointed it at him. The man said "thank you" and left happily. Why?

21.

A trucker froze to death in the middle of a heat wave in July. There was no snow, no mountain, no freezer aisle nearby. How?

23.

A man was murdered on a Sunday morning. The wife said she was still in bed. The cook said she was making breakfast. The butler said he was setting the table. The maid said she was fetching the mail. Who is lying?

14.

An heiress was poisoned at her own dinner party. Every guest ate the same soup from the same pot, and her food taster tried her bowl first and lived. How was she poisoned?

16.

The infamous test: at her own mother's funeral, a woman met a stranger and fell for him instantly, but she never got his name. A few days later she committed a terrible crime. Why?

18.

A neighbor called the police: "I wiped the frost off the window, looked inside, and saw him lying there!" It was a freezing night. The detective arrested the neighbor on the spot. Why?

20.

A collector was found dead in his study on Saturday morning. The butler claimed he had spent that whole stormy, rain-soaked morning watering the rose garden. The detective arrested him at once. Why?

22.

A poisoner shared pills with each victim: two identical pills, one deadly, one harmless. The victim picked first, yet the poisoner always survived. How?

24.

A jewel thief struck a perfectly round house. The maid said she was dusting the corners. The cook said she was stirring soup. The gardener said he was trimming the hedge. The chauffeur said he was washing the car. Who is lying?

25.

A condemned prisoner must pick a door: behind door one, a firing squad. Behind door two, a raging fire. Behind door three, lions that have not eaten in three years. Which door should he choose?

27.

Two women ordered identical iced teas. One drank hers quickly and lived. The other sipped slowly all evening and died of poisoning. Both drinks were mixed from the same pitcher. Where was the poison?

29.

The victim's last note was a grocery list: Corn, Apples, Radishes, Lettuce. The detective read the first letters and named the killer. Type the name.

31.

Identical twins have identical fingerprints, so they can frame each other perfectly.

33.

Firefighters finally put out a forest blaze and found a dead scuba diver in full gear among the charred trees, miles from any lake or sea. How did he end up there?

35.

A man came home from vacation and reported that his wife had tragically fallen from a cliff. His story was airtight, yet the travel agent phoned police the moment he left the office. Why?

37.

A dying woman used her last strength to write a single word on a steamed bathroom mirror. Officers could not read it, but the detective solved the case simply by looking at the reflection in a second mirror. How?

26.

Three suspects, one thief, and exactly ONE true statement among them. Alice says "Ben did it." Ben says "I didn't do it." Cara says "Ben didn't do it." Who is the thief?

28.

A dying man scrawled these numbers: 7, 4, 9, 10, 11. Turn each number into the month it stands for, take the first letters, and type the killer's name.

30.

In the famous riddle where a man lies dead surrounded by 53 bicycles, the "bicycles" are playing cards.

32.

Sherlock Holmes says "Elementary, my dear Watson" in the original Arthur Conan Doyle stories.

34.

A man is found stabbed to death in his kitchen, yet police search the house and grounds for days and never find the murder weapon anywhere. What was it?

36.

A man is found at his desk with a bullet wound and a pistol resting in his left hand, apparently a suicide. The detective calls it murder at once. What gave it away?

38.

A witness told police, "I stepped inside out of the pouring rain and found him lying there dead." The detective felt the man's coat and umbrella, found them bone dry, and arrested him. Why did that matter?

39.

The only witness to a millionaire's murder was his pet parrot, which kept squawking one short phrase over and over. That phrase led police straight to the killer. What was happening?

41.

A man said a mysterious woman had visited, poisoned his business partner over drinks, and fled. The detective looked at the two wine glasses on the table and knew he was lying. What did the glasses reveal?

43.

In a cabin with no clocks anywhere, a detective glanced at a half burned candle on the table and announced roughly when the crime had happened. How can a candle tell time?

45.

A blind man was found dead beside a neatly handwritten suicide note in his own study. The detective read one line and declared it murder. What was impossible about the note?

47.

