



The Great Championship Ball Caper

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

Detective: _____ Date: _____

The championship golden basketball has vanished from the display case right before the big game! The Team Mascot is in tears. You must search the arena, solve the math mysteries, and find the culprit before tip-off!

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 Snatcher is _____

Possible suspects

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

NAME	SIGNATURE SKILL	SECRET GEAR	SHOOTING HAND	LEFT BEHIND ITEM	COURT DISTRACTION
Paul George	speed dribbling	high bounce sneakers	left handed	green sweatband	loud referee whistle
Donovan Mitchell	stealing the ball	glowing wristbands	right handed	green sweatband	squeaky floorboards
Devin Booker	stealing the ball	glowing wristbands	right handed	red snapback cap	bright camera flash
Anthony Edwards	stealing the ball	laser vision goggles	left handed	blue headband	squeaky floorboards
Bam Adebayo	speed dribbling	sticky grip gloves	left handed	green sweatband	squeaky floorboards
Jaylen Brown	three point shooting	magnetic basketball	left handed	green sweatband	bright camera flash
Steph Curry	three point shooting	high bounce sneakers	right handed	blue headband	loud referee whistle
Anthony Davis	slam dunking	high bounce sneakers	right handed	red snapback cap	bright camera flash
Nikola Jokic	bounce passing	magnetic basketball	right handed	blue headband	loud referee whistle
Damian Lillard	stealing the ball	magnetic basketball	right handed	green sweatband	loud referee whistle
Tyrese Haliburton	three point shooting	high bounce sneakers	right handed	green sweatband	squeaky floorboards
Joel Embiid	speed dribbling	sticky grip gloves	right handed	blue headband	squeaky floorboards
Jayson Tatum	three point shooting	high bounce sneakers	left handed	blue headband	squeaky floorboards
Jimmy Butler	speed dribbling	sticky grip gloves	left handed	red snapback cap	loud referee whistle
Kawhi Leonard	three point shooting	magnetic basketball	right handed	green sweatband	squeaky floorboards
Klay Thompson	bounce passing	glowing wristbands	left handed	blue headband	bright camera flash
Kevin Durant	slam dunking	laser vision goggles	right handed	green sweatband	squeaky floorboards
Luka Doncic	speed dribbling	glowing wristbands	right handed	green sweatband	squeaky floorboards
LeBron James	speed dribbling	laser vision goggles	right handed	green sweatband	loud referee whistle
Kyrie Irving	speed dribbling	glowing wristbands	left handed	red snapback cap	loud referee whistle
Trae Young	speed dribbling	high bounce sneakers	right handed	blue headband	bright camera flash

CLUE 1 Addition

The referee is counting up the practice basketballs left in each bin. Add them together to uncover a secret note.

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

T 6704	3136	2842	T 6704	3136	3015	2842	6314	5077	5478	2842	9640	5758	5478	T 6704	8744	9640	2842
8325	4121	7686	5758	2842	T 6704	3015	5425	8735	4121	9640	5313	2842	T 6704	8735	4121	3492	3492

$4305 + 2399 = \square \rightarrow \text{T}$	$4924 + 3820 = \square \rightarrow \text{U}$	$6004 + 3636 = \square \rightarrow \text{S}$
$1854 + 988 = \square \rightarrow \text{E}$	$4395 + 4340 = \square \rightarrow \text{B}$	$2441 + 3037 = \square \rightarrow \text{O}$
$2843 + 2915 = \square \rightarrow \text{N}$	$1433 + 2059 = \square \rightarrow \text{L}$	$2822 + 2603 = \square \rightarrow \text{C}$
$1293 + 2828 = \square \rightarrow \text{A}$	$1915 + 3162 = \square \rightarrow \text{D}$	$4536 + 3789 = \square \rightarrow \text{M}$
$2271 + 3042 = \square \rightarrow \text{K}$	$1979 + 1157 = \square \rightarrow \text{H}$	$1448 + 1567 = \square \rightarrow \text{I}$
$3577 + 4109 = \square \rightarrow \text{G}$	$3409 + 2905 = \square \rightarrow \text{F}$	

Scratch space:

CLUE 2 Subtraction

Some game-day jerseys are missing from the locker room shelves. Subtract the missing ones from the total to find the next clue.

