

# The Curious Case of the Missing Sleigh

## Answers

### Clue 1 A Cut above the Rest

<b>k</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>s</b>	<b>b</b>
knight	solemn	island	doubt
knee	autu	aisle	thumb
			lamb

The silent letter with the most matching words is **b** so the culprit's hair must be **black**.

### Clue 2 A Shred of Evidence

Sentence	-ant	-ent	-int
I hope that we are all proven innocent.		✓	
We need to start being more observant on Christmas Eve.	✓		
I heard that the police found a fingerprint at the scene.			✓
The expectant children will be so disappointed on Christmas Day.	✓		
The culprit should do the decent thing and return the sleigh.		✓	
I'm hesitant to leave the presents unattended now!	✓		
Poor Saint Nick does not deserve this.			✓
I hope that this does not become a frequent occurrence.		✓	
Santa should not be so tolerant or this will happen again.	✓		

The spelling pattern which is used most is **-ant** so the culprit's hat must be **red**.

### Clue 3 A Tasty Hint

<b>or</b>	<b>ough</b>	<b>au</b>
afford	thought	August
anchor	bought	launch
	brought	exhaust
	nought	

The spelling pattern used most often is **ough** so the culprit's favourite snack must be **cookies**.

## Clue 4 Elf and Safety

Sentence	Missing Punctuation
Is it even possible to deliver all of the presents now?	question mark
The elves were all busy; nobody saw the sleigh being taken.	semi-colon
I can't believe someone has taken the sleigh; it is so disappointing.	semi-colon
Bobbins (one of Santa's elves) heard a strange noise earlier.	brackets
I'm shocked that there is such a cold-hearted elf working for Santa.	hyphen
The presents may not be delivered on time; many children will be upset.	semi-colon
Can you believe that an elf could be so unkind?	question mark
The children in Australia (they wake up first) may end up disappointed.	brackets
Santa Claus works hard all year; he does not deserve this.	semi-colon

The most common piece of missing punctuation is a **semi-colon** so the culprit must be **an inventor**.

## Clue 5 Putting Their Foot in It

The correct answer should read:

Plan to ruin Christmas:

1. **Alter** the locks and block the doorway so that no one is **allowed** out of the workshop.
2. **Proceed** to the garage door like nothing is happening.
3. Unlock the garage door – watch out for the **draught**.
4. Unclip the reindeer **bridles** from the sleigh's helm.
5. **Steal** the sleigh and make a quick exit from the garage.
6. Move the sleigh **farther** away than the elves will think to look.
7. Make it back home before **morning**.

There were **8** incorrectly-used homophones so that must be the culprit's shoe size.

**The cheeky elf who moved Santa's sleigh must be Pookie Snifflesnuff.**