



Mystery Vocabulary

Alibi: An excuse that an accused person uses to show that he or she was not at the scene of the crime

Breakthrough: A discovery that helps solve the crime

Clue: A fact or object that gives information that helps the detective solve the crime

Crime: An action that breaks the law

Deduction: Drawing a conclusion or making a judgment about something based on information you have

Detective: An investigator who looks for and gathers clues

Evidence: An object or statement that helps prove who committed the crime

Hunch: A guess or feeling that is not based on facts

Motive: A reason that a person does something — motives may be anger, hatred, jealousy, or greed

Mystery: Something that is unknown; oftentimes something is missing or stolen

Red herring: A false clue that throws the investigator off track

Sleuth: An investigator or detective

Suspect: Person who has a motive to have committed a crime

Witness: Person who has seen something or has knowledge about a crime that might help solve it