

The Trouble of the Tangled Trainers

The day of the race had arrived. Runners at the starting line lunged and stretched, attempting to warm up their muscles for the gruelling task to come. However, as the starting horn blared and the runners began to stride, the first row of competitors suddenly fell into a heap. Somebody had tied each one of their shoelaces to someone else's!

As the Detective Chief Inspector on the case, it is your job to find out who caused carnage at the marathon by fiddling with the runners' shoelaces. You have taken down the names and descriptions of 25 people who still managed to finish the race in record time. There are also five important clues that have been discovered along the route.

To crack the case, you will need to solve each clue and check the information with the list of names. Will you be able to catch the trainer tangler and stop them before they cause another accident?

Good luck!



Competitor Descriptions

| Name | Age | Hair Colour | Shoe Size | Colour of Shirt |
|-------------------|-----|-------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Abby Shelton | 20 | brown | 5 | orange |
| Abdullah Lang | 33 | blonde | 8 | yellow |
| Alia Perez | 43 | ginger | 6 | purple |
| Allan James | 52 | blonde | 10 | orange |
| Amelia Knapp | 39 | black | 3 | yellow |
| Ariel Soto | 26 | brown | 7 | purple |
| Christopher Boyle | 28 | brown | 8 | purple |
| Eli Barnes | 50 | black | 9 | orange |
| Eliza Mason | 45 | brown | 7 | yellow |
| Enzo Brown | 36 | blonde | 12 | yellow |
| Gary Hurst | 28 | black | 8 | purple |
| Isla Bruce | 20 | ginger | 6 | purple |
| Jasmin Rivers | 55 | black | 6 | orange |
| Jonathan Shepherd | 41 | black | 9 | yellow |
| Jordan Nolan | 32 | brown | 8 | purple |
| Joseph Thomas | 52 | blonde | 10 | orange |
| Karly Sloan | 43 | blonde | 4 | yellow |
| Kaylie Howard | 29 | brown | 8 | purple |
| Macie Perkins | 21 | ginger | 5 | orange |
| Maggie Hester | 40 | blonde | 6 | purple |
| Marcus Cruz | 28 | black | 11 | orange |
| Nancy Whitfield | 24 | blonde | 8 | purple |
| Quinn McNell | 30 | ginger | 10 | orange |
| Soren Johnston | 58 | blonde | 6 | orange |
| Zain Bradley | 21 | brown | 8 | yellow |

Clue 1

Retracing Their Footsteps

Whilst collecting statements from witnesses, you spot distinct muddy footprints running away from the starting line. Reread the witness statements you have taken. If the witness has used parenthesis correctly, give the sentence a tick. If they have not used parenthesis correctly, put a cross. The parenthesis could be shown through commas, brackets or dashes. The number of ticks will reveal the trainer tangler's shoe size.



| Statements from Witnesses | ✓ or X |
|--|--------|
| One woman – aged around 35 – disappeared just before the race. | |
| I saw one (fairly short man fleeing) the scene. | |
| London, especially Greenwich, is the last place I'd expect this to happen. | |
| My trainers – bought brand new last week – are completely ruined. | |
| The lady, who I suspect is responsible had, short hair. | |
| My knees (although not scuffed) still ache from the fall. | |
| I didn't expect – anyone especially not an athlete – to do this. | |
| How many suspects (besides myself) will you be interviewing? | |
| I am positive, although I could be mistaken, that I saw the culprit. | |
| The woman – a rather loud lady is surely – responsible. | |
| The marshals, who rushed to my aid, were extremely helpful. | |
| I remember bumping into that man before (last Tuesday). | |

There were _____ ticks so the trainer tangler must wear size _____ shoes.

