

CONFIDENTIAL:
DO NOT DISTURB

The Case of the Fifth Word

An Investigative Study Guide

Based on the classified files of Idaville's top detective (an eighth grader).

Gemini Notebook

Incident Report: Timeline of Events

5 Years Ago: Two masked men (Tim Nolan & Daniel Davenport) hold up the Diamond Mart. $1 Million in jewellery stolen. The loot is never found.

Yesterday: Prime suspect Tim Nolan dies of a stroke. He leaves his palm-tree nursery to Davenport in his will.

Today: A mysterious, coded desk calendar page is found clipped to Nolan's will.

Chief Brown is stumped.



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Investigator Profile: Leroy “Encyclopedia” Brown

EVIDENCE	DEDUCTIONS
"He read more books than anyone in Idaville, and he never forgot a fact."	→ Knowledgeable
"Encyclopedia never spoke of the help he gave his father. He didn't want to seem different."	→ Humble
"Usually, he needed to ask only one question to solve a case before dessert."	→ Cleverness
"Encyclopedia sat quietly. He knew his mother and father were discussing the case for his benefit."	→ Keen Listener

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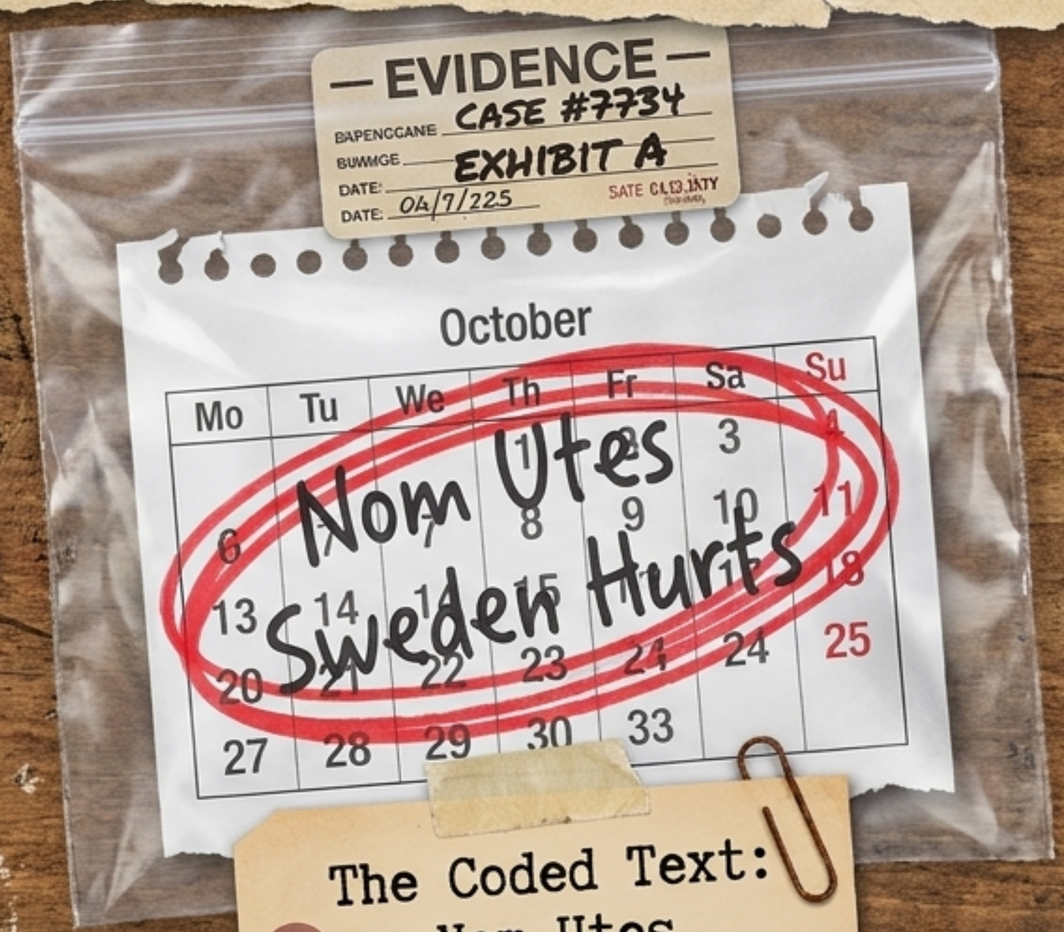
Exhibit A: The Calendar Clue

