

Homonyms

clear	answer	permit	minute
kite	fast	gold	hard
trunk	ring	wind	dear

- 1 Another word for 'expensive', which can also mean beloved?
- 2 A precious metal and also a colour?
- 3 The name of a mathematical shape and also the name of an outdoor toy?
- 4 Another word for very small and also a unit of time?
- 5 An item of jewellery, a circle and a verb meaning to 'phone someone?'
- 6 A special licence for something and also a verb which means 'to allow?'
- 7 A secure box and also part of a tree?
- 8 A verb which means to turn or twist something and a breeze or natural current of air?
- 9 Do you know a word that means to respond to a question and also means the solution to a problem?
- 10 Another word for quick, which can also mean to go without food?
- 11 Another word for transparent, which also can mean 'obvious?'
- 12 Another word for solid or firm which can also mean 'difficult?'

Please can you select the most appropriate adjective from the table on the top that can be placed before each noun in the box at the bottom?

I've done the first one for you:

1

sandy
devoted ✓
huge
helpful
tragic

devoted admirer
advantage
accident
beach
advice

2

written
recyclable
guardian
suspension
friendly

atmosphere
angel
agreement
bottle
bridge

3

illustrated
attempted
plastic
identity
animated

card
carton
brochure
cartoon
burglary

4

ferocious
blazing
sharp
antique
stale

bonfire
bread
beast
bend
chair

In 1864, George Pullman - an American railway constructor - launched a brand new train service in Great Britain that featured all the up-to-date technology of the time. His train was far more luxurious than any other train in Europe.

Around the same time, Belgian railway entrepreneur, George Nagelmackers started building luxury rail carriages and in 1883 launched the first *Orient Express* service from Paris to Istanbul. His train was the first to feature sleeping carriages and the first to offer dining carriages on a continental train. For its first journey, Nagelmackers sent many prominent journalists and businessmen complimentary tickets to capture the train's luxury and beauty. Keen to outdo his competitor, he cleverly arranged for his shiny new train to be positioned alongside shabby old Pullman carriages as it steamed out of Paris's Gare de Strasbourg station. Passengers on board reported that they felt like they were being transported in one of Europe's finest hotels. They marvelled at the mahogany panelling, luxury leather armchair seats and silk sheets on the beds.

Over the ensuing years, an atmosphere of luxury and legend built up around the train. Popular among European royalty, artists, well-to-do businessmen and even spies, passengers enjoyed unrivalled luxury, fine wines, exquisite dining and opulent accommodation throughout the five-night journey through the snowy Alps. By the turn of the 20th century, the *Orient Express* had become the most famous train in the world.

The famous British crime writer, Agatha Christie, had long professed her love of the *Orient Express* and she finally achieved her dream when she travelled solo on the iconic train in 1928. Christie frequently travelled on the luxury train after that and in 1929 - whilst returning from a visit to her husband's archaeological dig - found herself stranded on the train when it became stuck in a snow blizzard 60 miles outside Istanbul for ten days. The passengers and staff only survived because of the assistance of nearby Turkish villagers. It is thought that whilst stranded aboard the train, Christie was inspired to write one of her most successful mysteries - '*Murder on the Orient Express*'.

Whilst on board waiting for the weather to improve, Christie noted as many details about the train as she could, recording the position of the dining carriages, baggage cars and the sleeping carriages. She also noted as many details of each carriage as she could, including minute elements such as the position of door handles which would become vital to her fictional detective's investigation.

In Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express*, the story opens with a group of fourteen passengers trapped in a carriage as the train is stopped in its tracks in a snowdrift. It is just after midnight and by the next morning, the body of millionaire businessman Samuel Ratchett is discovered in his compartment, stabbed a dozen times. Isolated by the storm and with a murderer in their midst, Belgian detective Hercule Poirot must find the killer amongst a dozen of the dead man's enemies, before the murderer decides to strike again....

Christie's book has since been made into several films which themselves have played their part in further glamorising the *Orient Express*, adding to its fine reputation and success. Nowadays, the *Orient Express* makes the journey from Paris to Istanbul just once a year and the iconic train journey is so popular that passengers must book years in advance to be able to travel in luxury through seven countries in such elegant style.

