



Murder Mystery: Room Number 6

Reading, B1 level



Let's talk about crime stories!

- Do you like crime stories? Why / why not?
- Do you know any famous crime stories or mysteries?
- Do you watch crime dramas or films? Do you read crime books?
- What is the crime story, film, or book you remember most? Why?
- Do you prefer stories about real crimes or fictional mysteries?
- What makes a good crime mystery?



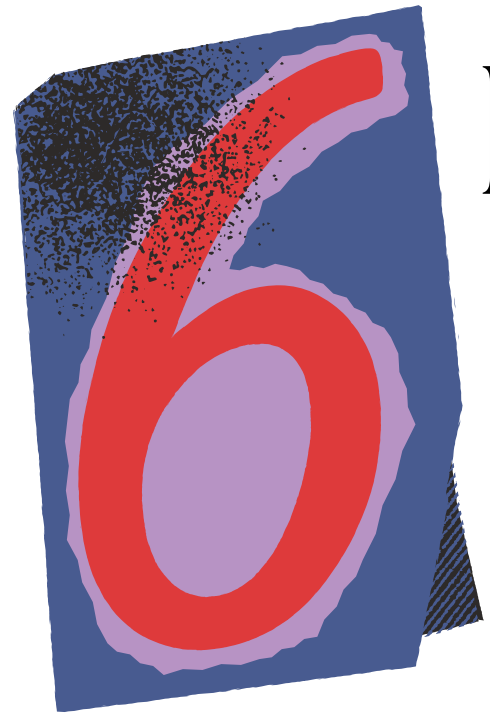
Vocabulary detective



Are the definitions correct? Read the definitions and decide. If a definition is wrong, correct it.

1. staff — the people who work for a company, organisation, or hotel.
2. discreet — very noticeable and designed to attract people's attention.
3. grainy — an image or video that is unclear and shows many small dots or rough-looking details.
4. order slip — a small piece of paper or form used to record an order for food or drinks.
5. to bother — to make an effort to help someone with a problem.
6. to reveal — to hide something
7. hotel chain — a group of hotels along a coast, mountain range or a river
8. to insist — to say firmly that something is true or that someone must do something.
9. to deny — to admit that something is true, especially when someone asks you about it.
10. to be convinced — to be certain or strongly believe that something is true.





Murder Mystery: Room Number 6

Part 1 – The discovery

A body was found in hotel room number 6 early in the morning. The victim was a man in his late 30s, lying face down on the floor. He was fully dressed. There were no signs of a struggle, no visible injuries, and nothing appeared to be broken. The room looked slightly messy: clothes were lying on the floor, but the furniture was untouched. On the bedside table, detectives found unfinished room service — a plate of ribs in honey sauce. The room was booked only for the victim. The reception reported no registered visitors, and the key card was never used after check-in.

Part 1 – The discovery

- What is suspicious about the scene?
- Does this look like an accident, a murder, or something else?
- Why might there be no signs of a struggle?
- Who would you question first as a detective, and what questions would you ask?





Part 2 – Hotel information

Hotel staff explained that the door to room 6 was opened only once after check-in — to admit room service. The waiter delivered ribs in honey sauce and left after a short moment. The victim was slightly surprised upon opening the door but did not complain, ask questions, or open the door again. Other guests reported that they did not hear any unusual noise from room 6 that night. However, several guests said they heard a loud argument somewhere on the same floor.

Part 2 – Hotel information

- Is the food important?
- What could the argument be about? Is it relevant to the case?
- Is the waiter suspicious? Why or why not?
- Could the victim have some enemies? Was the man targeted?





Part 3 – The argument

The argument was traced to room number 9. Inside room 9, detectives found a man and a woman. They confirmed they had had a serious fight late in the evening. The woman was calm but clearly uncomfortable. She introduced herself as a hotel manager, though she worked at a different hotel in the same chain. The man with her was described as a friend — but not her husband. She asked the detectives to be discreet and said the argument was “personal.” She said they did not leave the room after the fight.

Part 3 – The argument

- Why might the woman want discretion?
- Do you believe her story?
- What motives could exist there?
- Is the argument related to the death — or just a coincidence?





Part 4 – New evidence

Detectives continued questioning the hotel staff. One of the kitchen workers mentioned something unusual. Late that night, while he was outside on a smoking break, he noticed someone entering the hotel kitchen. He did not get a good look at the person. It was dark, and he only saw them for a moment. The person could have been a man or a woman, but the worker assumed they were probably a member of the hotel staff.