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

T										T				T				T	
5883	3925	7308	4389	3754	4389	7454	7308	4278	5883	4389	3925	4202	5883	4824	2136	5883	3925		

T									T				
5883	3925	7308	2136	6965	6965	2136	2063	3925	5883	3925	1861	5601	7769

8423 - 2540 = → T	9003 - 4179 = → W	6429 - 2040 = → S
6594 - 2669 = → H	2639 - 778 = → A	2823 - 687 = → I
8433 - 4231 = → O	8090 - 1125 = → R	5513 - 3450 = → G
4226 - 472 = → U	9367 - 2059 = → E	7892 - 3614 = → C
10914 - 3460 = → P	5808 - 207 = → N	8989 - 1220 = → D

Scratch space:

CLUE 3

Multiplication facts (1-12)

The basketball racks are stacked in equal rows on the court. Multiply the rows to unlock the security camera footage.

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

S																		S
30	80	10	3	100	96	18	66	27	6	6	44	25	6	100	44	33	30	
				S							S							
16	36	27	27	30	144	6	11	144	56	36	30	144	56	36	3	66		

$10 \times 3 = \square \rightarrow$

S

$8 \times 2 = \square \rightarrow$

W

$1 \times 3 = \square \rightarrow$

E

$5 \times 5 = \square \rightarrow$

B

$10 \times 1 = \square \rightarrow$

U

$11 \times 1 = \square \rightarrow$

P

$12 \times 12 = \square \rightarrow$

T

$7 \times 8 = \square \rightarrow$

H

$10 \times 10 = \square \rightarrow$

A

$3 \times 6 = \square \rightarrow$

Y

$11 \times 6 = \square \rightarrow$

F

$1 \times 6 = \square \rightarrow$

O

$3 \times 9 = \square \rightarrow$

L

$9 \times 4 = \square \rightarrow$

I

$8 \times 10 = \square \rightarrow$

Q

$4 \times 11 = \square \rightarrow$

R

$3 \times 11 = \square \rightarrow$

D

$12 \times 8 = \square \rightarrow$

K

Scratch space:

CLUE 4 Rounding

The giant stadium scoreboard is glitching and only displays numbers rounded to the nearest ten. Round the score to read the message.

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

W																		
20	50	70	900	300	3000	370	1700	7000	230	50	50	3000						
	W																	
110	20	50	1700	5000	1300	1700	3000	370	900	3000	5000	3700	50	4300	900	300	230	5000

Round 18 to the nearest ten → **W**

Round 1,652 to the nearest hundred → **A**

Round 72 to the nearest ten → **F**

Round 4,295 to the nearest hundred → **C**

Round 2,905 to the nearest thousand → **N**

Round 53 to the nearest ten → **E**

Round 373 to the nearest ten → **D**

Round 233 to the nearest ten → **R**

Round 5,223 to the nearest thousand → **T**

Round 1,301 to the nearest hundred → **B**

Round 106 to the nearest ten → **S**

Round 3,727 to the nearest hundred → **H**

Round 861 to the nearest hundred → **O**

Round 268 to the nearest hundred → **U**

Round 7,141 to the nearest thousand → **G**

Scratch space:

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

The coach is sharing out the sports drinks equally among all the players. Divide the drinks to reveal the 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:

$33 \div 3 = \boxed{}$

$18 \div 9 = \boxed{}$

$20 \div 4 = \boxed{}$

$100 \div 10 = \boxed{}$

$18 \div 3 = \boxed{}$

$21 \div 3 = \boxed{}$

$9 \div 1 = \boxed{}$

$12 \div 1 = \boxed{}$

$12 \div 12 = \boxed{}$

$28 \div 7 = \boxed{}$

$80 \div 10 = \boxed{}$

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain sinks a half court shot, then uses sticky grip gloves.
2. The villain steals the ball away, then flashes glowing wristbands.
3. The villain slams an epic dunk, then shines laser vision goggles.
4. The villain slams an epic dunk, then activates a magnetic basketball.
5. The villain dribbles past the defense, then flashes glowing wristbands.
6. The villain sinks a half court shot, then flashes glowing wristbands.
7. The villain steals the ball away, then activates a magnetic basketball.
8. The villain makes a perfect bounce pass, then activates a magnetic basketball.
9. The villain makes a perfect bounce pass, then uses sticky grip gloves.
10. The villain slams an epic dunk, then uses sticky grip gloves.
11. The villain sinks a half court shot, then escapes using high bounce sneakers.
12. The villain makes a perfect bounce pass, then escapes using high bounce sneakers.

