

Try a lost-property puzzle

One actual puzzle from Lost & Found Logic, with its instructions, working grids and complete guided solution.

The paperback contains 18 matching puzzles: 12 four-person puzzles and six five-person puzzles, plus a worked tutorial and guided solutions. It has 58 pages at 7 x 10 inches.

Use the one-to-one rule: every person, object and location is used exactly once. The following instructions explain the grid marks. Read The Garden Gathering, work on its grids, then compare your reasoning with the final solution page.

The original book page numbers are retained: 3, 5, 6 and 41. The answer is last, so you can try the puzzle before looking. The excerpt pages retain the book's 7 x 10 inch layout; print at actual size on larger paper.

This is a free personal-use preview. Was a clue or deduction confusing? Send feedback about the page to oddrulelab@gmail.com. No review, purchase or signup is required.

See the paperback on Amazon

How to use the grids

Every listed person has exactly one listed object and one listed location. Each object and each location belongs to exactly one person. Mark **O** for a confirmed match and **X** for an impossible match. A blank square means you have not decided yet. When you put an O in a row and column, cross out all other squares in that row and column.

The first grid joins people to objects; the second joins people to locations; the third joins objects to locations. A direct clue may belong in any of these grids. Copy information between them: if one person has an object, and that object was found at a particular location, that is also the person's location.

An X rules out just one pairing. "Drew did not leave the basket" tells you nothing yet about Drew's location. Read the exact words, and do not infer an owner from a name, occupation or habit. "At the gate" describes where an object was found, not where its owner currently stands.

After recording the clues, look for a row or column with only one possible match. Record that O, cross out its alternatives, and review all three grids again. If you get stuck, check a clue you have not fully used, or see whether an object-location pair eliminates a person. A contradiction usually means a mark was copied incorrectly. Erase that mark rather than inventing a new assumption.

FOUR-PERSON PUZZLE 1

The Garden Gathering

At the neighborhood garden gathering, four visitors each left one object at a different spot. The friendly gardener has set everything aside. Use the notes to match each visitor with the object they left and the spot where it was found.

Each person, object and location is used exactly once.

People: Ada, Ben, Cleo, Drew.

Objects: basket, hat, mug, scarf.

Locations: bench, gate, pond, shed.

Clues

1. Drew did not leave the basket.
2. Cleo left the mug.
3. The hat was found at the gate.
4. Ada's object was found at the shed.
5. Drew's object was found at the bench.

Use the working grids on the next page.

PUZZLE 1 - WORKING GRIDS

People and objects

	basket	hat	mug	scarf
Ada				
Ben				
Cleo				
Drew				

People and locations

	bench	gate	pond	shed
Ada				
Ben				
Cleo				
Drew				

Objects and locations

	bench	gate	pond	shed
basket				
hat				
mug				
scarf				

Your final matches

Person	Object	Location
Ada		
Ben		
Cleo		
Drew		

SOLUTION 1

The Garden Gathering

- 1. **Cleo: mug.** Clue 2 gives Cleo the mug.
- 2. **Ada: shed.** Clue 4 places Ada’s object at the shed.
- 3. **Drew: bench.** Clue 5 places Drew’s object at the bench.
- 4. **Drew: scarf.** Drew cannot have the basket (1), the mug belongs to Cleo, and the hat was at the gate (3), not Drew’s bench. Only the scarf remains.
- 5. **Ada: basket.** Only basket and hat remain. Ada’s shed is not the gate where the hat was found (3), so Ada has the basket.
- 6. **Ben: hat.** Hat is the only unassigned object.
- 7. **Ben: gate.** The hat was at the gate (3).
- 8. **Cleo: pond.** Pond is the only unused location.

Completed matching table

Person	Object	Location
Ada	basket	shed
Ben	hat	gate
Cleo	mug	pond
Drew	scarf	bench