

A COMPANION TO THE VOCABULARY DETECTIVE

The Secret Case Files

Three extra mysteries. Twelve word encounters.
A fresh reason to follow the evidence.



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START HERE

One more investigation

For parents and educators

Print these pages at actual size on US Letter paper (8.5 × 11 inches). The activities work in black and white. Readers can complete every case using only the pages in this pack.

Three cases to open

The museum label mix-up — page 3

The lamp after closing — page 7

The shortcut on the map — page 11

Follow the familiar four steps

Read the story and record a first thought. Decode four words in context. Test your thinking against two records. Then support a conclusion with two clues and use all four words in a different scene.

Eight new words, four worth revisiting

Cases 1 and 2 introduce new focus words. Case 3 revisits precise, verify, discrepancy, and infer in a new mystery. It also works on its own if you have not read the main workbook.

Check the reasoning

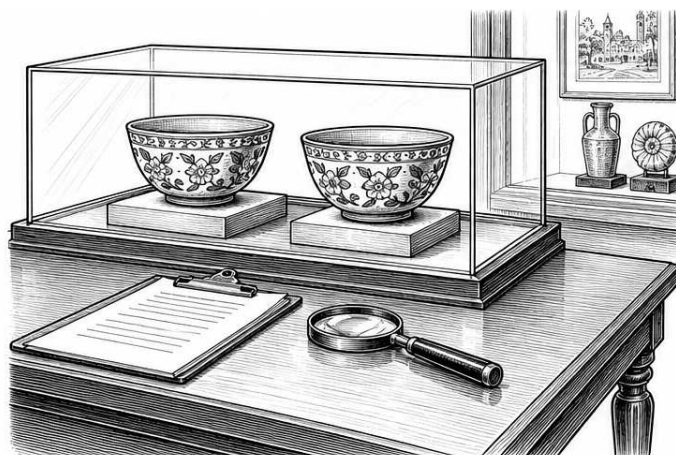
Answer examples begin on page 15. Different wording can work when the meaning and evidence fit. A changed first thought is a sign that the reader has used new evidence.

A gift, with no review required

This pack is separate from the complete workbook. You do not need to leave a review to use or download it. All cases and records are fictional learning scenarios.

FILE 01

The museum label mix-up



LOCATION / MUSEUM WORKSHOP

The case

Two blue-and-white bowls stood on the museum workshop table. The bowl on the left carried a card saying “Original: do not handle.” The right-hand card said “Replica: safe to handle.” But had the cards stayed beside the correct objects?

The workshop guide explained that the original ceramic bowl was **brittle**: a hard knock could make it crack. Its resin replica was **durable**, made to survive repeated handling by visitors. The bowls were designed to **resemble** each other so closely that color alone would not settle the question.

There was one **distinct** feature underneath each bowl: the original had a small triangular maker's mark, while the replica had a round museum sticker. The guide stopped visitors from touching either bowl until the labels could be checked. A volunteer brought over the setup photographs.

Are the labels correct, or have they been mixed up?

YOUR FIRST THOUGHT

DECODE

Every word leaves a clue

Circle the meaning that fits each word in the case. Underline the words in the story that helped you decide. You do not need to copy them here.



brittle

01

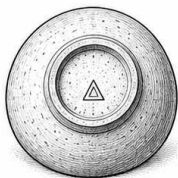
- A. able to bend easily
- B. likely to crack or break under pressure
- C. already broken into pieces
- D. difficult to move



durable

02

- A. too delicate to handle
- B. made only for display
- C. identical to an older object
- D. able to last through repeated use



distinct

03

- A. clearly different or recognizable
- B. almost impossible to notice
- C. newly added by accident
- D. common to every object



resemble

04

- A. replace something permanently
- B. be made of the same material
- C. look like something else
- D. belong to the same owner

TEST

Examine the records

Use these records with the story. Check each claim against the evidence.

