

# WHAT IS THIS?



**Clue #1: Sorting Letters**  
Color the letters the same color as the box they belong in. Then, find the correct key at the bottom to solve the clue!

**Clue #2: Error Analysis**  
Does the picture match the word? Put a check or an X next to each answer.  
Read the hint from the place with the most correct answers.

**Clue #3: Find It!**  
Circle the boxes that end with -ang. Cross out the other sounds.  
Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

**Clue #4: Word Hunt**

**Clue #5: Descrambler**  
Look at the picture. Match it to a word below. Write the letter next to each mailbox on each line. When the letters are unscrambled, they will make up the clue.

T	B	F	G
hang	long	wing	lung
strong	string	rang	ding

The mailman is not at a place where you can:  
**B U Y      G I F T S**  
long strong rang lung strong wing hang ding

**solve the mystery**

**The Case of the Missing Mailman**

**Where is the Mailman?**  
Figure out where the mailman is by solving each clue.

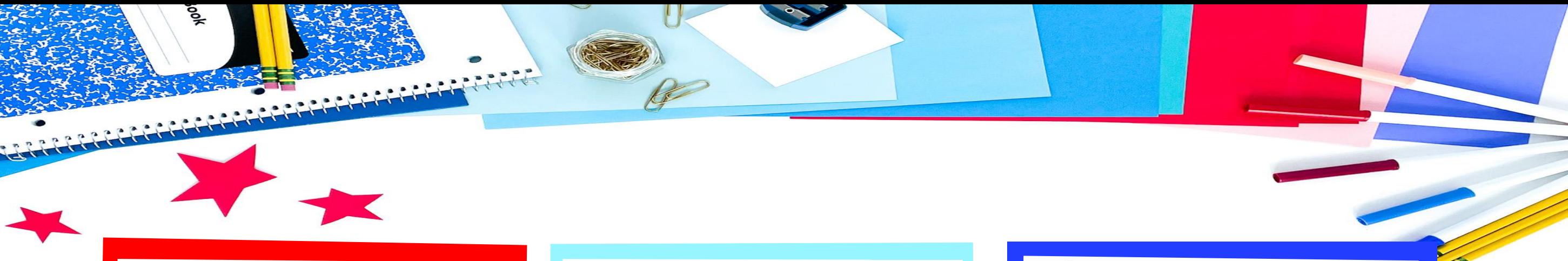
<del>Shoe Store</del>	<del>Car Repair Shop</del>	<del>Toy Store</del>	<del>Home Repair Shop</del>
<del>Candy Store</del>	<del>Post Office</del>	<del>Flower Shop</del>	<del>Jewelry Shop</del>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Students complete a series of clues to figure out where the missing mailman is!

# HOW TO PLAY



Three red stars are scattered across the page.

## What Happened?

You need to get in touch with your mailman, but you can't find him anywhere! You know that he's somewhere around town but can't figure out the right place. Help find out where he is by solving the clues.

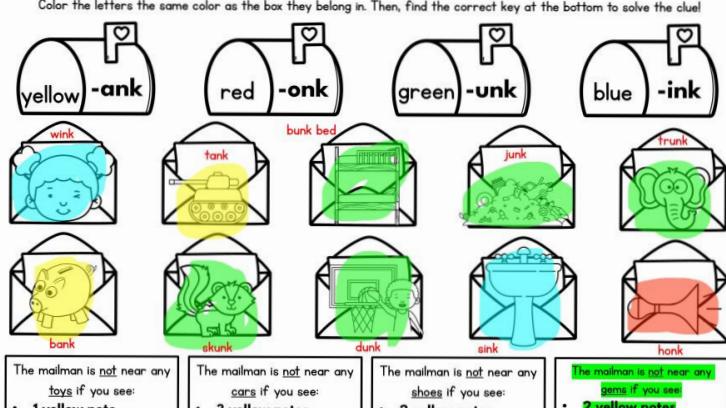
1. Take a list of places and then start solving each clue.
2. Each time you solve a clue, you will get closer to discovering where the mailman is.
3. Cross out wrong places each time you find out new information. Good luck!



THE LIFETIME LEARNER

### Clue #1: Sorting Letters

Color the letters the same color as the box they belong in. Then, find the correct key at the bottom to solve the clue!