A suspicious recluse who never left home and trusted no one was found poisoned, though he had eaten and drunk nothing unusual all day. He had, however, spent the whole morning mailing letters. How was he poisoned?

49.

A dying professor pointed weakly at three books on the shelf, the 2nd, the 5th, and the 14th, then he passed. Convert each number to its letter in the alphabet to name his killer.

40.

A nephew claimed his uncle had died only an hour before he arrived and called the police. But the detective glanced at the front step and knew the nephew was lying. What did he see?

42.

A man told police he had only just driven up and found the body moments earlier. The detective laid a hand on the car's hood, felt it was stone cold, and arrested him. Why?

44.

A man was strangled in the middle of a snowy field. One set of footprints led up to the body and the very same set led away, yet the victim never walked there himself. How did the killer manage that?

46.

A witness insisted he clearly saw the killer's face at dawn because bright morning sunlight was pouring in through the west window. The detective knew he was lying. Why?

48.

On a scorching day, a man ran up the ladder, dove headfirst off the high board, and was found dead at the bottom of the pool. There was no blood and no one else around. What happened?

50.

A suspect described his alibi in vivid detail: "I remember it perfectly, it was February 30th, the night of the big storm." The detective did not need to hear another word. Why?

51.

A man pushes his car up to a hotel, hands over a fistful of cash, and cheerfully announces that he is now bankrupt. Nobody is upset. What is going on?

53.

A cowboy rode into town on Friday, stayed three nights, and rode out again on Friday. How is that possible?

55.

A woman told police a burglar climbed in and stole her jewels while she slept, but fresh snow blanketed the whole yard with not a single footprint in it. The detective arrested her. Why?

57.

A babysitter kept getting eerie silent phone calls all evening. Police traced the line and immediately told her to run outside. Where were the calls coming from?

59.

A suspect insisted he had spent the whole evening alone at the cinema and proudly held up his ticket stub as proof. The detective read it and arrested him anyway. Why?

61.

A father and his son are in a serious car crash. The father dies at the scene. The boy is rushed into surgery, but the surgeon looks down and says, 'I cannot operate on him, this boy is my son.' How can that be?

52.

A man lives on the twentieth floor. Every morning he rides the elevator down to the lobby, but coming home he rides only to the tenth floor and walks the rest, except on rainy days or when a neighbor rides up with him. Why?

54.

A newspaper ran a photo of an explorer supposedly standing at the North Pole, but the detective declared it a fake at a single glance. What gave it away?

56.

A man said he was up late reading by his lamp when he heard the gunshot next door, but the detective knew the story was false because the whole street had lost power all night. Why does that matter?

58.

A nanny swore she had watched the toddler dig and build in the sandbox all afternoon, but the detective glanced at the sandbox and knew she was lying. What did he notice?

60.

A man claimed he had sat warming himself by a roaring fire in the hearth all night, but the detective touched the fireplace and knew the alibi was false. What told him?

62.

A man is running home as fast as he can. Another man wearing a mask stands waiting for him, so the runner suddenly turns and dashes back the way he came. No one is in any danger. What is happening?

63.

A golfer was found dead on the open fairway on a bright afternoon, his metal club fused and blackened in his hands, yet the sky directly above him was clear blue. What killed him?

65.

A dying woman managed to press just four keys on her phone before she died: 6, 2, 7, 5. Using the letters printed on a phone keypad, one letter per key, spell the killer's name.

67.

A man fell from a fifty story building and walked away without a single scratch. There was no net, no cushion, and no parachute of any kind. How did he survive?

69.

Everyone agreed the suspect in the wheelchair could not have reached the victim, whose flat sat at the top of a long staircase with no elevator. The detective proved he was the killer anyway. How?

71.

A kidnapped man was allowed to mail one cheerful note home: 'Having fun. Everyone friendly. Lovely meals. Plenty of sleep.' His family called the police at once. What did they spot?

73.

A forger insisted his identical twin, not he, had signed the stolen checks, and swore no one could ever tell the two of them apart. The detective identified the guilty twin within minutes. How?

64.

