



The Case of the Missing Golden Boot

Grade 3 math · Rounding, Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Division · Reading level grades 3-4

Detective: _____ Date: _____

Just before the big World Cup final, someone snuck into the locker room and snatched the famous Golden Boot trophy! The Head Referee is in a panic. The match cannot start without the prize! You must look at the clues, trace the soccer stars, and find out who took it before kickoff.

1. Solve each math problem. The answer is a number, and the letter beside it is what that number stands for.
2. In the clue boxes, write that letter in every box showing the same number, then read the secret clue.
3. Use each clue to cross suspects off the list. The one suspect left at the end is the culprit!

My answer: the Sneaky Striker is _____

Possible suspects

Cross off a row as each clue rules it out. The one left at the end is the culprit.

NAME	SIGNATURE MOVE	SUPER GEAR	SHOOTING FOOT	HEADBAND COLOR	SILLY FEAR
Trinity Rodman	Knuckleball Shot	Gold Medal	Left-Footed	Green Headband	Fear of Loud Horns
Mary Earps	Header Smash	Smart Watch	Left-Footed	Green Headband	Fear of Loud Horns
Jude Bellingham	Rainbow Flick	Mega Whistle	Right-Footed	Green Headband	Fear of Flat Balls
Sophia Smith	Dribble Slalom	Neon Cleats	Right-Footed	Blue Headband	Fear of Flat Balls
Aitana Bonmati	Knuckleball Shot	Smart Watch	Right-Footed	Red Headband	Fear of Flat Balls
Son Heungmin	Dribble Slalom	Grip Gloves	Right-Footed	Green Headband	Fear of Flat Balls
Bukayo Saka	Header Smash	Grip Gloves	Left-Footed	Red Headband	Fear of Loud Horns
Lionel Messi	Rainbow Flick	Gold Medal	Right-Footed	Green Headband	Fear of Flat Balls
Kylian Mbappe	Dribble Slalom	Smart Watch	Right-Footed	Green Headband	Fear of Flat Balls
Sam Kerr	Knuckleball Shot	Neon Cleats	Right-Footed	Red Headband	Fear of Flat Balls
Cristiano Ronaldo	Rainbow Flick	Grip Gloves	Left-Footed	Red Headband	Fear of Soggy Grass
Kevin De Bruyne	Dribble Slalom	Gold Medal	Right-Footed	Blue Headband	Fear of Flat Balls
Lucy Bronze	Dribble Slalom	Neon Cleats	Left-Footed	Green Headband	Fear of Flat Balls
Neymar	Header Smash	Gold Medal	Right-Footed	Green Headband	Fear of Soggy Grass
Luka Modric	Knuckleball Shot	Mega Whistle	Right-Footed	Blue Headband	Fear of Soggy Grass
Megan Rapinoe	Bicycle Kick	Gold Medal	Left-Footed	Red Headband	Fear of Soggy Grass
Harry Kane	Bicycle Kick	Grip Gloves	Right-Footed	Green Headband	Fear of Flat Balls
Alex Morgan	Header Smash	Grip Gloves	Left-Footed	Blue Headband	Fear of Flat Balls
Bunny Shaw	Dribble Slalom	Gold Medal	Right-Footed	Red Headband	Fear of Loud Horns
Wendie Renard	Dribble Slalom	Smart Watch	Right-Footed	Red Headband	Fear of Flat Balls
Erling Haaland	Knuckleball Shot	Neon Cleats	Right-Footed	Red Headband	Fear of Soggy Grass

CLUE 1 Rounding

The stadium scanner counted the fans entering the VIP gate. The scoreboard only showed the total rounded to the nearest ten to save space. This estimate helps us narrow down the suspect.

Solve each problem, then write its letter in every clue box that shows the same number.

