The Case of the Missing World Cup

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

Detective: _____ **Date:** _____

The championship match is about to start, but the famous Golden Cup has been stolen! The team manager found a mysterious note on the locker room whiteboard. The Soccer Saboteur has hidden the trophy, and only the best detective can crack the clues to find which star player took it before the whistle blows!

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 the Soccer Saboteur is _____

Possible suspects

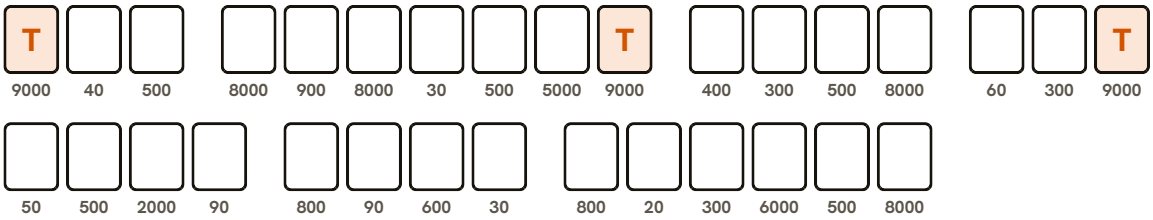
Cross off a row as each clue rules it out. The one left at the end is the culprit.

NAME	SIGNATURE KICK	LUCKY GEAR	DOMINANT FOOT	HAIRSTYLE	DISTRACTION
Erling Haaland	Knuckleball	Smart Watch	Right Footed	Curly Locks	Bright Camera Flash
Kylian Mbappe	Rainbow Flick	Smart Watch	Right Footed	Sleek Ponytail	Bright Camera Flash
Bukayo Saka	Rainbow Flick	Neon Shinguards	Right Footed	Curly Locks	Loud Whistle
Jude Bellingham	Rainbow Flick	Neon Shinguards	Left Footed	Spiky Hair	Slippery Grass
Kevin De Bruyne	Bicycle Kick	Grip Gloves	Left Footed	Spiky Hair	Loud Whistle
Sam Kerr	Power Header	Golden Cleats	Right Footed	Spiky Hair	Bright Camera Flash
Alex Morgan	Rainbow Flick	Neon Shinguards	Left Footed	Sleek Ponytail	Slippery Grass
Mohamed Salah	Power Header	Grip Gloves	Right Footed	Curly Locks	Bright Camera Flash
Lucy Bronze	Rainbow Flick	Smart Watch	Left Footed	Curly Locks	Slippery Grass
Virgil van Dijk	Curving Freekick	Lucky Wristband	Left Footed	Curly Locks	Slippery Grass
Manuel Neuer	Rainbow Flick	Golden Cleats	Right Footed	Curly Locks	Bright Camera Flash
Cristiano Ronaldo	Knuckleball	Neon Shinguards	Left Footed	Curly Locks	Bright Camera Flash
Luka Modric	Knuckleball	Golden Cleats	Right Footed	Spiky Hair	Slippery Grass
Lionel Messi	Bicycle Kick	Grip Gloves	Right Footed	Spiky Hair	Loud Whistle
Antoine Griezmann	Power Header	Neon Shinguards	Right Footed	Sleek Ponytail	Slippery Grass
Christian Pulisic	Curving Freekick	Grip Gloves	Right Footed	Curly Locks	Bright Camera Flash
Marta	Power Header	Smart Watch	Right Footed	Curly Locks	Bright Camera Flash
Luis Suarez	Power Header	Lucky Wristband	Right Footed	Curly Locks	Loud Whistle
Neymar Jr	Bicycle Kick	Grip Gloves	Left Footed	Spiky Hair	Slippery Grass
Bruno Fernandes	Power Header	Lucky Wristband	Right Footed	Curly Locks	Bright Camera Flash
Robert Lewandowski	Curving Freekick	Lucky Wristband	Right Footed	Spiky Hair	Bright Camera Flash

CLUE 1 Rounding

> The electronic security tracker shows how fast the thief ran, but the digital display is glitching and only shows the speed rounded to the nearest ten!

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



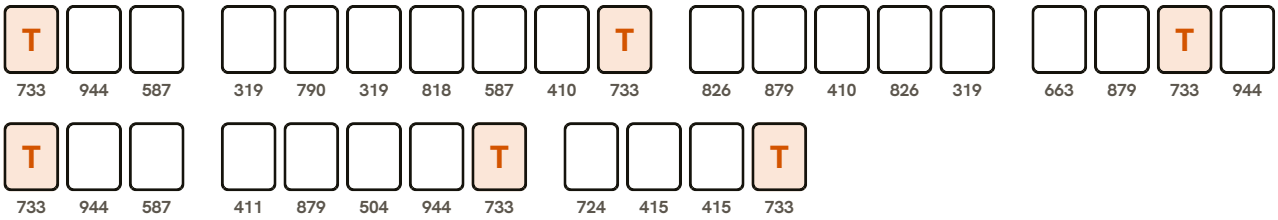
Round 8,502 to the nearest thousand: T	Round 4,882 to the nearest thousand: C	Round 403 to the nearest hundred: D
Round 6,046 to the nearest thousand: V	Round 847 to the nearest hundred: G	Round 64 to the nearest ten: N
Round 42 to the nearest ten: H	Round 576 to the nearest hundred: I	Round 535 to the nearest hundred: E
Round 92 to the nearest ten: R	Round 2,156 to the nearest thousand: A	Round 53 to the nearest ten: W
Round 865 to the nearest hundred: U	Round 7,712 to the nearest thousand: S	Round 341 to the nearest hundred: O
Round 22 to the nearest ten: L	Round 28 to the nearest ten: P	