Two fathers and two sons went fishing. Each of them caught exactly one fish, yet they brought home only three fish in total, and not one was lost or eaten. How?

66.

Three suspects stand accused, and exactly one of their statements is true. Gus says, 'I did it.' Hal says, 'Gus did it.' Ivy says, 'I did not do it.' Who is guilty?

68.

A photographer was found dead inside his darkroom, the only door bolted from the inside, yet the detective insisted a killer had been there and slipped out. How could someone bolt the door from outside?

70.

A celebrated novelist was found dead at her typewriter, an apparent suicide, a neatly typed farewell note still resting in the machine. The detective read it and declared it murder. Why?

72.

A large painting vanished from a house where every door and window was still locked and bolted from the inside, and there were no secret passages or tunnels anywhere. How did the thief get in and out?

74.

A witness swore she watched the shooting from her window a full mile across the valley the very instant she heard the shot. The detective knew her account was impossible. Why?

75.

A masked man rode into town, robbed the bank in broad daylight, and galloped off, while the sheriff and a whole crowd watched calmly and did nothing to stop him. Why did no one react?

77.

A dead millionaire's newly discovered will, dated and signed in 1925, left his entire fortune to his young secretary. The detective declared it a forgery on sight. What was wrong with it?

79.

A witness claimed that at two in the morning, in near total darkness, he clearly saw the getaway driver's bright green jacket. The detective knew that one detail was false. Why?

76.

A man was found in his bath with a modern hairdryer in the water, and it looked like a tragic accident, but the detective was certain it was murder. What made the accident impossible?

78.

A woman reported that her husband had shot himself, and the gun lay in his hand with a fresh farewell note beside him. The detective charged her with murder, and it had nothing to do with which hand held the gun. What was the clue?

80.

A man said his wife had tumbled down the stairs while he slept, and he found her at the bottom hours later. The detective studied how she lay and knew she had been placed there. What was wrong?

Answer Key

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1. She took a photograph of him. She shot it, developed it in the darkroom tray, and hung it up to dry.
2. His parachute failed to open. The unopened package was the parachute.
3. He stood on a block of ice. When it melted, only the puddle remained.
4. Romeo and Juliet were goldfish. The wind knocked their bowl off the shelf.
5. She was a blindfolded tightrope walker at the circus. The music ending was her cue that she had reached the platform. It stopped too early.
6. The car was a convertible. The top was down.
7. The poison was on one side of the knife blade only.
8. The mug was half empty and stone cold. She had been awake for hours, so her story was a lie.
9. He was telling a friend about the giant fish he caught. When he threw his arms wide to show its size, his hands went through the glass.
10. Every window was closed and locked. A jumper would have left at least one window open behind him.
11. He was in a hot air balloon that started to sink. The passengers drew matches, and he got the short one and had to jump.
12. A night watchman is paid to stay awake all night. If he was dreaming, he was sleeping on the job.
13. It was the cabin of a crashed airplane.
14. The poison was painted onto her personal antique spoon, not put in the soup.
15. The glass had fallen outside the shop, so the window was smashed from within. A real burglar breaking in would leave the glass inside.
16. She hoped the stranger would appear at the next family funeral. This is the famous "psychopath riddle": most people never think of that answer, and that is the point.
17. The tape was rewound to the beginning. A dead man cannot rewind his own recording.
18. On a cold night, frost forms on the inside of the glass. He could not have wiped it off from outside, so he had already been in the house.
19. The man had hiccups. The bartender cured them with a good scare instead of water.
20. Nobody waters a garden in pouring rain. The alibi was invented.
21. He was trapped inside his own refrigerated trailer when the door swung shut.
22. Both pills were harmless. The poison was in the glass of water the victim used to swallow the pill.
23. The maid. There is no mail delivery on Sunday. The maid's alibi is impossible.
24. The maid. A round house has no corners to dust.
25. Door three. Lions that have not eaten in three years are long dead.
26. Ben. If Ben is guilty, only Alice speaks the truth: exactly one true statement. Any other

suspect gives two true statements.

