

Deduction Mysteries

CASE 01

Someone pulled up the community garden's prize tomato plants overnight Tuesday. The garden is behind a coded gate. Four neighbors had a reason to be near the garden: Helen, Frank, Greta, and Phil. Case file MEDIUM-028.

Q Who uprooted the tomato plants?

- The garden gate code was changed at Monday morning's HOA meeting. Only attendees received the new code.
- Helen and Greta both attended Monday's HOA meeting.
- Frank was on vacation all week. Phil stayed home sick Monday and Tuesday.
- Helen's personal garden borders the community patch. She's been in the garden competition for three years.
- Greta has never entered the garden competition and volunteered to water the community patch last month.

6. Soil from the community garden was found on garden gloves in Helen's shed.

A) Helen

B) Frank

C) Greta

D) Phil

CASE 02

At a team dinner, someone over-salted Vera's soup while she was in the restroom. Four people sat near her: Luis (seat 1), Kim (seat 2), Dante (seat 3), and Vera (seat 4). The table is long and narrow. Case file MEDIUM-029.

Q Who over-salted Vera's soup?

- Vera's soup was at seat 4. The salt shaker sat between seats 3 and 4.
- Luis was at seat 1, at the far end of the table. He'd have to lean across two people to reach the salt.
- Kim sat at seat 2. She spent the entire time Vera was away talking to Luis.
- Dante sat at seat 3, directly next to the salt shaker.
- Dante and Vera had a disagreement about the team project earlier that day.
- Kim told investigators she saw Dante reach for something on the table while Vera was gone.

A) Luis

B) Kim

C) Dante

D) Vera

CASE 03

Money went missing from the restaurant safe during a three-hour power outage (8 PM to 11 PM). The safe uses an electronic keypad. Four employees were scheduled: Yuki (manager), Ava (hostess), Marcus (line cook), and Sonia (server). Case file MEDIUM-030.

Q Who took money from the safe?

- The safe's electronic keypad does not function during a power outage.
- The safe has an emergency mechanical key override. Only the manager, Yuki, has this key.
- Ava was at the front desk. The battery-powered CCTV confirms she stayed there from 7:30 PM to 11:30 PM.
- Marcus was reorganizing the walk-in cooler with a flashlight. Another employee saw him there at 9 PM.
- Sonia clocked out at 7:45 PM, before the outage. The battery-backed door log confirms she left.

A) Yuki

B) Ava

C) Marcus

D) Sonia

Deduction Mysteries

CASE 04

A musical score was taken from the sound booth of The Aldermarsh Theatre between 15:15 and 18:30. The operation required authorized credentials. Five people had any plausible connection: Leila (lead actor), Vidal (stagehand), Ravi (understudy), Saoirse (lighting tech), Thora (prop master).

Q Who took the musical score?

1. Vidal's props inventory log confirms they were at the remote facility from 15:15 to 18:30.
2. Saoirse was at the front desk the entire window during the window.
3. Saoirse's director's key was not used at any point during the window.
4. The sound booth is normally accessed only via prop-room code, and Leila's prop-room code was used at 15:15.
5. The theft required authorized credentials – only Leila and Vidal have this among the five.
6. Ravi was at a scheduled conference call during the window.
7. Leila claims to have been offsite for a personal errand during the window. No supporting evidence has been provided.
8. Thora was documented by the witness crew member in a different building during the window.

CASE 05

The pharmacy keys were taken from the intensive care wing of Helix Health Center between 15:30 and 17:15. The operation required technical training. Five people had any plausible connection: Kiran (security officer), Kenji (medical resident), Dario (administrator), Kai (pharmacist), Amelia (volunteer).

Q Who took the pharmacy keys?

1. The theft required technical training – only Kenji and Dario have this among the five.
2. Kai was documented by the elevator log in a different building during the window.
3. Amelia was at the main office the entire window during the window.
4. Kiran was documented by the door sensor in a different building during the window.
5. The intensive care wing is normally accessed only via hospital badge, and Dario's restricted-wing access was used at 15:30.
6. Dario claims to have been out for a long break during the window. No supporting evidence has been provided.
7. Kenji's elevator log confirms they were at the remote facility from 15:30 to 17:15.

CASE 06

A signed manuscript was taken from the second-floor gallery of Brookfield Art Institute between 13:40 and 15:10. The operation required technical training. Five people had any plausible connection: Eitan (exhibition designer), Pavel (curator), Roksana (art restorer), Kalinda (tour guide), Eira (archivist).

Q Who took the signed manuscript?

