The Missing Word Files Free Puzzle Pack

Hidden Word Cases

Six Short Mysteries From The Bureau, Each Settled By One Word

Each case is a three-sentence puzzle from a quiet country bureau that finds lost things and settles small muddles. Nobody is hurt and nothing is very wrong. Five letter clues spell the missing word that answers the question, just as the evidence letters do in the book.

How To Play

1. Read the case and its question.
2. Solve the five letter clues. Each gives one letter.
3. Read the letters in order: they spell the missing word. Write it in the answer and check it makes sense.

Example: The only letter in both LAMP and SEAT?
LAMP has L, A, M, P. SEAT has S, E, A, T. The only letter in both is A.

What Is Inside

- Cases 1 to 6, two to a page (pages 2 to 4)
- Worked answers on pages 5 and 6

Use a pencil: a wrong turn rubs out.
Printing tip: print at full size on A4. On US Letter paper, choose Fit To Page.
Print the answer pages separately if you want to keep them out of sight.

The Missing Word Files on Amazon: **Black-And-White** UK · US | **Colour** UK · US

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Cases 1 And 2

Case 1: The Clock That Stopped At Four

Mrs Abbot's kitchen clock stopped at four o'clock, just as tea was poured. Her grandson Ned had been playing with the tea things on the shelf beside it all afternoon. Nothing inside the clock is broken, but the pendulum will not swing.

Question: What is stopping the pendulum?

1. The only letter in both SUGAR and SCONE ☐
2. The only letter in both TEAPOT and CUP ☐
3. The only letter in both TOAST and HONEY ☐
4. The only letter in both CLOCK and TOWER ☐
5. The only letter in both INK and BENCH ☐

Answer: A tea☐☐☐☐☐ is jammed behind the pendulum.

Case 2: The Missing Front Door Key

Mr Hart lost his front door key after a morning digging in the vegetable patch. He has searched every pocket of his coat and his trousers twice. His wife remembers a jingle as he kicked off his wellingtons by the back door.

Question: Where is the key?

1. The only letter in both BOLT and BRIDGE ☐
2. The only letter in both ROSE and POND ☐
3. The only letter in both DOOR and LOCK ☐
4. The only letter in both LATCH and TOWER ☐
5. The only letter in both SHED and STAMP ☐

Answer: The key fell into one of his ☐☐☐☐☐.

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Cases 3 And 4

Case 3: The Birthday Card That Never Came

Miss Fern's birthday card from her sister has not arrived, though the postman says he delivered it on Saturday. He pushed a thick bundle through her letterbox: a catalogue, a bill and the weekend newspaper. Miss Fern opened the bill and put everything else straight into the recycling box.

Question: Where is the birthday card?

1. The only letter in both POST and REPLY ☐
2. The only letter in both STAMP and CARD ☐
3. The only letter in both ENVELOPE and CUP ☐
4. The only letter in both NOTE and FILE ☐
5. The only letter in both LETTER and DOOR ☐

Answer: The card is still folded inside the news☐☐☐☐☐.

Case 4: The Bureau Teapot

Every morning the Bureau teapot is filled at nine, and by eleven it is empty, yet every cup is clean and dry. Nobody owns up to drinking it, and the new clerk says he only likes coffee. The big fern in a pot beside the kettle grows greener every week.

Question: Where does the cold tea go?

1. The only letter in both LAMP and CUP ☐
2. The only letter in both CLOCK and FILE ☐
3. The only letter in both TEACUP and JAM ☐
4. The only letter in both SCONE and TRAIN ☐
5. The only letter in both KETTLE and BISCUIT ☐

Answer: Someone tips it into the big ☐☐☐☐☐ pot beside the kettle.

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Cases 5 And 6

Case 5: The Train To The Coast

Mrs Lamb waited on Platform Two for the ten o'clock train to the coast, as her ticket said. At five to ten the station announcer said the train would leave from a different platform, but a whistle drowned out the number. She watched her train come in and leave from the next platform along, one number higher than hers.

Question: Which platform did the train leave from?