— EVIDENCE —
CASE #7734
EXHIBIT A
DATE: 04/7/225



The Dilemma:
Nolan wrote a message to Davenport on this calendar page. Mrs. Brown (a former English teacher) cannot decipher it.

The Stakes:
Davenport is inheriting the nursery. This code likely reveals the location of the $I Million hidden loot. But what does it mean?

The Coded Text:
Nom Utes
Sweden Hurts

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Forensics: Breaking the Code

Step 1:
Start with the days of the week.

Step 2:
Drop the letters D-A-Y.

Step 3:
Rearrange the remaining letters (Anagrams).

Monday → Nom

Tuesday → Utes

Wednesday → Sweden

Thursday → Hurts

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The Missing Fifth Word

The Pattern Continuation:
The pattern points to the next day of the week: Friday.

The Equation:
~~Frinday~~ -> Fri -> FIR

The Resolution:
The million-dollar loot is hidden inside a twenty-gallon jug of earth growing a young Fir tree at Nolan's nursery!
Case closed before dessert.



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Detective Skill 1: Evaluating Evidence

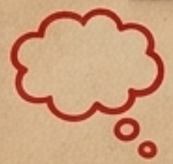
Rule: A Fact is proven true or false.
An Opinion is a belief, feeling, or judgment.



FACT

"Encyclopedia's father was the Chief of Police." → FACT (Provable title).

"Two masked men held up the Diamond Mart." → FACT (Provable event).



OPINION

"Chief Brown must be the smartest police chief in the country." → OPINION (Personal judgment).

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TOP SECRET

Detective Skill 2: The Semantics of 'Case'

CASE

Container:
"My pencil case is a gift from my grandmother."

Matter/Investigation:
"Waiting for the case to be taken up in court."

Situation:
"...but that was not the case as he sang melodiously."

Writing Format:
"Written in title case."