Clue 2

Hedging Your Bets

As you follow the footprints, they lead you to a hedge. Stuck in the hedge is a piece of material which has ripped from the trainer tangler's shirt. Solve the clues below, making sure to spell the answers correctly. Then, following the instructions given, find the correct letter from each word. Once you have solved all of the clues, **rearrange** the letters to discover the colour of the material you have found.



| | | | |
|--|-------|--|----------------------|
| Should, would and could are all examples of which type of verb? | _____ | The 5 th letter of the answer is... | <input type="text"/> |
| ... | _____ | The 1 st letter of the answer is... | <input type="text"/> |
| The race, which was held in London , was a huge success. which was held in London is an example of a relative... | _____ | The 4 th letter of the answer is... | <input type="text"/> |
| My mother (who lives in Australia) came to watch the race. who lives in Australia is surrounded by which pieces of punctuation? | _____ | The 2 nd letter of the answer is... | <input type="text"/> |
| Who, whom, which and that are examples of relative... | _____ | The 1 st letter of the answer is... | <input type="text"/> |
| Brackets, commas and dashes can all be used to show what in a sentence? | _____ | The 1 st letter of the answer is... | <input type="text"/> |

When I rearrange the letters I have found, they spell the colour _____ so the trainer tangler must have worn a _____ shirt.

Clue 3

A Cut above the Rest

You have received a phone call from the scientists who have examined the piece of material you found in the hedge. They have found a hair stuck to the material which belongs to the culprit. Draw a line to match the word to the correct verb prefix. The prefix with the most matching words will show the colour of the trainer tangler's hair.

courage

behave

rail

code

flow

crease

work

miss



blonde



brown



ginger



black

The prefix with the most matching words is _____ so the tangle trainer must have _____ hair.

Clue 4

Over the Hill

Whilst examining a pair of tangled trainers, you spot a scrap of paper stuck to the sole. It's part of an entry form for the race and it is filled in but there are so many spelling mistakes! Circle the words which have been spelt incorrectly and write them correctly in the box at the bottom of the page. Then, using the table to help you, work out the age of the trainer tangler based on the number of spelling errors.

I would sinseerly apreshiate a chance to take part in the race and I garuntee that I will impress you. I am despret for a chance to develerp my running skills. As an amacher runner, I am ditermind to get into a good rythem and approach the finish line with litening speed.

| Number of Errors | Age of the Trainer Tangler |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| 1-4 | Teens |
| 5-10 | 20s |
| 11-14 | 30s |
| 15-20 | 40s |
| 20 or more | 50s |

Correct Spellings

There were _____ spelling errors so the trainer tangler must be in their _____.

Clue 5

An Initial Idea

You had almost given up hope when the final piece of evidence blew right past your feet – a ripped piece of the culprit’s name tag. You chase it down the street, trying to make out the first letter of their name. By following the path of correctly spelt words, you will catch a glimpse of the trainer tangler’s initial before the name tag blows down a grid.

| Start | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| yacht | queue | foriegn | haras | soldjer | amerteur | que | yocht | qeuue | quewe |
| qeuue | foreign | harras | suldier | catigory | amature | anshent | lighterning | acompany | accompany |
| forren | harass | soldier | category | amateur | ancient | anshunt | ecsellent | excelent | leisure |
| harrass | soldure | catergry | amacher | aincient | definite | relavent | litening | harras | bruize |
| catergory | briuse | orkward | acheeve | ocupie | occupy | varierty | lightnink | broose | veriety |
| niusance | brooze | acheive | achieve | embarrass | muscle | harrass | dicsionary | catergory | occur |
| shulder | ryhme | owkward | awkward | vehickle | vegetable | yocht | dictionery | catigory | category |
| shoulder | rhyme | nuisance | bruise | vehical | vegeteble | lighterning | familier | categorry | dictionary |
| system | rime | shulder | apparant | vehickal | vegitabul | ocur | familyer | fermiliar | languige |
| twelfth | vehicle | awkwerd | stumach | vehecle | vegitebul | ockur | equip | equipp | ekwip |
| | A, B or C | D, E or F | G, H or I | J, K or L | M, N or O | P, Q or R | S, T or U | V, W or X | Y or Z |

The first letter of the trainer tangler's name must be _____.

The marathon trainer tangler was _____.