The detectives checked the security cameras, and the footage confirmed that someone who was not wearing a hotel uniform entered the kitchen shortly after the argument.

Unfortunately, the recording was too grainy to identify the person. There were no obvious signs of a break-in. Nothing appeared to have been stolen or broken, and nothing in the kitchen seemed to have been moved. For now, the detectives had more questions than answers.

Part 4 – New evidence

- Who do you think entered the kitchen? Why would they go there?
- Do you think this person is connected to the death? Why or why not?
- What would you investigate next if you were a detective?



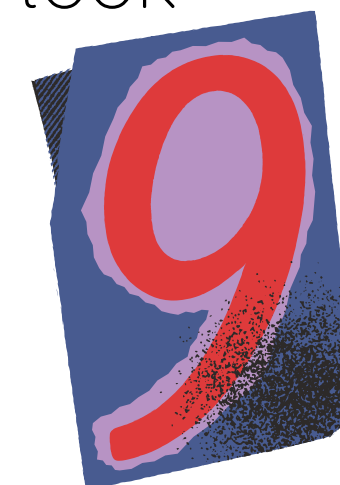


Part 5 – The room-service slip

The detectives took another look at the room-service records and spoke to the waiter who delivered the food. He confirmed that the order was for ribs in honey sauce. However, there was a problem with the original order slip.

The printed slip was badly stained with sauce during preparation. Because it was the night shift, one of the kitchen staff did not bother to print a new copy. Instead, he simply wrote the room number on a small piece of paper and attached it to the order. The number was handwritten, without a dot or any other mark to show whether it was a 6 or a 9.

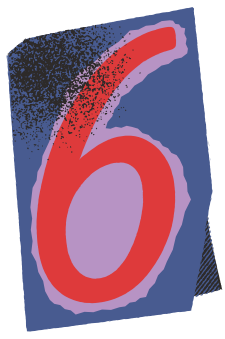
The waiter admitted that he didn't check carefully. He saw what he thought was a 6 and took the order to room 6. The detectives looked at each other. A new theory appeared.



Part 5 – The room-service slip

- Could the order actually have been intended for room 9?
- Who might have ordered the ribs?
- Could someone have deliberately taken advantage of the unclear number?
- How could the detectives find out which room the food was originally intended for?
- Does this new information change your theory about the murder? How?



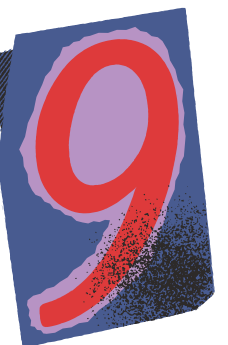


Part 6 – A closer look at room 9

The detectives decided to take a closer look at the couple staying in room 9. They ran a background check on both of them. At first, there was nothing particularly unusual. Neither had a criminal record, and both had given the hotel their real names. Then the detectives discovered something interesting.

The man was married, but his wife was not the woman he was currently with in the room. Not surprisingly, the woman was also married — but not to him. Further checks revealed that the two had known each other for several years. They had also stayed at hotels from the same hotel chain together on several occasions.

The detectives returned to the hotel records. There was another interesting detail: the woman was a hotel manager at another property belonging to the same chain. The detectives looked at the information they had collected so far. Would a hotel manager know a way to leave a hotel room without using the key-card system?



Part 6 – A closer look at room 9

- Why do you think they were together in the room?
- What do you think happened between the two people in room 9 that night?
- Do you think the detectives should question her again? What would you ask?
- Is the woman now a suspect — or do the detectives still need more evidence?



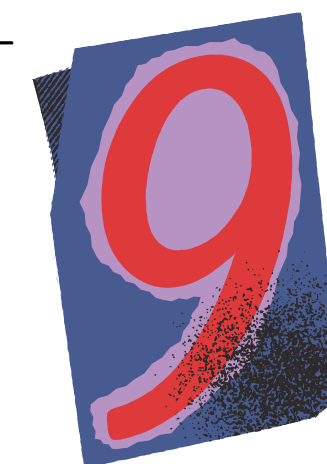


Part 7 – A second questioning

The detectives went back to room 9 and questioned the couple again. This time, they focused on the argument. The man admitted that they had argued about their affair and the future of their relationship. He said that he had finally told her that he could not leave his wife. However, he insisted that they had made up afterwards.

