

The Riddle of the Swapped Signs

Two hours into the race, runners in the marathon were sure they were almost at the finish line. However, after turning the final corner, they suddenly fell into a heap. Somebody must have swapped all of the signs along the route and directed the runners into a muddy ditch! As the Detective Chief Inspector on the case, it is your job to find out who caused carnage at the marathon by swapping the signs. You have taken down the names and descriptions of 25 people who started the race but didn't pass the finish line. 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 sign swapper and stop them before they confuse any more runners?

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 route. Re-read the witness statements you have taken. If the witness has used an apostrophe to correctly show plural possession, give the sentence a tick. If they have not shown plural possession by using the apostrophe correctly, put a cross. The number of ticks will reveal the sign swapper's shoe size.



Statements from Witnesses	✓ or X
That swapper could have ruined my childrens' day.	
My babies' bedtime was three hours ago – I need to get home!	
They shouldn't be allowed to ruin people's fun like this.	
I was stuck in a muddy ditch full of leaf's.	
Do you know the signs' real locations?	
Our trousers' stains will never come out.	
My mum really wanted to win the women's race but now she can't.	
I saw three mices' nibbling my trainers.	
The clock's hands are still ticking and I haven't crossed the finish line yet.	
Is there a parents' area where I can wait for my son?	
My husband really appreciated the policemens' help.	
The newspapers' articles should be funny tomorrow.	

There were _____ ticks so the sign swapper 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 sign swapper's shirt. Solve the clues below, making sure to spell the answer 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.



We tried to catch them but they managed to escape. In this sentence, the word 'but' is used as a...	_____
"Stop right there!" yelled the police officer. This sentence is a well-punctuated example of direct...	_____
Later that day, they spotted the culprit. In this sentence, 'later that day' is an example of a fronted...	_____
We found the culprit behind the hedge. In this sentence, the word 'behind' is an example of a...	_____
anti-, super- and un- are all examples of...	_____
Commas, apostrophes and inverted commas are all types of...	_____

The 5th letter of the answer is...

The 4th letter of the answer is...

The 9th letter of the answer is...

The 2nd letter of the answer is...

The 1st letter of the answer is...

The 1st letter of the answer is...

When I rearrange the letters I have found, they spell the colour _____ so the sign swapper 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 prefix which will give it the opposite meaning. The prefix with the most matching words will show the colour of the sign swapper's hair.

patient

regular

legal

possible

correct

legible

mature

relevant

active



blonde



brown



ginger



black

The prefix with the most matching words is _____ so the sign swapper must have _____ hair.

Clue 4

Over the Hill

Whilst examining one of the signs moved by the culprit, you spot a scrap of paper stuck underneath. 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 sign swapper based on the number of spelling errors.

I beleive that I will win the race because I do verious forms of excercise regularly. I run to work every day and ride my bycicle each evening. I will arive erlay on the day of the race and show strenth under preshure from the very first minit.

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

Correct Spellings

There were _____ spelling errors so the sign swapper
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 sign swapper's initial before the name tag blows into the river.

Start									
guide	fruit	weit	arrighv	bild	borl	boll	mein	ecsept	exsept
froot	group	gard	lerne	erly	arive	bery	breik	efect	afect
groop	guard	weight	special	learn	early	wethur	peac	plaine	pease
gaurd	weiht	specail	lurn	erlee	arrive	heale	meddal	pees	peeas
ansur	speshul	erlay	breeth	biuld	build	sircle	knott	maet	haer
regulre	centur	diside	breath	decide	circle	sircul	heyul	grone	heyer
answur	sentur	sentre	centre	breff	deside	adres	maine	afect	affekt
reign	answer	natural	address	adress	addres	fameus	siene	actyule	berrie
regular	rayn	anser	nachural	cort	cauht	ackual	rayn	enuff	enoffe
length	surprise	bery	exsept	mein	gide	scean	scine	reguler	wrein
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 sign swapper's name must be _____.

The marathon sign swapper was _____.

Clue 1: Retracing Their Footsteps

Statements from Witnesses	✓ or X
That swapper could have ruined my childrens' day.	X
My babies' bedtime was three hours ago – I need to get home!	✓
They shouldn't be allowed to ruin people's fun like this.	✓
I was stuck in a muddy ditch full of leaf's.	X
Do you know the signs' real locations?	✓
Our trousers' stains will never come out.	✓
My mum really wanted to win the women's race but now she can't.	✓
I saw three mices' nibbling my trainers.	X
The clock's hands are still ticking and I haven't crossed the finish line yet.	✓
Is there a parents' area where I can wait for my son?	✓
My husband really appreciated the policemens' help.	X
The newspapers' articles should be funny tomorrow.	✓

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

Clue 2: Hedging Your Bets

We tried to catch them but they managed to escape. In this sentence, the word 'but' is used as a...	conjunction	The 1st letter of the answer is...	u
"Stop right there!" yelled the police officer. This sentence is a well-punctuated example of direct...	speech	The 2nd letter of the answer is...	e
Later that day, they spotted the culprit. In this sentence, 'later that day' is an example of a fronted...	adverbial	The 2nd letter of the answer is...	l
We found the culprit behind the hedge. In this sentence, the word 'behind' is an example of a...	preposition	The 3rd letter of the answer is...	r
anti-, super- and un- are all examples of...	prefixes	The 1st letter of the answer is...	p
Commas, apostrophes and inverted commas are all types of...	punctuation	The 3rd letter of the answer is...	p

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

Clue 3: A Cut above the Rest

il-	im-	in-	ir-
illegal	immature	incorrect	irregular
illegible	impossible	inactive	irrelevant
	impatient		

Answer to clue 3: The prefix with the most matching words is **im-**, so the sign swapper must have **brown** hair.

Clue 4: Over the Hill

The passage of text should read:

I **believe** that I will win the race because I do **various** forms of **exercise regularly**. I run to work every day and ride my **bicycle** each evening. I will **arrive early** on the day of the race and show **strength** under **pressure** from the very first **minute**.

Answer to clue 4: There were **10** spelling errors so the sign swapper must be in their **20s**.

Clue 5: An Initial Idea

The correct path through the grid is:

Start									
guide	fruit	weit	arrighv	bild	borl	boll	mein	ecsept	exsept
froot	group	gard	lerne	erly	arive	bery	breik	efect	afect
groop	guard	weight	special	learn	early	wethur	peac	plaine	pease
gaurd	weiht	specail	lurn	erlee	arrive	heale	meddal	pees	peeas
ansur	speshul	erlay	breeth	biuld	build	sircle	knott	maet	haer
regulre	centur	diside	breath	decide	circle	sircul	heyul	grone	heyer
answur	sentur	sentre	centre	breff	deside	adres	maine	afect	affekt
reign	answer	natural	address	adress	addres	fameus	siene	actyule	berrie
regular	rayn	anser	nachural	cort	cauht	ackual	rayn	enuff	enoffe
length	surprise	bery	exsept	mein	gide	scean	scine	reguler	wrein
	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 sign swapper's name must be **A, B or C**.

The marathon sign swapper is Christopher Boyle.