**yellow -ank**  
wink, bank

**red -onk**  
tank, skunk

**green -unk**  
bunk bed, junk

**blue -ink**  
trunk, sink, honk

The mailman is not near any **toys** if you see:  
• 1 yellow note  
• 2 red notes  
• 5 green notes  
• 2 blue notes

The mailman is not near any **cars** if you see:  
• 3 yellow notes  
• 0 red notes  
• 2 green notes  
• 5 blue notes

The mailman is not near any **shoes** if you see:  
• 2 yellow notes  
• 2 red notes  
• 4 green notes  
• 2 blue notes

The mailman is not near any **game** if you see:  
• 2 yellow notes  
• 1 red note  
• 5 green notes  
• 2 blue notes

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

### Where is the Mailman?

Figure out where the mailman is by solving each clue.



**Shoe Store** **Car Repair Shop** **Toy Store** **Home Repair Shop**

**Candy Store** **Post Office** **Flower Shop** **Jewelry Shop**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Each time students solve a clue, it will reveal what place(s) to cross out.

When all clues are completed, the mystery of the missing mailman will be solved!

# SKILL PRACTICE

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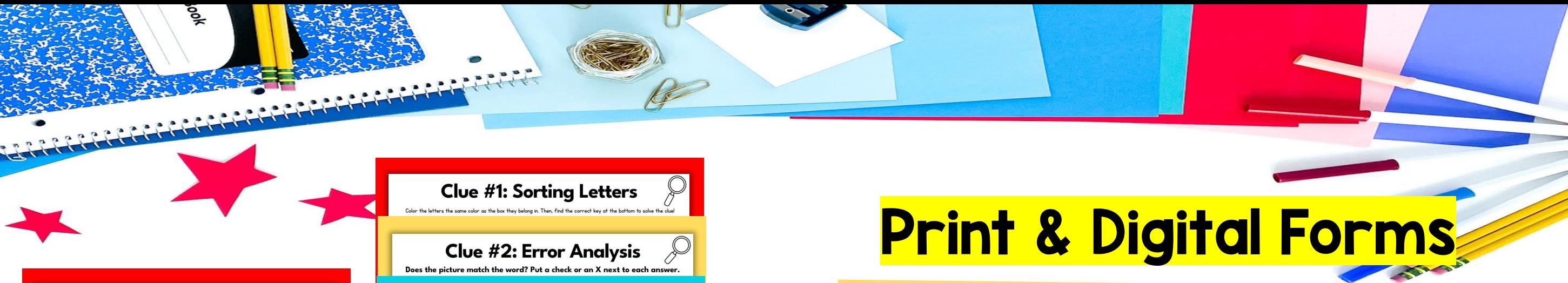
**Clue #3: Find It!**

Circle the boxes that end with **-ang**. Cross out the other sounds. Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

- Glued Sounds Review
- -UNG Words
- -ONK Words
- -UNK Words
- -ONG Words
- -ANK Words
- -INK Words
- -ING Words
- -ANG Words

All clues focus on reviewing glued sounds!

# MULTIPLE VERSIONS



**Clue #1: Sorting Letters**  
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**Clue #4: Word Hunt**  
Sing

**Clue #5: Descrambler**  
Look at the picture. Match it to a word below. Write the letter next to each mailbox on each line. When the letters are unscrambled, they will make up the clue.

**3 Clue Version**

**Clue #1: Sorting Letters**  
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**5 Clue Version**

**Short & Long Options**

## Print & Digital Forms

**Clue #2: Error Analysis**  
Does the picture match the word? Put a check or an X next to each answer. Read the hint from the place with the most correct answers.

The mailman picked up a box and left. He is not here.

Post Office

slam

swam

ball

The mailman hates flowers. He is not here.

Flower Shop

clam

tall

scan

The mailman thinks it stinks in the shop. He is not here.

Shoe Store

**Clue #2: Error Analysis**  
Does the picture match the word? Put a check or an X next to each answer. Read the hint from the place with the most correct answers.

The mailman picked up a box and left. He is not here.

Post Office

slam

swam

ball

The mailman hates flowers. He is not here.

Flower Shop

clam

tall

scan

The mailman thinks it stinks in the shop. He is not here.

Shoe Store

wall

plan

call

# CVC OPTION AVAILABLE



Where is the Mailman?