1 What was the occupation of Agatha Christie's husband?

- A He was an eminent surgeon.
 - B He was involved in spying for the British government.
 - C He was an archaeologist.
 - D He was an author.
-

2 From which Parisian railway station did the first *Orient Express* service depart?

- A The Gare du Nord.
 - B The Gare de Strasbourg.
 - C The Gare de Lyon.
 - D The Gare d'Austerlitz.
-

3 Who accompanied Agatha Christie when she made her first journey on the *Orient Express*?

- A Her husband, Max.
 - B Her father and two of her brothers.
 - C Her publishing agent.
 - D She travelled alone.
-

4 What material was used for the panelling in the carriages on the *Orient Express*?

- A They were made of wood.
- B The panels were all manufactured from steel.
- C They were made of leather.
- D They were made of brass.

5 How did the murder victim in Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express* meet his death?

- A He was shot dead.
- B He was poisoned with strychnine.
- C He was stabbed.
- D He was pushed from the train as it was travelling at high speed.

6 Which two on-board facilities was the *Orient Express* the first to offer its passengers?

- A En-suite bathrooms and the services of an on-board doctor in an emergency.
- B A cocktail bar and air-conditioning throughout the train.
- C Personal cabin attendants and complimentary champagne.
- D Restaurant cars and cabins for passengers to sleep.

7 Through how many countries does the *Orient Express* pass through on its journey from Paris to Istanbul?

- A Seven.
- B Five.
- C Two.
- D Six.

8 How frequently does the *Orient Express* now make the iconic journey from Paris to Istanbul?

- A Twice every year.
- B Every month - departing on the first Friday of the month.
- C Every week, leaving Paris at noon every Monday.
- D Annually.

9 Which of the following statements is true?

- Option 1 George Nagelmackers was born in America.
- Option 2 George Pullman's trains were the fastest in Europe.
- Option 3 The *Orient Express* travelled through the Alps mountain range on its route from Paris to Istanbul.
- Option 4 Many of the passengers on board the first *Orient Express* train service were given complimentary tickets for the journey.

- A Options 3 and 4.
 - B Options 2 and 3.
 - C Options 1, 3 and 4.
 - D Options 1, 2 and 4.
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10 Which of the following statements is true?

- Option 1 Agatha Christie's fictional detective, Hercule Poirot, is from Belgium.
- Option 2 George Nagelmackers was eager to ensure that his *Orient Express* train looked far superior than his rival George Pullman's carriages.
- Option 3 The first *Orient Express* service was launched nearly twenty years after the first Pullman trains were offering luxury rail travel.
- Option 4 The iconic train journey from Paris to Istanbul includes 5 nights stay on board the *Orient Express*.

- A Options 1 and 3.
 - B Options 3 and 4.
 - C Options 1, 2, 3 and 4.
 - D Option 4 only.
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Words

1	earnest
2	eavesdrop
3	economical
4	edible
5	efficient
6	elaborate
7	elegant
8	emerald
9	enclose
10	ensure
11	envious
12	errand
13	evade
14	exaggerate
15	excess
16	excursion
17	excuse
18	exhibit
19	expand
20	extract

Occupations

1	actor
2	architect
3	artist
4	butcher
5	carpenter
6	chef
7	farmer
8	florist
9	interpreter
10	journalist
11	pharmacist
12	plumber
13	pilot
14	scientist
15	vet
16	optician

Homonyms

1	dear
2	gold
3	kite
4	minute
5	ring
6	permit
7	trunk
8	wind
9	answer
10	fast
11	clear
12	hard

Vocabulary 1

1	sandy beach
2	devoted admirer
3	huge advantage
4	helpful advice
5	tragic accident

Vocabulary 2

1	written agreement
2	recyclable bottle
3	guardian angel
4	suspension bridge
5	friendly atmosphere

Vocabulary 3

1	illustrated brochure
2	attempted burglary
3	plastic carton
4	identity card
5	animated cartoon

Vocabulary 4

1	ferocious beast
2	blazing bonfire
3	sharp bend
4	antique chair
5	stale bread

Comprehension

1	C	He was an archaeologist.
2	B	The Gare de Strasbourg.
3	D	She travelled alone.
4	A	They were made of wood.
5	C	He was stabbed.
6	D	Restaurant cars and cabins for passengers to sleep.
7	A	Seven.
8	D	Annually.
9	A	Options 3 and 4.
10	C	Options 1, 2, 3 and 4.