

FREE PRINTABLE SAMPLE

Murder at the Manor

2 murder-mystery logic grid cases with worked solutions

Real pages from the paperback by E. V. Marchmont, unchanged.

Print at 100% (actual size).

Free to print for yourself, your family or your classroom.

Please do not sell it or share the file for profit.

HOW TO SOLVE A LOGIC GRID

What you are looking at

Most cases have the same shape. A small group of people were each in one room, each carrying one object, and each last seen at one time. No two people share a room, an object or a time. Your job is to match every person to exactly one of each. Some cases add a fourth thing to place - a column headed 'Wearing' - and it works the same way: one to each person. The grid always shows you which.

The grid

The grid on the right-hand page has one block for every pair of categories. Names run down the left. The other categories run across the top and, further down, back along the left again, so that every possible pairing has a square somewhere. Grid headings are shortened where the full name is long: 'seed cake' on the grid is the 'slice of seed cake' of the clues, and 'garden twine' is the 'coil of garden twine'.

The two marks

Put a cross in a square when you know that pairing is impossible. Put a circle in a square when you know it is certain. There is no third mark and no need for one.

The rule that does most of the work

The moment you circle a square, every other square in that row and in that column of the same block gets a cross - because each person has only one room, and each room holds only one person. Conversely, if a row or column has crosses in all but one square, that last square is a circle.

Carrying facts across

If Miss A was in the Library, and the Library guest was carrying the lamp, then Miss A was carrying the lamp. The same works with crosses: if Miss A was in the Library and the lamp was NOT in the Library, then Miss A was not carrying the lamp. Most cases are cracked this way rather than by any single clever clue.

Times are in order

Where a case lists times, they are printed in order, earliest first. A clue that says one person was seen before another tells you something about both ends of the row: the earlier person cannot hold the last time, and the later person cannot hold the first.

A promise

No case in this book needs a guess. Every one has exactly one answer, and that answer can be reached from the printed clues by pure elimination. If you are stuck, there is a fact on the grid you have not carried across yet.

The Puzzle of the Oak Footstool

Vernon Glenmorris, the touring lecturer, was discovered without a mark on them and without a pulse at Ravensmere that evening. The doctor muttered about the cocoa and would say no more. Every door was locked from the inside, and everybody was elsewhere. Between 8:00 and 8:45 exactly 4 guests can be placed somewhere on the premises, each one carrying something they would rather not explain. Fill the grid, and the last name standing is the one you want.

THE CLUES

1. The one carrying the crystal ashtray was last seen exactly half an hour after the one carrying the oak footstool.
2. Valentine Ollerenshaw was last seen before the guest in the Library.
3. The one carrying the oak footstool, the one last seen at 8:00 and the guest in the Larder were three different people.
4. Cordelia Fanshawe was last seen at 8:45.
5. The one last seen at 8:00 was not Una Middleton.
6. Valentine Ollerenshaw was in the Larder.
7. The guest in the Larder was carrying either the steel trowel or the oak footstool.
8. The guest in the Butler's Pantry was not carrying the birdcage.

CASE 1 - The Puzzle of the Oak Footstool

[illegible]

NOTES

The Business of the Birdcage

Cordelia Delacroix, the owner of the house, was found asleep in a way that no one wakes from at Marlingford Park that evening. The doctor put it down to something taken in a drink. They all agree on the weather and on nothing else. Between 8:00 and 8:45 exactly 4 guests can be placed somewhere on the premises, each one carrying something they would rather not explain. Work the clues in order; the hour will tidy itself.

THE CLUES

1. The one carrying the carriage lamp was not the one last seen at 8:15.
2. The one last seen at 8:30, Eleanor Denby and the one carrying the birdcage were three different people.
3. Archibald Somerville was last seen exactly fifteen minutes after Eleanor Denby.
4. The one last seen at 8:00, the one carrying the velvet cushion and Eleanor Denby were three different people.
5. Mabel Featherby was last seen either at 8:00 or at 8:15.
6. The guest in the Bell Tower was not Eleanor Denby.
7. The guest in the Billiard Room was last seen before Eleanor Denby.
8. The one last seen at 8:15, Marmaduke Willoughby and the guest in the Smoking Room were three different people.
9. The guest in the Billiard Room was last seen before the one carrying the birdcage.