Figure out where the mailman is by solving each clue.

Shoe Store	Car Repair Shop	Toy Store	Home Repair Shop
Candy Store	Post Office	Flower Shop	Jewelry Shop

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Clue #1: Sorting Letters**

Color the letters the same color as the box they belong in. Then, find the correct key at the bottom to solve the mystery!

yellow -og	red -ob	green -ot	blue
dog	red	not	blue

**Clue #2: Error Analysis**

Does the picture match the word? Put a check or an X next to each answer. Read the hint from the place with the most correct answers.

The mailman picked up a box and left. He is not here.	The mailman hates flowers. He is not here.	The mailman thinks it stinks in the shop. He is not here.
Post Office	Flower Shop	Shoe Store

**Clue #3: Find It!**

Circle the boxes that end with **-an**. Cross out the other sounds. Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

map	mail	pay	not	bag	fix
toy	jam	tan	mad	foot	place
van	van	van	rag	wag	man
kids	sum	can	jar	pan	smell
hum	hum	hum	hum	hum	ham

**Clue #4: Word Hunt**

The mailman is not at a place with a: **car** or **candy**.

Cross out the following pictures:  
• gem • men • ten • fed  
• web • jet • net • pen  
What 2 pictures are left? Write the 2 words on the line.

**Clue #5: Descrambler**

Look at the picture. Match it to a word below. Write the letter next to each mailbox on each line. When the letters are unscrambled, they will make up the clue.

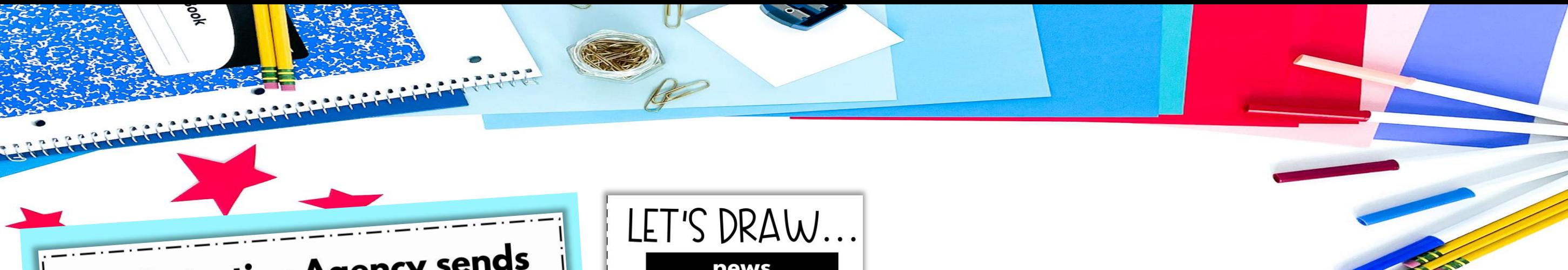
T	B	F	G
6	hid	6	6
U	I	Y	S
pin	lid	hit	wig

The mailman is not at a place where you can: **B U Y G I F T S**

Differentiate within your small groups. Same clues. Same mystery. Different focus!

There is a version of the mystery included that reviews CVC Words (Short A, E, I, O, U).

# FAST FINISHER ACTIVITY



The Detective Agency sends congratulations to: **Lindsay**  
You solved the mystery!