A / Setup photograph notes

Before the cards were placed, staff photographed both bowls from below.

Left bowl: round museum sticker.

Right bowl: small triangular maker's mark.

B / Handling record

The bowls have remained in their photographed positions.

A volunteer placed the cards afterward.

No visitors handled either bowl before the check.

Check the evidence

1. Which detail identifies the original bowl, and which side is it on?

2. Do the records show that a visitor damaged a bowl? Explain.

SOLVE

Close the case

Your case report

Choose the best-supported explanation.

- ☐ A. The cards are correct because both bowls look old.
- ☐ B. The cards have been placed beside the wrong bowls.
- ☐ C. A visitor has broken the original bowl.



In two or three sentences, support your choice with **two clues** from the story or records. Explain in your own words how each clue supports your conclusion.

A different scene

(Check how well you've learned the words.)

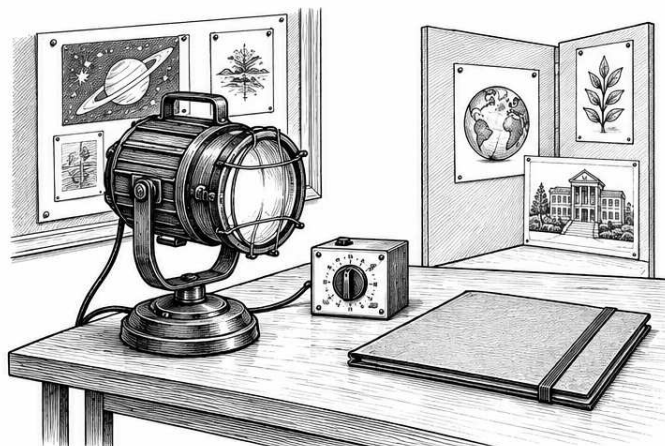
A drama club needs a safe substitute for a delicate stage prop. Continue the scene.

Continue the scene in three or four short sentences using **brittle**, **durable**, **distinct**, and **resemble**. Make each meaning clear through details or actions. You may change word endings.

Check your answers on page 15. Revisit any word clue you missed.

FILE 02

The lamp after closing



LOCATION / SCHOOL EXHIBITION

The case

At 4:20, the exhibition room's display lamp was glowing, although the room had closed at four. Had somebody returned and switched it on?

Rafi found an instruction folder beside the lamp. It described an **automatic** setting that turned the lamp on without anyone pressing a button. A **manual** setting required someone to use the switch. The timer repeated the same **cycle**: ten minutes of light, followed by ten minutes of darkness. Each **interval** lasted exactly as long as the one before it.

The class had used the lamp while testing an exhibit that afternoon. Rafi could not remember which setting they had left selected. The building log showed no entry after closing, but that alone did not explain the light. He asked the supervisor for the timer check and the recorded start time.

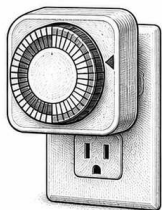
Did someone need to return for the lamp to be on at 4:20?

YOUR FIRST THOUGHT

DECODE

Every word leaves a clue

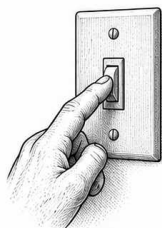
Circle the meaning that fits each word in the case. Underline the words in the story that helped you decide. You do not need to copy them here.



cycle

01

- A. a single action that never repeats
- B. the total time before closing
- C. a change made by a person
- D. a sequence that repeats



manual

02

- A. operated by a person
- B. working without a power source
- C. starting on its own
- D. lasting a fixed amount of time



automatic

03

- A. working only when held
- B. controlled by a handwritten log
- C. operating without a person starting each action
- D. unable to be stopped



interval

04

- A. a control on a machine
- B. a period between points in time
- C. the brightness of a light
- D. the reason for an action

TEST

Examine the records

Use these records with the story. Check each claim against the evidence.

A / Supervisor's timer check

Setting at closing: AUTOMATIC.