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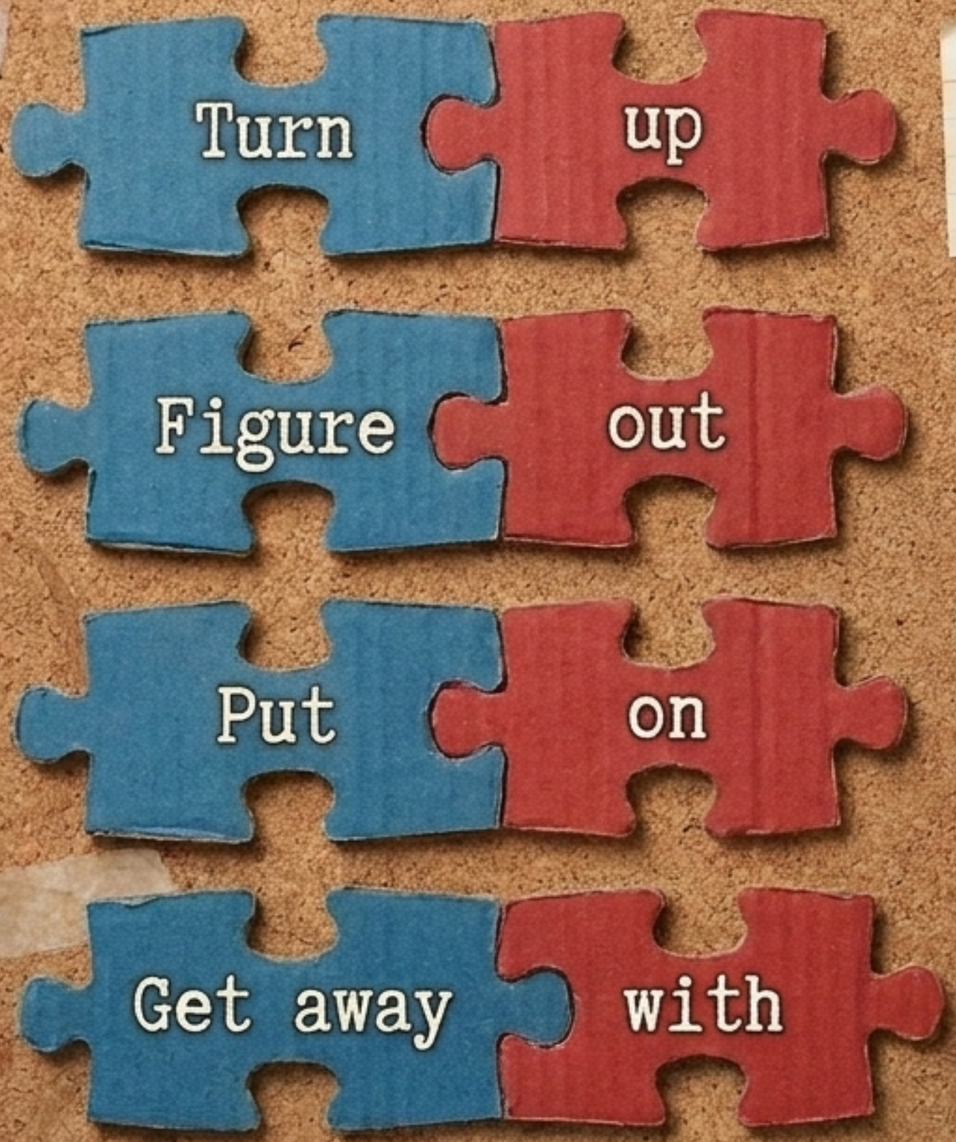
Detective Skill 3: Deciphering Phrasal Verbs



= Missing evidence is found.

= To solve a problem
(What Mrs. Brown couldn't do).

= Wear clothing
(Chief Brown put on his hat).

= Escape consequences
(What Nolan and Davenport tried to do).

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Detective Skill 4: Lateral Thinking (Rebus Puzzles)

SECRET
SECRET
SECRET

Top Secret

stand
Try 2

Try to understand

R O R OADS D S

Crossroads

Detectives like Encyclopedia Brown use lateral thinking to look beyond the obvious!

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Interrogation Logs: Direct vs. Reported Speech

Direct Speech: The exact words of the speaker at the time of the event. (e.g., Chief Brown said, “Tim Nolan died yesterday.”)

POLICE REPORT

Reported Speech: Modifying person, tense, and place/time to report the statement to someone else later in an official log. (e.g., Chief Brown stated that Tim Nolan had died the previous day.)

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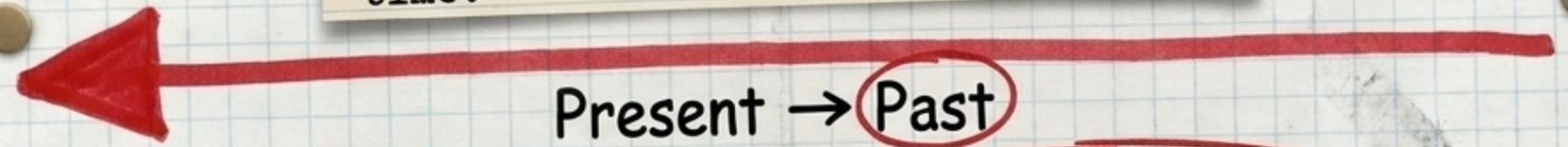
Interrogation Logs: The Time-Shift Matrix

Rule: When reporting speech, tenses generally shift one step back in time.