1. The only letter in both TRACK and WHISTLE ☐
2. The only letter in both HOUR and BENCH ☐
3. The only letter in both GUARD and PORTER ☐
4. The only letter in both STEAM and ENGINE ☐
5. The only letter in both BRIDGE and TUNNEL ☐

Answer: The coast train left from Platform ☐☐☐☐☐.

Case 6: The Vanishing Worms

Whenever Mrs Rowe turns over a forkful of soil in her vegetable patch, the worms it uncovers soon vanish. The cat is asleep indoors, and there are no footprints in the soil but her own. Each time she looks up, a small brown bird with an orange front is perched on her spade handle, watching.

Question: Who is taking the worms?

1. The only letter in both TROWEL and SUGAR ☐
2. The only letter in both POND and TOWER ☐
3. The only letter in both BENCH and BOOK ☐
4. The only letter in both DAISY and TULIP ☐
5. The only letter in both LAWN and INK ☐

Answer: A ☐☐☐☐☐ hops down and takes them.

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NO PEEKING UNTIL YOU HAVE TRIED

Worked Answers 1 To 3

Case 1: The Clock That Stopped At Four

The clues: SUGAR and SCONE share S, TEAPOT and CUP share P, TOAST and HONEY share O, CLOCK and TOWER share O, INK and BENCH share N. The word is SPOON.

Answer: A teaspoon is jammed behind the pendulum.

Why: Ned had been playing with the tea things right beside the clock, and nothing inside it is broken, so something from the tea tray has jammed the pendulum.

Case 2: The Missing Front Door Key

The clues: BOLT and BRIDGE share B, ROSE and POND share O, DOOR and LOCK share O, LATCH and TOWER share T, SHED and STAMP share S. The word is BOOTS.

Answer: The key fell into one of his boots.

Why: The jingle came as he kicked off his wellingtons, and the key is in none of his pockets, so it dropped into a boot.

Case 3: The Birthday Card That Never Came

The clues: POST and REPLY share P, STAMP and CARD share A, ENVELOPE and CUP share P, NOTE and FILE share E, LETTER and DOOR share R. The word is PAPER.

Answer: The card is still folded inside the newspaper.

Why: The card came in the bundle with the newspaper, and only the bill was opened, so the card is still tucked inside the newspaper.

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NO PEEKING UNTIL YOU HAVE TRIED

Worked Answers 4 To 6

Case 4: The Bureau Teapot

The clues: LAMP and CUP share P, CLOCK and FILE share L, TEACUP and JAM share A, SCONE and TRAIN share N, KETTLE and BISCUIT share T. The word is PLANT.

Answer: Someone tips it into the big plant pot beside the kettle.

Why: Nobody drinks it, the cups are unused, and the fern beside the kettle is thriving, so the cold tea is going into its pot.

Case 5: The Train To The Coast

The clues: TRACK and WHISTLE share T, HOUR and BENCH share H, GUARD and PORTER share R, STEAM and ENGINE share E, BRIDGE and TUNNEL share E. The word is THREE.

Answer: The coast train left from Platform Three.

Why: Mrs Lamb was on Platform Two, and the train used the next platform along, one number higher: Two and one more is Three.

Case 6: The Vanishing Worms

The clues: TROWEL and SUGAR share R, POND and TOWER share O, BENCH and BOOK share B, DAISY and TULIP share I, LAWN and INK share N. The word is ROBIN.

Answer: A robin hops down and takes them.

Why: Nothing has walked across the soil, and the small brown bird with an orange front waits close by on the spade handle: a robin follows a gardener to eat the worms she turns up.

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WHERE THESE PUZZLES COME FROM

Want More? Try The Book

The Missing Word Files is a word ladder puzzle book for adults with a story. It hides 100 word ladders inside 20 linked cosy detective cases. Each solved ladder gives one evidence letter, and five letters spell the missing word that cracks the case, just like the Hidden Word Cases in this pack.

The Facts

- **A paperback of 172 pages, 7 x 10 inches**
- **100 word ladders in 20 detective cases**
- **20 bonus ladders with no clues**
- **Four levels: Gentle, Steady, Tricky and Fiendish**
- **Two editions: Black-And-White and Colour**



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Every puzzle in this pack is new, made for this free download and checked by machine. None of them appears in the book.

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