T			T											T				
8000	3000	50	8000	3000	80	50	600	800	9000	50	200	4000	9000	8000	500	50	70	700
					T				T									
70	200	900	70	700	8000	500	70	8000	20	3000								

Round 8,489 to the nearest thousand T	Round 2,617 to the nearest thousand H	Round 79 to the nearest ten I
Round 166 to the nearest hundred S	Round 840 to the nearest hundred D	Round 465 to the nearest hundred W
Round 4,361 to the nearest thousand N	Round 8,640 to the nearest thousand O	Round 16 to the nearest ten C
Round 876 to the nearest hundred M	Round 697 to the nearest hundred R	Round 68 to the nearest ten A
Round 604 to the nearest hundred F	Round 52 to the nearest ten E	

Scratch space:

CLUE 2 Addition

The coach tallied all the practice balls left on the training pitches. By adding up the soccer balls from both fields, we found a secret note taped to the gear bag.

Solve each problem, then write its letter in every clue box that shows the same number.

T															T				T	
560	476	609	559	608	831	831	266	608	470	528	476	755	755	560	528	405	608	560	476	
T							T					T								
560	476	609	980	608	934	476	560	324	755	755	560									

$388 + 172 = \square$	T	$268 + 137 = \square$	W	$315 + 665 = \square$	R
$269 + 207 = \square$	H	$142 + 328 = \square$	N	$268 + 487 = \square$	O
$265 + 344 = \square$	E	$310 + 298 = \square$	I	$199 + 125 = \square$	F
$172 + 94 = \square$	A	$276 + 283 = \square$	V	$373 + 458 = \square$	L
$565 + 369 = \square$	G	$286 + 242 = \square$	S		

Scratch space:

CLUE 4

Multiplication facts (1-12)

The stadium crew lined up rows of training cones. There were equal groups of cones in each row, and multiplying them gave us the combination to the referee's private locker.

Solve each problem, then write its letter in every clue box that shows the same number.

T																	
99	90	100	45	121	70	28	14	14	100	121	110	88	70	100	100	55	
											T						
90	100	110	121	80	110	55	121	22	55	99	90	100	84	35	121		

$11 \times 9 = \square$	T	$10 \times 8 = \square$	B	$9 \times 10 = \square$	H
$5 \times 9 = \square$	Y	$2 \times 11 = \square$	I	$7 \times 4 = \square$	O
$11 \times 11 = \square$	D	$8 \times 11 = \square$	G	$10 \times 11 = \square$	A
$7 \times 5 = \square$	U	$7 \times 12 = \square$	M	$7 \times 2 = \square$	P
$10 \times 7 = \square$	R	$10 \times 10 = \square$	E	$11 \times 5 = \square$	N

Scratch space:

CLUE 5 Division facts (1-12) - the last clue

The team divided the post game orange slices equally among all the players. Sharing them out evenly left behind a muddy jersey containing our final clue.

First solve each problem. Then find each answer in the numbered list below and cross that sentence out. One sentence will be left - that is exactly what the villain did!

Step 1 - solve these:

$12 \div 12 = \square$

$42 \div 6 = \square$

$8 \div 2 = \square$

$24 \div 2 = \square$

$36 \div 6 = \square$

$55 \div 11 = \square$

$9 \div 1 = \square$

$33 \div 3 = \square$

$8 \div 1 = \square$

$60 \div 6 = \square$

$15 \div 5 = \square$

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain performs a wild bicycle kick, then adjusts their sticky grip gloves.
2. The villain zigs through the defense with a dribble slalom, then adjusts their sticky grip gloves.
3. The villain leaps for a massive header smash, then flashes their neon cleats.
4. The villain does a flashy rainbow flick, then blows a piercing mega whistle.
5. The villain performs a wild bicycle kick, then taps their high tech smart watch.
6. The villain performs a wild bicycle kick, then flashes their neon cleats.
7. The villain does a flashy rainbow flick, then polishes their heavy gold medal.
8. The villain zigs through the defense with a dribble slalom, then blows a piercing mega whistle.
9. The villain does a flashy rainbow flick, then taps their high tech smart watch.
10. The villain zigs through the defense with a dribble slalom, then polishes their heavy gold medal.
11. The villain leaps for a massive header smash, then blows a piercing mega whistle.
12. The villain blasts a knuckleball shot, then polishes their heavy gold medal.