According to his story, he ordered room service and asked for ribs in honey sauce — his favourite dish. The woman did not want anything to eat. While they were waiting for the food, he went to take a shower. He repeated that neither of them left the room after the argument.

The detectives listened carefully. Something about his story didn't quite fit. Then one of them noticed a bag lying near the bed. Inside the bag was a small container holding a strange-looking substance. The detectives exchanged a glance. What was it?



Part 7 – A second questioning

- What do you think the substance could be? Could it be connected to the dead man?
- Do you believe the man's story about staying in the room?
- What questions would you ask them?
- Does this new discovery change your theory about what happened?



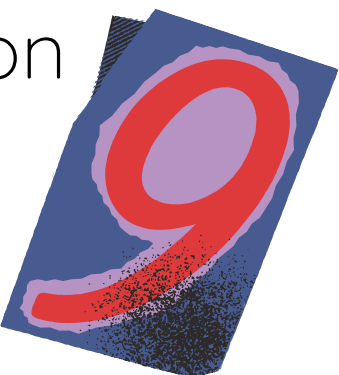


Part 8 — The confession

The detectives wanted to question them separately. They started with the woman. At first, she continued to deny everything. She said the substance in her bag was harmless and that she had bought it because she was interested in natural remedies. The detectives were not convinced.

They showed her the evidence they had collected and asked her to explain why she had it with her that night. After a long silence, the woman finally confessed. She admitted that the argument had been about their relationship. Her lover had told her that he would never leave his wife.

She was furious and heartbroken. She said that she wanted to “teach him a lesson”. She had bought some herbs and planned to put them in his food. She wanted him to become ill — but not seriously ill. She planned to make him weak enough that he would need her help. She imagined herself looking after him, helping him recover and proving that she was the person he really needed.



Part 8 — The confession

- Why do you think she wanted to make him ill rather than simply end the relationship?
- Do you believe she really thought she was only giving him “a lesson”?
- Why were the ribs sent to room 6?
- How could she have entered the kitchen?
- Who was ultimately responsible for the man’s death?

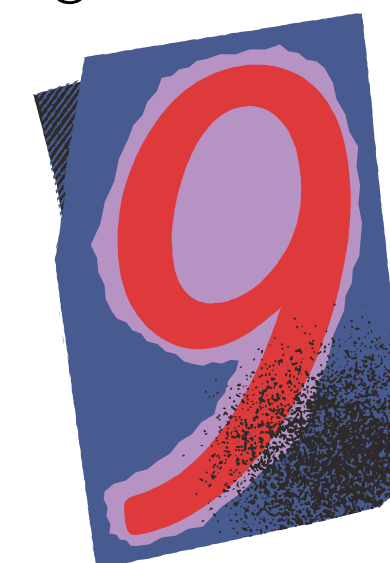




Part 9 — The mystery revealed

The detectives finally put all the pieces together. The woman had not stayed in room 9 all night. After the argument, she waited until her lover went to take a shower. She then left the room and went to the hotel kitchen. As a hotel manager, she was familiar with the hotel procedures and had access to staff areas with a manager's access card. The card was not part of the guest key-card records the detectives had originally checked.

Inside the kitchen, she noticed the ribs in honey sauce. She knew they were her lover's favourite dish. She added the herbs to the sauce and then returned to room 9 before anyone noticed she was gone. She couldn't have predicted the waiter's mistake - the ribs were delivered to room 6, and an innocent man died.



Part 9 — The mystery revealed

- Was she motivated more by love, jealousy, fear, or control?
- Should her punishment be the same as if she had deliberately murdered him?
- Which clue was the most important?
- Which clue did you find the most misleading?
- If you were one of the detectives, when would you have started suspecting her?
- Who else was partly responsible — the woman, the waiter, the kitchen staff member, or nobody but the woman?



The mystery is over!

- What do you think about the story? Did you enjoy it? Why / why not?
- Were you surprised by the ending? Why / why not?
- Which clue was the most interesting or important?
- Did you suspect the right person? When did you start to have doubts?
- Was there anything in the story that you found confusing or unrealistic?
- What would make the story even better?
- If you could change one thing about the story, what would you change?



Answer key

- staff — the people who work for a company, organisation, or hotel. **CORRECT**
- discreet — very noticeable and designed to attract people's attention. **INCORRECT**
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- order slip — a small piece of paper or form used to record an order for food or drinks. **CORRECT**
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