11/2 **SW**

Presented by: \_\_\_\_\_

news

1	2	3
4	5	6

NEWS

LET'S DRAW... a house

1	2	3
4	5	6

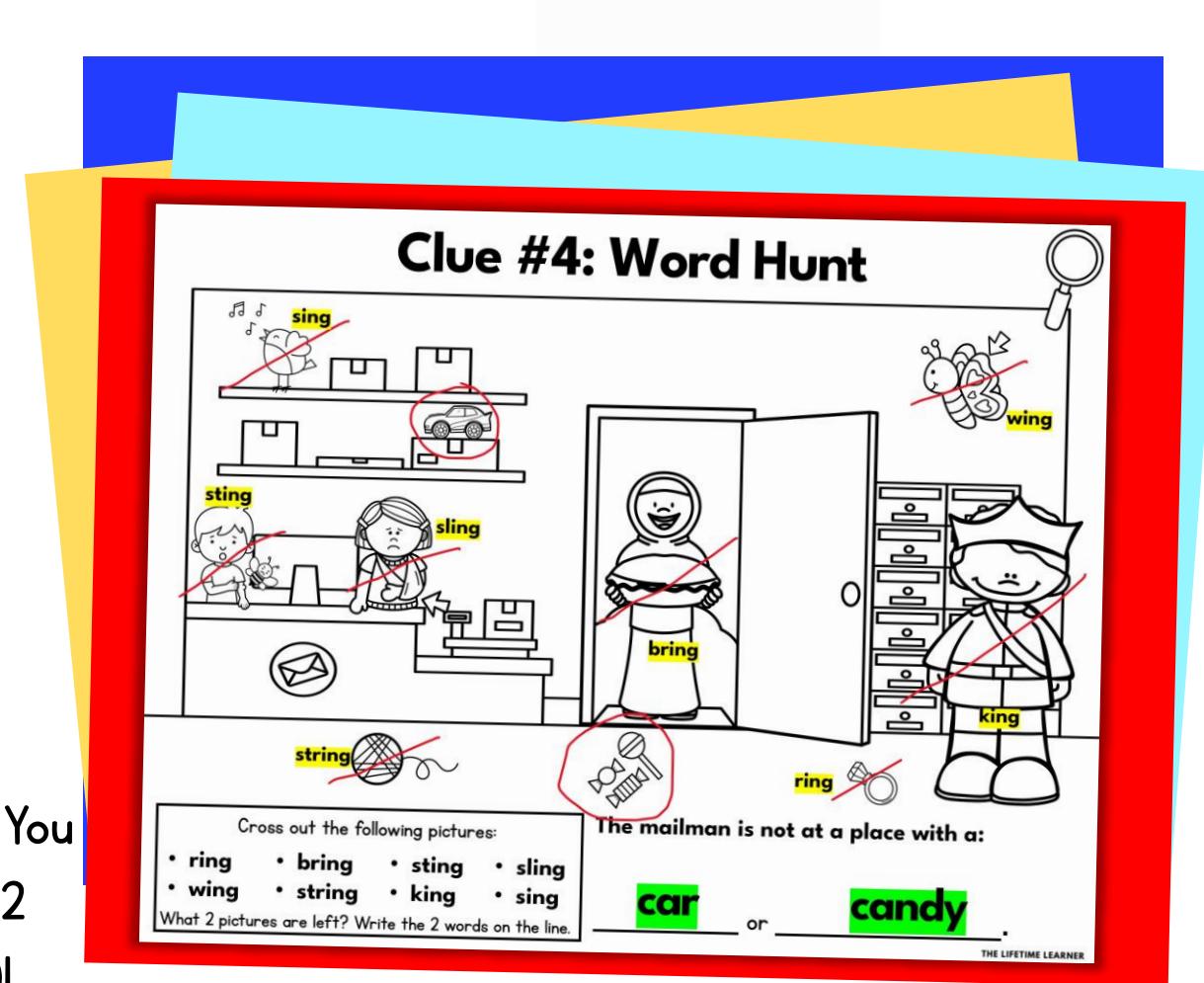


If students finish early, give them a certificate of completion and a directed drawing to complete while others continue working.

# PHONICS MYSTERY BENEFITS



- No Prep
- Print and Digital Versions
- 3 & 5 Clue Options
- Fun and Engaging
- Easy to Differentiate
- Encourages Critical Thinking
- Aligns with Phonics Standards
- Perfect for Review Days
- Choice between 2 versions: Glued Sounds Review Mystery OR CVC Words Mystery. You can even mix/match clues to combine the 2 skills together (clues are interchangeable)!



In 1st grade, this works well as a whole group lesson or in small groups at the teacher table.

First graders will need teacher support to read & understand the clues/directions

# WHY TEACHERS LOVE THESE!

Ordinary phonics worksheets can be boring and unoriginal.

You want activities that are fun and engaging, but also rigorous and meaningful to student learning.