Scratch space:

CLUE 2 Addition

> We found piles of training cones scattered across the practice pitch. Let us add up all the green and yellow cones to find the hidden locker number!

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



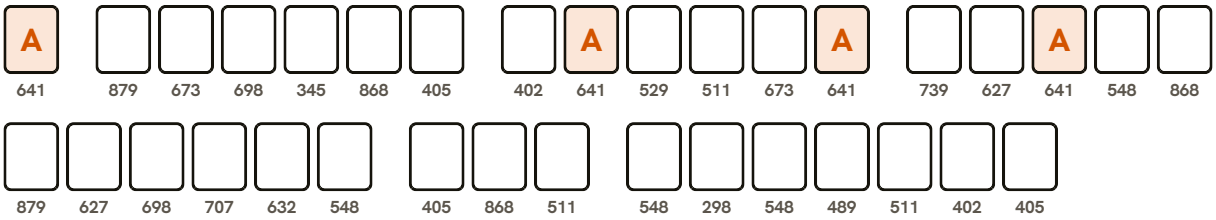
321 + 412 = ☐ **T**	182 + 137 = ☐ **S**	377 + 286 = ☐ **W**
156 + 348 = ☐ **G**	219 + 196 = ☐ **O**	267 + 612 = ☐ **I**
227 + 183 = ☐ **C**	325 + 262 = ☐ **E**	423 + 521 = ☐ **H**
237 + 174 = ☐ **R**	403 + 321 = ☐ **F**	296 + 522 = ☐ **P**
492 + 334 = ☐ **K**	287 + 503 = ☐ **U**	

Scratch space:

CLUE 3 Subtraction

> The referee checked the bin of game balls and noticed some were missing. Subtracting the remaining balls from the starting total reveals the thief's secret trail!

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



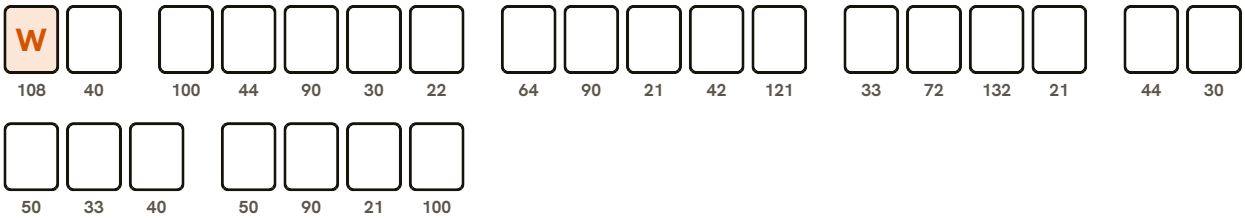
789 - 148 = ☐ A	843 - 314 = ☐ M	770 - 138 = ☐ D
531 - 126 = ☐ T	507 - 162 = ☐ G	620 - 218 = ☐ C
424 - 126 = ☐ U	1250 - 371 = ☐ B	718 - 20 = ☐ I
782 - 293 = ☐ P	675 - 2 = ☐ R	1264 - 396 = ☐ H
748 - 121 = ☐ L	873 - 166 = ☐ N	796 - 248 = ☐ S
1052 - 313 = ☐ F	885 - 374 = ☐ E	

Scratch space:

CLUE 4 Multiplication facts (1-12)

> The stadium grandstand seats are arranged in perfect rows. Multiplying the number of rows by the seats in each row points us to where the suspect dropped a clue!

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



12 × 9 = ☐ W	10 × 10 = ☐ F	4 × 11 = ☐ O
8 × 5 = ☐ E	8 × 9 = ☐ A	11 × 12 = ☐ I
11 × 3 = ☐ H	7 × 3 = ☐ R	2 × 11 = ☐ D
5 × 10 = ☐ T	11 × 11 = ☐ Y	8 × 8 = ☐ C
6 × 5 = ☐ N	9 × 10 = ☐ U	7 × 6 = ☐ L

Scratch space:

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

> We found a box of energy sports drinks left behind. If we divide the drinks equally among the starting lineup, the leftover amount will unlock the next file!