Answer Key

The Case of the Missing Golden Boot

Culprit: Son Heungmin

Dribble Slalom · Grip Gloves · Right-Footed · Green Headband · Fear of Flat Balls

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 17 → Clue 2 11 → Clue 3 7 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Rounding): "THE THIEF DOES NOT WEAR A SMART WATCH"

Round 8,489 to the nearest thousand = 8000 (T) · Round 2,617 to the nearest thousand = 3000 (H) · Round 79 to the nearest ten = 80 (I) · Round 166 to the nearest hundred = 200 (S) · Round 840 to the nearest hundred = 800 (D) · Round 465 to the nearest hundred = 500 (W) · Round 4,361 to the nearest thousand = 4000 (N) · Round 8,640 to the nearest thousand = 9000 (O) · Round 16 to the nearest ten = 20 (C) · Round 876 to the nearest hundred = 900 (M) · Round 697 to the nearest hundred = 700 (R) · Round 68 to the nearest ten = 70 (A) · Round 604 to the nearest hundred = 600 (F) · Round 52 to the nearest ten = 50 (E)

Clue 2 (Addition): "THE VILLAIN SHOOTS WITH THE RIGHT FOOT"

$388 + 172 = 560$ (T) · $268 + 137 = 405$ (W) · $315 + 665 = 980$ (R) · $269 + 207 = 476$ (H) · $142 + 328 = 470$ (N) · $268 + 487 = 755$ (O) · $265 + 344 = 609$ (E) · $310 + 298 = 608$ (I) · $199 + 125 = 324$ (F) · $172 + 94 = 266$ (A) · $276 + 283 = 559$ (V) · $373 + 458 = 831$ (L) · $565 + 369 = 934$ (G) · $286 + 242 = 528$ (S)

Clue 3 (Subtraction): "THEY PANIC IF THE SOCCER BALL IS FLAT"

$147 - 20 = 127$ (T) · $862 - 345 = 517$ (A) · $243 - 134 = 109$ (I) · $430 - 83 = 347$ (Y) · $696 - 174 = 522$ (B) · $1075 - 240 = 835$ (E) · $952 - 311 = 641$ (H) · $222 - 41 = 181$ (S) · $591 - 385 = 206$ (F) · $947 - 351 = 596$ (P) · $671 - 15 = 656$ (R) · $630 - 173 = 457$ (L) · $1261 - 391 = 870$ (N) · $1253 - 397 = 856$ (C) · $617 - 259 = 358$ (O)

Clue 4 (Multiplication facts (1-12)): "THEY DROPPED A GREEN HEADBAND IN THE MUD"

$11 \times 9 = 99$ (T) · $10 \times 8 = 80$ (B) · $9 \times 10 = 90$ (H) · $5 \times 9 = 45$ (Y) · $2 \times 11 = 22$ (I) · $7 \times 4 = 28$ (O) · $11 \times 11 = 121$ (D) · $8 \times 11 = 88$ (G) · $10 \times 11 = 110$ (A) · $7 \times 5 = 35$ (U) · $7 \times 12 = 84$ (M) · $7 \times 2 = 14$ (P) · $10 \times 7 = 70$ (R) · $10 \times 10 = 100$ (E) · $11 \times 5 = 55$ (N)

Clue 5 (Division facts (1-12)): surviving statement is box 2 → Son Heungmin

$12 \div 12 = 1$ · $42 \div 6 = 7$ · $8 \div 2 = 4$ · $24 \div 2 = 12$ · $36 \div 6 = 6$ · $55 \div 11 = 5$ · $9 \div 1 = 9$ · $33 \div 3 = 11$ · $8 \div 1 = 8$ · $60 \div 6 = 10$ · $15 \div 5 = 3$