27. In the ice cubes. The poison was frozen inside the ice. The fast drinker finished before her ice melted.

28. Jason (July, April, September, October, November)

29. Carl

30. True. Bicycle is a classic playing card brand. A deck holds 52, so a 53rd card means someone was cheating.

31. False. Even identical twins have different fingerprints. Prints form from tiny random pressures in the womb.

32. False. That exact line never appears in the original stories. It came from later films and adaptations.

33. A firefighting plane had scooped water from the ocean to dump on the blaze, and scooped him up along with it.

34. An icicle. It melted away and left no trace.

35. He had booked only a one-way ticket for his wife, so he already knew she would not be coming home.

36. The victim was right-handed. Nobody shoots themselves with their weaker hand.

37. She had written the killer's name backwards, so it read correctly only as a mirror reflection.

38. If he had truly just come in from pouring rain, he would be soaked. He had been inside the whole time.

39. The parrot was repeating the last thing it heard, the victim shouting the killer's name.

40. Three days of newspapers were piled at the door, so the uncle had been dead for days, not an hour.

41. Neither glass had any lipstick on it, so no woman had been drinking there.

42. A car just driven would have a warm engine. The cold hood proved he had been there a long time.

43. He knew how long that size of candle takes to burn, so the length left showed how much time had passed.

44. The killer carried the victim in, then stepped carefully back into his own prints on the way out.

45. A blind man could not have written a neat handwritten note. Someone else wrote it.

46. The sun rises in the east, so it could never shine through a west window at dawn.

47. The poison was on the gummed stamps and envelope flaps he licked to seal them.

48. The pool had been drained, and he dove straight onto the bare concrete.

49. Ben. The 2nd, 5th, and 14th letters are B, E, and N.

50. February never has a 30th day, so his detailed memory was invented.

51. They are playing Monopoly, and his little car piece landed on a property with a hotel on it.

52. He is very short and can only reach the tenth floor button, but an umbrella or a taller neighbor lets him press twenty.

53. His horse was named Friday.

54. The photo showed penguins, which live only near the South Pole, never the North.

55. Unbroken snow all around means nobody crossed the yard, so she must have staged the theft herself.
56. With the power out, his electric lamp could not have been on, so his story was invented.
57. From another telephone inside the same house.
58. The sand was perfectly smooth and untouched, so no child had played in it.
59. The stub was dated for the following night, so it proved nothing about that evening.
60. The hearth was stone cold and the grate held no ash, so no fire had ever burned there.
61. The surgeon is the boy's mother.
62. It is a baseball game, and the runner is heading for home plate where the masked catcher waits.
63. Lightning from a distant storm, a bolt from the blue, struck his raised metal club.
64. There were only three people, a grandfather, his son, and his grandson, so the middle man is both a father and a son.
65. Mark. On the keypad 6 gives M, 2 gives A, 7 gives R, and 5 gives K.
66. Hal. If Hal is guilty, only Ivy's statement is true, which gives the single true statement required.
67. He fell from a window on the ground floor of the fifty story building.
68. The killer tied a thread to the inside bolt, pulled it shut through the gap under the door, then drew the thread back out.
69. He could walk perfectly well and only used the wheelchair to fake a disability.
70. The novelist had crippling arthritis and always dictated her work, never typing a word herself, so someone else typed the note.
71. The first letters of the four sentences spell HELP.
72. The thief climbed down and back up the chimney.
73. Even identical twins have different handwriting, so the signature matched only one of them.
74. Sound travels far slower than light, so from a mile away she would hear the shot about five seconds after seeing it, never at the same instant.
75. They were all actors filming a Western movie, so the robbery was only a scene.
76. Modern hairdryers have a safety plug that cuts the power the instant it touches water, so it could not have electrocuted him unless someone had tampered with it.
77. The will was written in ballpoint pen, which was not sold to the public until years after 1925.
78. There was no gunshot residue on the husband's own hand, though anyone who fires a gun is left with it.
79. In near darkness the human eye cannot tell colors apart, so he could not have known the jacket was green.
80. Her arms lay neatly at her sides, but anyone truly falling throws their hands out to break the fall.