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:

108 ÷ 9 = ☐	9 ÷ 9 = ☐	35 ÷ 7 = ☐
72 ÷ 9 = ☐	7 ÷ 1 = ☐	55 ÷ 5 = ☐
48 ÷ 8 = ☐	24 ÷ 8 = ☐	44 ÷ 11 = ☐
99 ÷ 11 = ☐	6 ÷ 3 = ☐	

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain shoots a crazy knuckleball, then checks their glowing smart watch.
2. The villain shoots a crazy knuckleball, then snatches the cup with grip gloves.
3. The villain blasts a wild bicycle kick, then snatches the cup with grip gloves.
4. The villain performs a tricky rainbow flick, then taps their lucky wristband.
5. The villain smashes a power header, then checks their glowing smart watch.
6. The villain performs a tricky rainbow flick, then checks their glowing smart watch.
7. The villain smashes a power header, then snatches the cup with grip gloves.
8. The villain swerves a curving freekick, then zips away in golden cleats.
9. The villain swerves a curving freekick, then snatches the cup with grip gloves.
10. The villain smashes a power header, then taps their lucky wristband.
11. The villain performs a tricky rainbow flick, then snatches the cup with grip gloves.
12. The villain performs a tricky rainbow flick, then zips away in golden cleats.

TEACHER / PARENT

Answer Key

The Case of the Missing World Cup

Culprit: Bruno Fernandes

Power Header · Lucky Wristband · Right Footed · Curly Locks · Bright Camera Flash

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 16 → Clue 2 11 → Clue 3 7 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Rounding): "THE SUSPECT DOES NOT WEAR GRIP GLOVES"

Round 8,502 to the nearest thousand = 9000 (T) · Round 4,882 to the nearest thousand = 5000 (C) · Round 403 to the nearest hundred = 400 (D) · Round 6,046 to the nearest thousand = 6000 (V) · Round 847 to the nearest hundred = 800 (G) · Round 64 to the nearest ten = 60 (N) · Round 42 to the nearest ten = 40 (H) · Round 576 to the nearest hundred = 600 (I) · Round 535 to the nearest hundred = 500 (E) · Round 92 to the nearest ten = 90 (R) · Round 2,156 to the nearest thousand = 2000 (A) · Round 53 to the nearest ten = 50 (W) · Round 865 to the nearest hundred = 900 (U) · Round 7,712 to the nearest thousand = 8000 (S) · Round 341 to the nearest hundred = 300 (O) · Round 22 to the nearest ten = 20 (L) · Round 28 to the nearest ten = 30 (P)

Clue 2 (Addition): "THE SUSPECT KICKS WITH THE RIGHT FOOT"

321 + 412 = 733 (T) · 182 + 137 = 319 (S) · 377 + 286 = 663 (W) · 156 + 348 = 504 (G) · 219 + 196 = 415 (O) · 267 + 612 = 879 (I) · 227 + 183 = 410 (C) · 325 + 262 = 587 (E) · 423 + 521 = 944 (H) · 237 + 174 = 411 (R) · 403 + 321 = 724 (F) · 296 + 522 = 818 (P) · 492 + 334 = 826 (K) · 287 + 503 = 790 (U)

Clue 3 (Subtraction): "A BRIGHT CAMERA FLASH BLINDS THE SUSPECT"

789 - 148 = 641 (A) · 843 - 314 = 529 (M) · 770 - 138 = 632 (D) · 531 - 126 = 405 (T) · 507 - 162 = 345 (G) · 620 - 218 = 402 (C) · 424 - 126 = 298 (U) · 1250 - 371 = 879 (B) · 718 - 20 = 698 (I) · 782 - 293 = 489 (P) · 675 - 2 = 673 (R) · 1264 - 396 = 868 (H) · 748 - 121 = 627 (L) · 873 - 166 = 707 (N) · 796 - 248 = 548 (S) · 1052 - 313 = 739 (F) · 885 - 374 = 511 (E)

Clue 4 (Multiplication facts (1-12)): "WE FOUND CURLY HAIR ON THE TURF"

12 × 9 = 108 (W) · 10 × 10 = 100 (F) · 4 × 11 = 44 (O) · 8 × 5 = 40 (E) · 8 × 9 = 72 (A) · 11 × 12 = 132 (I) · 11 × 3 = 33 (H) · 7 × 3 = 21 (R) · 2 × 11 = 22 (D) · 5 × 10 = 50 (T) · 11 × 11 = 121 (Y) · 8 × 8 = 64 (C) · 6 × 5 = 30 (N) · 9 × 10 = 90 (U) · 7 × 6 = 42 (L)

Clue 5 (Division facts (1-12)): surviving statement is box 10 → Bruno Fernandes

108 ÷ 9 = 12 · 9 ÷ 9 = 1 · 35 ÷ 7 = 5 · 72 ÷ 9 = 8 · 7 ÷ 1 = 7 · 55 ÷ 5 = 11 · 48 ÷ 8 = 6 · 24 ÷ 8 = 3 · 44 ÷ 11 = 4 · 99 ÷ 11 = 9 · 6 ÷ 3 = 2