Timer left running; power stayed connected.

The setting was unchanged at 4:20.

B / Test log

Cycle began at 3:40 with ten minutes ON.

3:40-3:50 ON / 3:50-4:00 OFF.

At every boundary, the next interval begins immediately.

The cycle continued without interruption.

Check the evidence

1. Continue the log from 4:00 to 4:30. When is the lamp on?

2. Does the light at 4:20 establish that someone entered? Why?

SOLVE

Close the case

Your case report

Choose the best-supported explanation.

- ☐ A. The automatic timer explains the light at 4:20.
- ☐ B. A person must have switched the lamp on at 4:20.
- ☐ C. The timer should have kept the lamp dark all afternoon.



In two or three sentences, support your choice with **two clues** from the story or records. Explain in your own words how each clue supports your conclusion.

A different scene

(Check how well you've learned the words.)

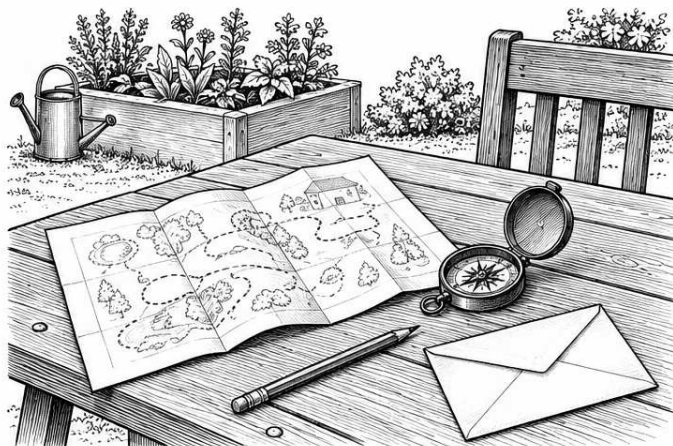
A garden club is testing a watering system. Continue the scene.

Continue the scene in three or four short sentences using **cycle**, **manual**, **automatic**, and **interval**. Make each meaning clear through details or actions. You may change word endings.

Check your answers on page 15. Revisit any word clue you missed.

FILE 03

The shortcut on the map



LOCATION / GARDEN TREASURE TRAIL

The case

The garden club had prepared a treasure trail for the school open day. Before printing the maps, Elena noticed a **discrepancy**: one draft sent visitors across the small bridge, while another sent them around the pond. Both drafts ended at the same bench.

The bridge route was shorter. Elena wanted to **infer** why someone had changed it, but a shorter route was not necessarily a usable route. She asked the groundskeeper to **verify** the bridge's condition instead of guessing from its appearance.

The printing deadline was noon. To avoid mixing up the drafts, Elena needed a **precise** instruction: which route should appear on today's visitor map? She gathered the dated inspection note and the trail planner's update. Neither draft had been printed yet, so there was still time to select the correct version.

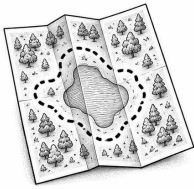
Which route belongs on today's visitor map?

YOUR FIRST THOUGHT

DECODE

Every word leaves a clue

Circle the meaning that fits each word in the case. Underline the words in the story that helped you decide. You do not need to copy them here.



precise

01

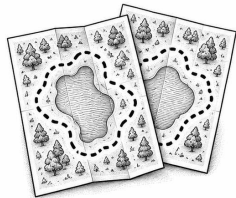
- A. exact and clearly specified
- B. close enough for a rough guess
- C. long and full of extra details
- D. likely to change without notice



verify

02

- A. accept without checking
- B. change to a new value
- C. check that something is correct
- D. make a prediction



discrepancy

03

- A. complete agreement
- B. a difference between things expected to agree
- C. a detail that proves dishonesty
- D. a route shared by two maps



infer

04

- A. state a fact without any support
- B. copy an instruction word for word
- C. make a measurement
- D. reach a conclusion from evidence

TEST

Examine the records

Use these records with the story. Check each claim against the evidence.