Answer Key

The Great Championship Ball Caper

Culprit: Kevin Durant

slam dunking · laser vision goggles · right handed · green sweatband · squeaky floorboards

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 17 → Clue 2 10 → Clue 3 5 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Addition): "THE THIEF DOES NOT USE MAGNETIC BASKETBALL"

$4305 + 2399 = 6704$ (T) · $4924 + 3820 = 8744$ (U) · $6004 + 3636 = 9640$ (S) · $1854 + 988 = 2842$ (E) · $4395 + 4340 = 8735$ (B) · $2441 + 3037 = 5478$ (O) · $2843 + 2915 = 5758$ (N) · $1433 + 2059 = 3492$ (L) · $2822 + 2603 = 5425$ (C) · $1293 + 2828 = 4121$ (A) · $1915 + 3162 = 5077$ (D) · $4536 + 3789 = 8325$ (M) · $2271 + 3042 = 5313$ (K) · $1979 + 1157 = 3136$ (H) · $1448 + 1567 = 3015$ (I) · $3577 + 4109 = 7686$ (G) · $3409 + 2905 = 6314$ (F)

Clue 2 (Subtraction): "THE SUSPECT SHOT WITH THEIR RIGHT HAND"

$8423 - 2540 = 5883$ (T) · $9003 - 4179 = 4824$ (W) · $6429 - 2040 = 4389$ (S) · $6594 - 2669 = 3925$ (H) · $2639 - 778 = 1861$ (A) · $2823 - 687 = 2136$ (I) · $8433 - 4231 = 4202$ (O) · $8090 - 1125 = 6965$ (R) · $5513 - 3450 = 2063$ (G) · $4226 - 472 = 3754$ (U) · $9367 - 2059 = 7308$ (E) · $7892 - 3614 = 4278$ (C) · $10914 - 3460 = 7454$ (P) · $5808 - 207 = 5601$ (N) · $8989 - 1220 = 7769$ (D)

Clue 3 (Multiplication facts (1-12)): "SQUEAKY FLOORBOARDS WILL STOP THIS THIEF"

$10 \times 3 = 30$ (S) · $8 \times 2 = 16$ (W) · $1 \times 3 = 3$ (E) · $5 \times 5 = 25$ (B) · $10 \times 1 = 10$ (U) · $11 \times 1 = 11$ (P) · $12 \times 12 = 144$ (T) · $7 \times 8 = 56$ (H) · $10 \times 10 = 100$ (A) · $3 \times 6 = 18$ (Y) · $11 \times 6 = 66$ (F) · $1 \times 6 = 6$ (O) · $3 \times 9 = 27$ (L) · $9 \times 4 = 36$ (I) · $8 \times 10 = 80$ (Q) · $4 \times 11 = 44$ (R) · $3 \times 11 = 33$ (D) · $12 \times 8 = 96$ (K)

Clue 4 (Rounding): "WE FOUND A GREEN SWEATBAND ON THE COURT"

Round 18 to the nearest ten = 20 (W) · Round 1,652 to the nearest hundred = 1700 (A) · Round 72 to the nearest ten = 70 (F) · Round 4,295 to the nearest hundred = 4300 (C) · Round 2,905 to the nearest thousand = 3000 (N) · Round 53 to the nearest ten = 50 (E) · Round 373 to the nearest ten = 370 (D) · Round 233 to the nearest ten = 230 (R) · Round 5,223 to the nearest thousand = 5000 (T) · Round 1,301 to the nearest hundred = 1300 (B) · Round 106 to the nearest ten = 110 (S) · Round 3,727 to the nearest hundred = 3700 (H) · Round 861 to the nearest hundred = 900 (O) · Round 268 to the nearest hundred = 300 (U) · Round 7,141 to the nearest thousand = 7000 (G)

Clue 5 (Division facts (1-12)): surviving statement is box 3 → Kevin Durant

$33 \div 3 = 11$ · $18 \div 9 = 2$ · $20 \div 4 = 5$ · $100 \div 10 = 10$ · $18 \div 3 = 6$ · $21 \div 3 = 7$ · $9 \div 1 = 9$ · $12 \div 1 = 12$ · $12 \div 12 = 1$ · $28 \div 7 = 4$ · $80 \div 10 = 8$