Case 1 - The Puzzle of the Oak Footstool

SUSPECT	ROOM	CARRYING	LAST SEEN
Perpetua Warburton	Gun Room	birdcage	8:00
Una Middleton	Butler's Pantry	oak footstool	8:15
Valentine Ollerenshaw	Larder	steel trowel	8:30
Cordelia Fanshawe	Library	crystal ashtray	8:45

		ROOM				CARRYING				LAST SEEN			
		Gun Room	Butler's Pantry	Library	Larder	steel trowel	birdcage	crystal ashtray	oak footstool	8:00	8:15	8:30	8:45
SUSPECT	Perpetua Warburton	O	x	x	x	x	O	x	x	O	x	x	x
	Una Middleton	x	O	x	x	x	x	x	O	x	O	x	x
	Valentine Ollerenshaw	x	x	x	O	O	x	x	x	x	x	O	x
	Cordelia Fanshawe	x	x	O	x	x	x	O	x	x	x	x	O
LAST SEEN	8:00	O	x	x	x	x	O	x	x				
	8:15	x	O	x	x	x	x	x	O				
	8:30	x	x	x	O	O	x	x	x				
	8:45	x	x	O	x	x	x	O	x				
CARRYING	steel trowel	x	x	x	O								
	birdcage	O	x	x	x								
	crystal ashtray	x	x	O	x								
	oak footstool	x	O	x	x								

Clue 3 rules out the alternatives and leaves oak footstool = 8:15. Clue 4 places Cordelia Fanshawe = 8:45 straight away. Clue 6 places Valentine Ollerenshaw = Larder straight away. Clue 7 narrows the field to two, and with the crosses already made only Larder = steel trowel survives. Carrying that across the grid gives Valentine Ollerenshaw = steel trowel. Clue 1 fixes the order and forces crystal ashtray = 8:45. Clue 2 fixes the order and forces Library = 8:45. Crossing out the rest of that row and column gives Perpetua Warburton = 8:00. Everything else follows by elimination, and the completed grid is the one printed with this solution.

Case 2 - The Business of the Birdcage

SUSPECT	ROOM	CARRYING	LAST SEEN
Mabel Featherby	Billiard Room	carriage lamp	8:00
Eleanor Denby	Map Room	jar of beeswax	8:15
Archibald Somerville	Smoking Room	velvet cushion	8:30
Marmaduke Willoughby	Bell Tower	birdcage	8:45

		ROOM				CARRYING				LAST SEEN			
		Map Room	Billiard Room	Bell Tower	Smoking Room	carriage lamp	velvet cushion	birdcage	beeswax	8:00	8:15	8:30	8:45
SUSPECT	Mabel Featherby	x	o	x	x	o	x	x	x	o	x	x	x
	Eleanor Denby	o	x	x	x	x	x	x	o	x	o	x	x
	Archibald Somerville	x	x	x	o	x	o	x	x	x	x	o	x
	Marmaduke Willoughby	x	x	o	x	x	x	o	x	x	x	x	o
LAST SEEN	8:00	x	o	x	x	o	x	x	x				
	8:15	o	x	x	x	x	x	x	o				
	8:30	x	x	x	o	x	o	x	x				
	8:45	x	x	o	x	x	x	o	x				
CARRYING	carriage lamp	x	o	x	x								
	velvet cushion	x	x	x	o								
	birdcage	x	x	o	x								
	beeswax	o	x	x	x								

Clue 4 rules out the alternatives and leaves Eleanor Denby = 8:15. Clue 7 fixes the order and forces Billiard Room = 8:00. Crossing out the rest of that row and column gives Mabel Featherby = 8:00. Carrying that across the grid gives Mabel Featherby = Billiard Room. Crossing out the rest of that row and column gives Archibald Somerville = Smoking Room. Only one square is left in that column, so Archibald Somerville = velvet cushion. Carrying that across the grid gives Map Room = jar of beeswax. Everything else follows by elimination, and the completed grid is the one printed with this solution.

Enjoyed these?

The full book has 45 cases,
with every solution at the back.

Murder at the Manor

by E. V. Marchmont — paperback on Amazon

amazon.com/dp/B0HJ1QM5J8

More books and free samples: goodworkbooks.pages.dev/books/