A / Groundskeeper's note — today, 9:00

Bridge closed for a loose handrail.

Repairs begin tomorrow.

The path around the pond is open today.

B / Trail planner's update — today, 9:30

Draft 1 uses the bridge.

Draft 2 uses the path around the pond.

Publish the newest draft whose whole route is open.

Check the evidence

1. Which draft follows the planner's instruction? Use both records.

2. Can you conclude that the bridge will be open tomorrow? Explain.

SOLVE

Close the case

Your case report

Choose the best-supported explanation.

- ☐ A. Print Draft 1 because the bridge route is shorter.
- ☐ B. Cancel the trail because every path is closed.
- ☐ C. Print Draft 2, which goes around the pond.



In two or three sentences, support your choice with **two clues** from the story or records. Explain in your own words how each clue supports your conclusion.

A different scene

(Check how well you've learned the words.)

Two rehearsal schedules list different starting times. Continue the scene.

Continue the scene in three or four short sentences using **precise**, **verify**, **discrepancy**, and **infer**. Make each meaning clear through details or actions. You may change word endings.

Check your answers on page 16. Revisit any word clue you missed.

Try the cases first. These written responses are examples.

01 / The museum label mix-up

1 B / brittle: likely to crack or break under pressure. A hard knock could crack it.

2 D / durable: able to last through repeated use. The replica survives repeated handling.

3 A / distinct: clearly different or recognizable. The triangle and round sticker differ.

4 C / resemble: look like something else. The bowls look almost alike.

Evidence: 1. The triangular maker's mark identifies the original; it is on the right. 2. No. Visitors had not handled the bowls, and neither record reports damage.

Report / B (sample): The labels are reversed. The left bowl has the replica's round sticker, and the right bowl has the original's triangular mark.

Different scene (sample): The brittle glass vase stayed in its padded box. A durable plastic vase could survive a fall onstage. It was painted to resemble the glass one, but a distinct stripe underneath identified the substitute.

02 / The lamp after closing

1 D / cycle: a sequence that repeats. The same light-and-dark sequence repeats.

2 A / manual: operated by a person. A person must use the switch.

3 C / automatic: operating without a person starting each action. No button press is needed.

4 B / interval: a period between points in time. Each light or dark period lasts ten minutes.

Evidence: 1. It is on from 4:00-4:10, off from 4:10-4:20, and on from 4:20-4:30. 2. No. The automatic timer starts an on interval at 4:20 without a person using the switch.

Report / A (sample): The lamp was following its timer. Automatic mode was still selected, and the uninterrupted cycle begins a light interval at 4:20.

Different scene (sample): The automatic sprinkler started while the gardeners were away. Its cycle repeated five minutes of watering and a ten-minute dry interval. For a separate test, Jo used manual mode and pressed the start button herself.

03 / The shortcut on the map

1 A / **precise**: exact and clearly specified. Elena needs an exact route instruction.

2 C / **verify**: check that something is correct. She asks the groundskeeper to check.

3 B / **discrepancy**: a difference between things expected to agree. The drafts show different routes.

4 D / **infer**: reach a conclusion from evidence. Elena needs evidence for a conclusion.

Evidence: 1. Draft 2: it is newer, and the path around the pond is open today. 2. No. Repairs begin tomorrow, but neither record gives a completion or reopening time.

Report / C (sample): Draft 2 is the supported choice. The groundskeeper confirms that the pond path is open, and the planner says to use the newest fully open route.

Different scene (sample): A discrepancy between the schedules left the cast unsure when to arrive. Maya called the director to verify the time. From the director's reply, she could infer which schedule was current and send a precise message: "Meet onstage at 3:15."

Take the words with you

Choose one word from this pack. During your next reading session, look for that word—or a situation it could describe. Note the sentence or moment, then explain what helped you connect it to the word.
