

Deduction Mysteries

CASE 01

A forged check for \$50,000 was cashed from Mr. Harmon's business account. The signature was expertly forged. Five people had knowledge of Mr. Harmon's signature: Ingrid (secretary), Wei (business partner), Paul (accountant), Sandra (lawyer), and Carl (nephew). Case file HARD-001.

Q Who forged the check?

1. Handwriting analysis shows the forged signature was written by a left-handed person.
2. Ingrid and Wei are left-handed. Paul, Sandra, and Carl are right-handed.
3. Wei was in Singapore for a business trip the entire week. Passport stamps and hotel receipts confirm this.
4. The check was printed on Mr. Harmon's personal check printer, which is kept in his locked office.
5. Ingrid has a spare key to Mr. Harmon's office.
6. Carl has significant personal debt, but he's right-handed and doesn't have office access.
7. Ingrid's fingerprints were found on the check printer, though she says she 'cleans it occasionally.'

A) Ingrid	B) Wei	C) Paul	D) Sandra	E) Carl
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CASE 02

Dr. Pham collapsed at a dinner party after drinking a cocktail. Toxicology confirms a non-lethal but harmful compound in her gin and tonic. Five people were at the table: Lena (pharmacist), Nathan (teacher), Reiko (chef), Kenji (bartender friend who joined late), and Dr. Pham herself. Case file HARD-002.

Q Who tampered with Dr. Pham's drink?

1. Dr. Pham collapsed after her second gin and tonic. The first drink was fine.
2. Between the first and second rounds, only Lena left the table – she went to the restroom, which required passing by the bar.
3. Nathan and Reiko stayed seated the entire evening. Table CCTV confirms this.
4. Kenji was at the bar during the first round but had been seated before anyone ordered the second round.
5. Dr. Pham has anosmia – she can't smell anything, including bitter or chemical odors.
6. Lena mentioned in conversation last month that certain compounds dissolve invisibly in tonic water.
7. Lena knew about Dr. Pham's anosmia from a medical discussion they had at a previous dinner.

A) Lena	B) Nathan	C) Reiko	D) Kenji
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CASE 03

After a dinner party, Diane found a deep scratch on her car's front-left fender. Five cars were parked single-file in a narrow driveway: Yvonne (deepest), Hank, Diane, Carter, and Brooke (closest to street). The scratch appeared sometime during the party. Case file HARD-003.

Q Whose car scratched Diane's?

1. The scratch on Diane's car is on the front-left fender, consistent with a sideswipe from a car on her left side.
2. The driveway is single-lane. Cars parked in order: Yvonne, Hank, Diane, Carter, Brooke (street-side).
3. Nobody left during the party. But Brooke moved her car to let a delivery truck pass at 7:30 PM.
4. Brooke's car has a fresh scrape on its rear-right bumper. The paint residue matches Diane's car color.
5. Hank's car shows no damage. Yvonne's car was deeper in the driveway and couldn't have reached Diane's front.
6. Carter's car is parked behind Diane (between Diane and Brooke). No damage on Carter's vehicle.
7. The delivery truck driver says Brooke backed up quickly to make space.

A) Yvonne	B) Hank	C) Carter	D) Brooke
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CASE 04

A confidential research document was secretly modified at 11:47 PM. The edit came from Workstation C in the east wing. Four researchers had building access that night: Gabrielle, Victor, Simone, and Raj. Case file HARD-004.

Q Who modified the document?

1. The edit was made from Workstation C in the east wing at exactly 11:47 PM.
2. Door access logs: Gabrielle badged into the east wing at 11:30 PM and left at 12:05 AM.
3. Victor's key card shows he accessed only the west-wing lab after 10 PM.
4. Simone's exit was logged at 10:15 PM. She did not re-enter the building.
5. Raj was in his north-wing office on a phone call from 11:30 PM to 12:15 AM. Phone records confirm the call.
6. The east wing requires a separate badge access. No tailgating is possible – the door has a mantrap.
7. Gabrielle's research area is in the west wing. She had no stated reason to be in the east wing that night.

A) Gabrielle	B) Victor	C) Simone	D) Raj
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CASE 05

A prototype laptop was stolen from a locked locker on the second floor between 12:30 PM and 2 PM. The locker number (47) was only discussed at the 9 AM project meeting. The locker was picked, not forced. Five employees had second-floor access: Oliver, Tanya, Min, Jade, and Ross. Case file HARD-005.

Q Who stole the laptop?

1. Only attendees of the 9 AM meeting knew the laptop was in locker 47. Ross did not attend the meeting.
2. Meeting attendees: Oliver, Tanya, Min, and Jade.
3. The locker was picked (no damage, no master key used). This requires skill with a lock pick set.
4. Oliver worked as a locksmith for six years before joining the company.
5. Tanya, Min, and Jade have no known lock-picking experience.
6. Hallway camera shows Oliver on the second floor at 1:15 PM. He says he was 'walking to the vending machine.'
7. A lock pick set was found in Oliver's desk drawer during a subsequent search.

A) Oliver	B) Tanya	C) Min	D) Jade	E) Ross
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CASE 06

A forged check for \$50,000 was cashed from Mr. Harmon's business account. The signature was expertly forged. Five people had knowledge of Mr. Harmon's signature: Ingrid (secretary), Wei (business partner), Paul (accountant), Sandra (lawyer), and Carl (nephew). Case file HARD-006.

Q Who forged the check?

1. Handwriting analysis shows the forged signature was written by a left-handed person.
2. Ingrid and Wei are left-handed. Paul, Sandra, and Carl are right-handed.
3. Wei was in Singapore for a business trip the entire week. Passport stamps and hotel receipts confirm this.
4. The check was printed on Mr. Harmon's personal check printer, which is kept in his locked office.
5. Ingrid has a spare key to Mr. Harmon's office.
6. Carl has significant personal debt, but he's right-handed and doesn't have office access.
7. Ingrid's fingerprints were found on the check printer, though she says she 'cleans it occasionally.'

A) Ingrid	B) Wei	C) Paul	D) Sandra	E) Carl
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NOTES

Answer Key – Deduction Mysteries

Solve before peeking. Correct suspect and key reasoning steps below.

Case 01 A) Ingrid

- ☒ The forged check had a left-handed signature (pen strokes analyzed by the bank).
 - ☒ Of the five suspects: only Ingrid and Wei are left-handed.
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Case 02 A) Lena

- ☒ Dr. Pham collapsed after drinking her second cocktail, a gin and tonic.
 - ☒ Between the first and second rounds, only Lena left the table to use the restroom, passing by the bar.
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Case 03 D) Brooke

- ☒ Diane's car was scratched on the front-left fender, consistent with being sideswiped by a car on her left.
 - ☒ Parking order: Yvonne (arrived first, parked deepest), then Hank, then Diane, then Carter, then Brooke (last, closest to street).
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Case 04 A) Gabrielle

- ☒ The document was edited at 11:47 PM from Workstation C in the east wing.
 - ☒ Door logs: Gabrielle entered the east wing at 11:30 PM and left at 12:05 AM.
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Case 05 A) Oliver

- ☒ The laptop was in locker 47. Only people at the 9 AM meeting knew this number.
 - ☒ Meeting attendees: Oliver, Tanya, Min, and Jade.
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Case 06 A) Ingrid

- ☒ The forged check had a left-handed signature (pen strokes analyzed by the bank).
- ☒ Of the five suspects: only Ingrid and Wei are left-handed.