

Two missing records. One pencil.

Try two cases from After Hours: 24 Short Logic Mysteries. Start with four collections at a railway station, then reconstruct five drawers in a shuttered workshop.

How to play

Every person and object appears exactly once. Match one person and one object to each position or time. All numbered clues are true; no outside knowledge or hidden wordplay is needed.

For the train case, “immediately before” means the previous listed time. For the workshop, drawers run left to right. “Three positions apart” means the drawer numbers differ by three, with two drawers between them.

Use the blank tables and grids to track deductions. In each grid, a tick marks a match and a cross rules it out. A tick rules out every other cell in its row and column.

Read the case	Working page	Hints	Solution
The last train / p. 2	3	6	7
The stopped workshop / p. 4	5	6	8

Print at actual size, or fit to A4 / US Letter. The files use white paper and black text for easy home printing. Keep the hints and answers aside until you need them.

The full paperback contains 24 cases, working grids, three hints per case and explained solutions. Public author: Larchwick Puzzles. ISBN 9798164543518.

The last train

Four passengers collected four lost objects before the station closed. Rain has blurred the collection ledger. The old station key must be returned before morning. Use the surviving notes to find who collected it, and when.

Each passenger collected exactly one object, at a different time. Each object was collected once. All five notes are true.

PEOPLE / Ada · Basil · Clara · Dara

OBJECTS / Book · Key · Map · Watch

ORDER / 9:10 · 9:20 · 9:30 · 9:40

1. Ada collected her object immediately before the person who collected the watch.
2. The watch was collected immediately before Basil collected his object.
3. Basil collected his object earlier than Clara.
4. Clara collected the map.
5. Ada did not collect the book.

Who collected the key, and at what time?

Hints: page 6. Explained solution: page 7.

Your reconstruction

Position / time	Person	Object
9:10		
9:20		
9:30		
9:40		

Mark a tick for a match and a cross for an impossible pairing.

	9:10	9:20	9:30	9:40
Ada				
Basil				
Clara				
Dara				

	Book	Key	Map	Watch
Ada				
Basil				
Clara				
Dara				

My answer and deductions

The stopped workshop

Five repairers each put one spare part or tool in a different drawer before shutting the workshop. Their notebook lists relationships between the drawers instead of numbers. Use it to find the gauge.

The drawers are numbered 1 to 5 from left to right. Each person used one drawer and stored one listed object or type of material. Each listed option appears once. All five notes are true.

PEOPLE / Adele · Bram · Carys · Davi · Eira

OBJECTS / Chain · Dial · Gauge · Spring · Wheel

ORDER / Drawer 1 · Drawer 2 · Drawer 3 · Drawer 4 · Drawer 5

1. Adele's drawer and the drawer containing the spring are drawers 3 and 5, in some order.
2. Carys's drawer is three positions to the left of Eira's drawer.
3. The drawer containing the gauge is immediately to the left of Carys's drawer.
4. Davi's drawer and the drawer containing the wheel are three positions apart.
5. The drawer containing the chain is immediately to the left of Adele's drawer.

Which drawer holds the gauge, and who stored it?

Hints: page 6. Explained solution: page 8.

Your reconstruction

Position / time	Person	Object
Drawer 1		
Drawer 2		
Drawer 3		
Drawer 4		
Drawer 5		

Mark a tick for a match and a cross for an impossible pairing.

	Drawer 1	Drawer 2	Drawer 3	Drawer 4	Drawer 5
Adele					
Bram					
Carys					
Davi					
Eira					

	Chain	Dial	Gauge	Spring	Wheel
Adele					
Bram					
Carys					
Davi					
Eira					

My answer and deductions

A small nudge

The last train

1. Put Ada, the watch collector and Basil in three consecutive slots.
2. Clara must come after Basil. How much room does that leave for the three-person chain?
3. Once the people are placed, give Clara the map. Ada cannot take the book.

The stopped workshop

1. The gauge needs space to the left of Carys.
2. Adele cannot use Eira's drawer.
3. Test Davi at each end of a three-position gap, checking the wheel against the objects already placed.

The last train

Ada collected the key at 9:10.

Position / time	Person	Object
9:10	Ada	Key
9:20	Dara	Watch
9:30	Basil	Book
9:40	Clara	Map

1. Notes 1 and 2 make a chain of three consecutive collections: Ada, then the watch, then Basil. Note 3 puts Clara after that chain. Four slots leave only one order: Ada, watch collector, Basil, Clara.
2. The only passenger left for 9:20 is Dara. Dara therefore collected the watch. Clara took the map (note 4).
3. Only the key and book remain for Ada and Basil. Ada did not take the book (note 5), so she took the key. Basil took the book.

The stopped workshop

Davi stored the gauge in drawer 1.

Position / time	Person	Object
Drawer 1	Davi	Gauge
Drawer 2	Carys	Chain
Drawer 3	Adele	Dial
Drawer 4	Bram	Wheel
Drawer 5	Eira	Spring

1. Carys is three positions left of Eira (note 2), so the pair is 1-4 or 2-5. The gauge needs a drawer immediately left of Carys (note 3), ruling out Carys in 1. Carys uses 2, Eira 5 and the gauge is in 1.

2. Adele and the spring use drawers 3 and 5 in some order (note 1). Eira already uses 5, so Adele uses 3 and the spring is in 5. The chain is immediately left of Adele, in drawer 2 (note 5).

3. Davi and the wheel are three positions apart (note 4). Davi cannot use 2 or 5, which belong to Carys and Eira. If Davi used 4, the wheel would share drawer 1 with the gauge. Therefore Davi uses 1 and the wheel 4.

4. Bram takes drawer 4. The dial is the remaining object and goes in drawer 3.