## PHONICS MYSTERIES ARE EXACTLY WHAT YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!

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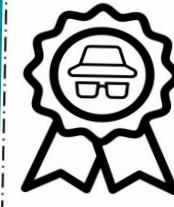
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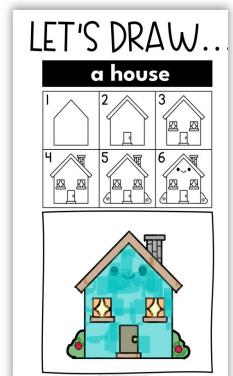
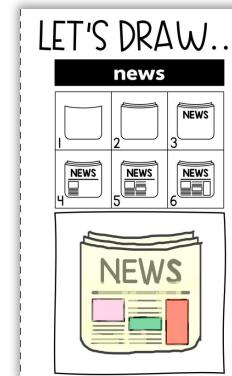
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Look at the picture. Match it to a word below. Write the letter next to each mailbox on each line. When the letters are unscrambled, they will make up the clue.

The mailman is not at a place where you can:

B	U	Y	G	I	F	T	S
long	strong	rang	lung	strung	wing	hang	ding

**The Detective Agency sends congratulations to:**  
 **Lindsay**  
You solved the mystery!  
11/2 **SW**  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Presented by: \_\_\_\_\_



**Where is the Mailman?**  
Figure out where the mailman is by solving each clue.

 Shoe Store	 Car Repair Shop	 Toy Store	 Home Repair Shop
 Candy Store	 Post Office	 Flower Shop	 Jewelry Shop

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**solve the mystery**  
  
**The Case of the Missing Mailman**

# WHAT MAKES READING MYSTERIES UNIQUE?

Reading Mysteries aren't just a copy of Math Mysteries!

They have brand-new clues, focus on reading skills, and even feature a different conclusion to the mystery.

The only thing that stays the same is the list of suspects students start with!

So, if you have both, students can play during math and then again during reading for double the fun.



## Reading

### Example of Clue 1

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**Clue #1: Sorting Letters**

Color the letters the same color as the box they belong in. Then, find the correct key at the bottom to solve the clue!

yellow -ank      red -onk      green -unk      blue -ink

bank      skunk      dunk      honk

The mailman is not near any **toys** if you see:

- 1 yellow note
- 2 red notes
- 5 green notes
- 2 blue notes

The mailman is not near any **cars** if you see:

- 3 yellow notes
- 0 red notes
- 2 green notes
- 5 blue notes

The mailman is not near any **shoes** if you see:

- 2 yellow notes
- 2 red notes
- 4 green notes
- 2 blue notes

The mailman is not near any **gums** if you see:

- 2 yellow notes
- 1 red note
- 5 green notes
- 2 blue notes

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

## Math



**Clue #1: Right or Wrong?**

Color the envelope green if the answer is correct. Color the envelope red if it's wrong.

**Clue #1: Right or Wrong?**

Color the envelope green if the answer is correct. Color the envelope red if it's wrong.

12:00      4:30      3:30      8:00  
4:30      3:30      8:00      9:00  
5:30      7:00      10:30      11:30  
10:00      2:30      2:00      1:00

How many answers were correct?

1 Correct = Cross out the jewelry shop.  
2 Correct = Cross out the toy store.  
3 Correct = Cross out the shoe store.  
4 Correct = Cross out the post office.

5 Correct = Cross out the flower shop.  
6 Correct = Cross out the car repair shop.  
7 Correct = Cross out the candy store.  
8 Correct = Cross out the home repair shop.

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

# KEEP THE FUN GOING!

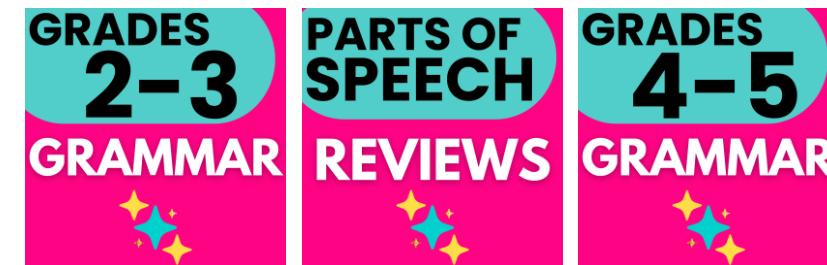
## GRAB A MATH MYSTERY:

Math Mysteries aren't just a copy of reading. They come with fresh clues, unique math challenges, and a new culprit, so students are solving an entirely different case!



## MORE READING MYSTERIES:

Explore other grade levels to differentiate and keep every student engaged.



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TO SAVE BIG!



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