1. Kalinda was documented by the witness testimony in a different building during the window.
2. Roksana claims to have been out for a long break during the window. No supporting evidence has been provided.
3. The theft required technical training – only Eira and Roksana have this among the five.
4. Eitan was at a scheduled conference call during the window.
5. Kalinda's security badge was not used at any point during the window.
6. The second-floor gallery is normally accessed only via master key, and Roksana's master key was used at 13:40.
7. Eira's elevator log confirms they were at the off-site location from 13:40 to 15:10.

Deduction Mysteries

CASE 07

An accounting ledger was taken from the document destruction room of Cedarstone Inc between 14:00 and 16:00. The operation required authorized credentials. Five people had any plausible connection: Leila (HR director), Stellan (senior engineer), Emiko (intern), Kiran (facilities coordinator), Ilya (IT administrator).

Q Who took the accounting ledger?

1. The corporate theft required authorized credentials – only Leila and Emiko have this among the five.
2. Leila claims to have been offsite for a personal errand during the window. No supporting evidence has been provided.
3. Kiran was at a scheduled training course during the window.
4. Ilya was at a scheduled training course during the window.
5. Stellan was at a scheduled training course during the window.
6. Emiko's witness account confirms they were at the external office from 14:00 to 16:00.
7. The document destruction room is normally accessed only via employee badge, and Leila's document-room code was used at 14:00.

CASE 08

A sealed parts shipment was taken from the engine assembly area of Aldermarsh Auto Works between 16:45 and 19:10. The operation required specialized access privileges. Five people had any plausible connection: Sigrid (apprentice), Ishaan (parts clerk), Nikolai (customer service rep), Dimah (electrician), Darya (quality inspector).

Q Who took the sealed parts shipment?

1. Dimah was documented by the time-clock log in a different building during the window.
2. The engine assembly area is normally accessed only via shop key, and Ishaan's tool-crib key was used at 16:45.
3. Sigrid's tool-checkout log confirms they were at the off-site location from 16:45 to 19:10.
4. Nikolai was documented by the door sensor in a different building during the window.
5. Darya was at the external facility the entire window during the window.
6. Ishaan claims to have been working alone in their office during the window. No supporting evidence has been provided.
7. The theft required specialized access privileges – only Ishaan and Sigrid have this among the five.

CASE 09

The production funds were taken from the backstage left of Northgate Stage between 14:15 and 16:10. The operation required authorized credentials. Five people had any plausible connection: Dario (prop master), Cassia (director), Maeve (costume designer), Arjun (lead actor), Leander (stagehand).

Q Who took the production funds?

1. Arjun was at the main office the entire window during the window.
2. The backstage left is normally accessed only via box-office key, and Cassia's prop-room code was used at 14:15.
3. Leander was documented by the dressing-room sign-in in a different building during the window.
4. Cassia claims to have been working alone in their office during the window. No supporting evidence has been provided.
5. Dario was documented by the witness crew member in a different building during the window.
6. Maeve's witness crew member confirms they were at the off-site location from 14:15 to 16:10.
7. The theft required authorized credentials – only Maeve and Cassia have this among the five.

Answer Key – Deduction Mysteries

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

Case 01 A) Helen

- ☒ The gate code was changed Monday morning. Only residents who attended Monday's HOA meeting got the new code.
 - ☒ Helen attended the meeting – she has the new code.
-

Case 02 C) Dante

- ☒ The extra-salted soup was at seat 4, belonging to Vera.
 - ☒ Vera was seated at seat 4. The salt shaker was between seats 3 and 4.
-

Case 03 A) Yuki

- ☒ The power went out from 8 PM to 11 PM. The safe uses an electronic keypad that doesn't work without power.
 - ☒ However, the safe also has an emergency mechanical key override.
-

Case 04 C) Leila

- ☒ The theft required authorized credentials.
 - ☒ Ravi lacks the required skill – cleared.
-

Case 05 E) Dario

- ☒ The theft required technical training.
 - ☒ Kiran lacks the required skill – cleared.
-

Case 06 E) Roksana

- ☒ The theft required technical training.
 - ☒ Eitan lacks the required skill – cleared.
-

Case 07 D) Leila

- ☒ The corporate theft required authorized credentials.
 - ☒ Stellan lacks the required skill – cleared.
-

Case 08 A) Ishaan

- ☒ The theft required specialized access privileges.
 - ☒ Nikolai lacks the required skill – cleared.
-

Case 09 A) Cassia

- ☒ The theft required authorized credentials.
 - ☒ Dario lacks the required skill – cleared.
-