Clue 1: Retracing Their Footsteps

| Statements from Witnesses | ✓ or X |
|--|--------|
| One woman – aged around 35 – disappeared just before the race. | ✓ |
| I saw one (fairly short man fleeing) the scene. | X |
| London, especially Greenwich, is the last place I'd expect this to happen. | ✓ |
| My trainers – bought brand new last week – are completely ruined. | ✓ |
| The lady, who I suspect is responsible had, short hair. | X |
| My knees (although not scuffed) still ache from the fall. | ✓ |
| I didn't expect – anyone especially not an athlete – to do this. | X |
| How many suspects (besides myself) will you be interviewing? | ✓ |
| I am positive, although I could be mistaken, that I saw the culprit. | ✓ |
| The woman – a rather loud lady is surely – responsible. | X |
| The marshals, who rushed to my aid, were extremely helpful. | ✓ |
| I remember bumping into that man before (last Tuesday). | ✓ |

Answer to clue 1: There were **8** ticks so the trainer tangler must wear size **8** shoes.

Clue 2: Hedging Your Bets

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------|--|-----------------|
| <p>Should, would and could are all examples of which type of verb?</p> | <p>modal</p> | <p>The 5th letter of the answer is...</p> | <p>l</p> |
| <p>...</p> <p>This piece of punctuation is called an...</p> | <p>ellipsis</p> | <p>The 1st letter of the answer is...</p> | <p>e</p> |
| <p>The race, which was held in London, was a huge success.</p> <p>which was held in London is an example of a relative...</p> | <p>clause</p> | <p>The 4th letter of the answer is...</p> | <p>u</p> |
| <p>My mother (who lives in Australia) came to watch the race.</p> <p>who lives in Australia is surrounded by which pieces of punctuation?</p> | <p>brackets</p> | <p>The 2nd letter of the answer is...</p> | <p>r</p> |
| <p>Who, whom, which and that are examples of relative...</p> | <p>pronouns</p> | <p>The 1st letter of the answer is...</p> | <p>p</p> |
| <p>Brackets, commas and dashes can all be used to show what in a sentence?</p> | <p>paranthesis</p> | <p>The 1st letter of the answer is...</p> | <p>p</p> |

Answer to clue 2: When I rearrange the letters I have found, they spell the colour **purple** so the trainer tangler must have worn a **purple** shirt.

Clue 3: A Cut above the Rest

| | | | |
|-------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| dis- | de- | mis- | over- |
| courage | rail | behave | flow |
| miss | code | | work |
| | crease | | |

Answer to clue 3: The prefix with the most matching words is **de-**, so the trainer tangler must have **brown** hair.

Clue 4: Over the Hill

The passage of text should read:

I would **sincerely appreciate** a chance to take part in the race and I **guarantee** that I will impress you. I am **desperate** for a chance to **develop** my running skills. As an **amateur** runner, I am **determined** to get into a good **rhythm** and approach the finish line with **lightning** speed.

Answer to clue 4: There were **9** spelling errors so the trainer tangler must be in their **20s**.

Clue 5: An Initial Idea

The correct path through the grid is:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Start | | | | | | | | | |
| yacht | queue | foriegn | haras | soldjer | amerteur | que | yocht | queeu | quewe |
| queeu | foreign | harras | suldier | catigory | amature | anshent | lighterning | acompany | accompany |
| forren | harass | soldier | category | amateur | ancient | anshunt | ecsellent | excelent | leisure |
| harrass | soldure | catergry | amacher | aincient | definite | relavent | litening | harras | bruize |
| catergory | briuse | orkward | acheeve | ocupie | occupy | varierty | lightnink | broose | veriety |
| niusance | brooze | acheive | achieve | embarrass | muscle | harrass | dicsionary | catergory | occur |
| shulder | ryhme | owkward | awkward | vehickle | vegetable | yocht | dictionery | catigory | category |
| shoulder | rhyme | nuisance | bruise | vehical | vegeteble | lighterning | familier | categorry | dictionary |
| system | rime | shulder | apparant | vehickal | vegetabul | ocur | familyer | fermiliar | languige |
| twelfth | vehicle | awkwerd | stumach | vehecle | vegitebul | ockur | equip | equipp | ekwip |
| | A, B or C | D, E or F | G, H or I | J, K or L | M, N or O | P, Q or R | S, T or U | V, W or X | Y or Z |

Answer to clue 5: The first letter of the trainer tangler's name must be **A, B or C**.

The marathon sign swapper is Christopher Boyle.