Letter Inventory Detectives

HOST GUIDE - includes solutions | A4 | v1.0.0

2-6 players, with an adult host | Suggested ages 8-11 | Plan 20-30 minutes

Keep this guide with the adult host. Let the group try before offering hint 1, then hint 2. Read the explanation only when the group is ready to check its work.

Support your group

Write the letters in alphabetical order before solving, and allow an adult to explain the clue. If a player offers a different answer fitting both letters and clue, discuss it rather than treating every unlisted word as wrong.

Warm-up: a clue selects the word

Hint 1: The answer starts with H.

Hint 2: Place H first and T last.

Answer: HEART

EARTH and HEART each contain A, E, H, R and T once. The clue selects HEART; another rearrangement would still need to fit the clue.

Round 1: use both copies

Hint 1: Start with S.

Hint 2: The last two letters are RE.

Answer: SECURE

Both words contain C, E, E, R, S and U. A six-letter answer with only one E cannot use the inventory correctly.

Round 2: hear the clue

Hint 1: Start with L.

Hint 2: The answer ends with TEN.

Answer: LISTEN

SILENT and LISTEN both use E, I, L, N, S and T. They describe different actions even though they share their letters.

Final: three checked answers

Hint 1: The answers begin E, S and T.

Hint 2: They end BOW, UDY and ING.

Answer: 1 ELBOW; 2 STUDY; 3 THING

ELBOW uses B,E,L,O,W; STUDY uses D,S,T,U,Y; THING uses G,H,I,N,T. Each inventory exactly matches its source word.

How to close the session

Finish by checking all three final answers letter by letter. Ask which tempting answer was rejected by a clue, and which was rejected by its letters.

If a result differs, return to the stated rule and compare the written steps. An answer revealed by the host is help, not an independently solved puzzle.

Mechanism reference: Project Gutenberg 49137, ANAGRAMS.. New session instructions and examples.

Age and time are planning estimates. No child playtest or physical print trial is claimed.