Present → Past

Present Progressive → Past Progressive

Present Perfect → Past Perfect

Past → Past Perfect

Present Modal (will) → Past Modal (would)

Exception: Past Perfect and Past Modals → No Change

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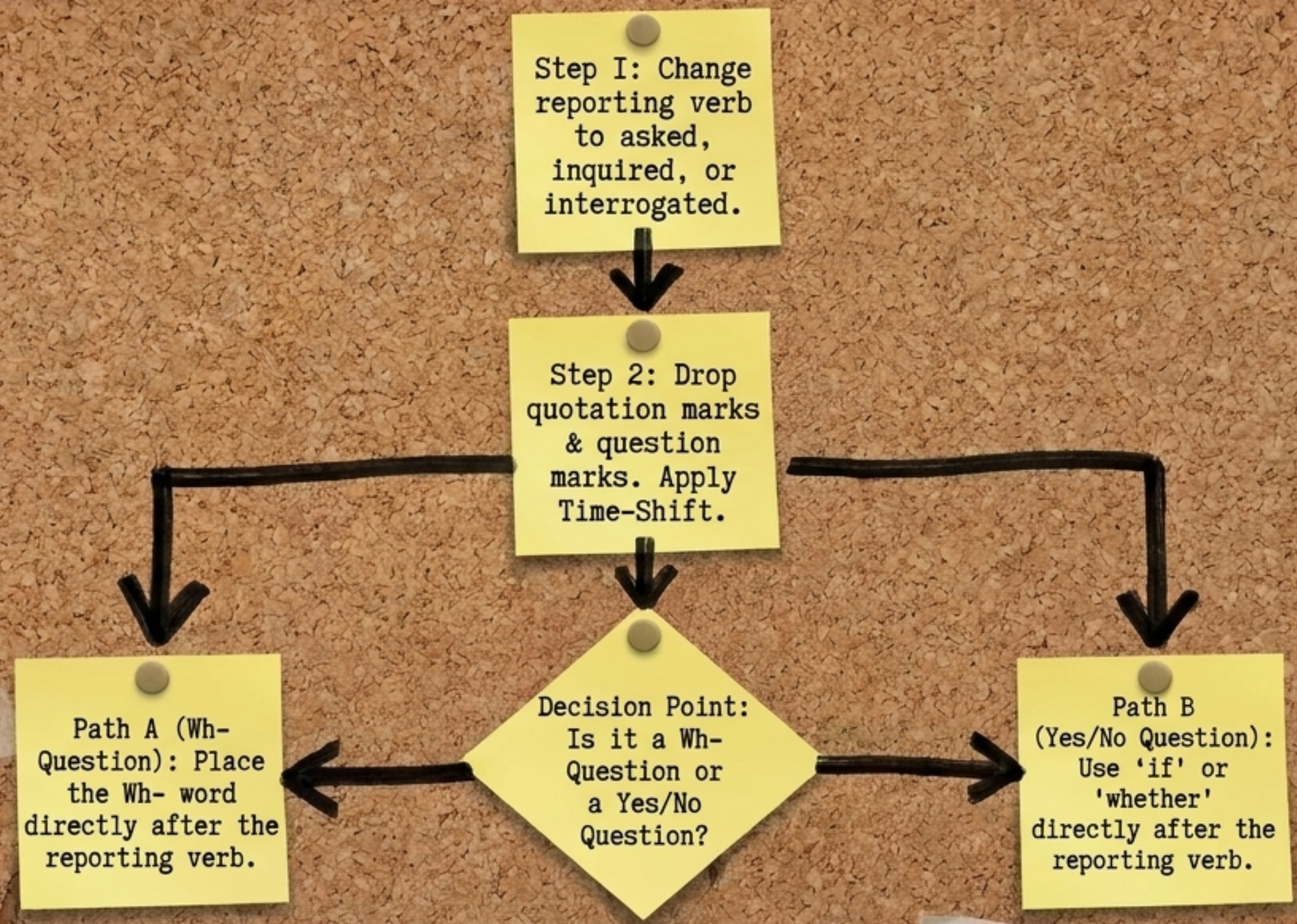
Interrogation Logs: Reporting Questions



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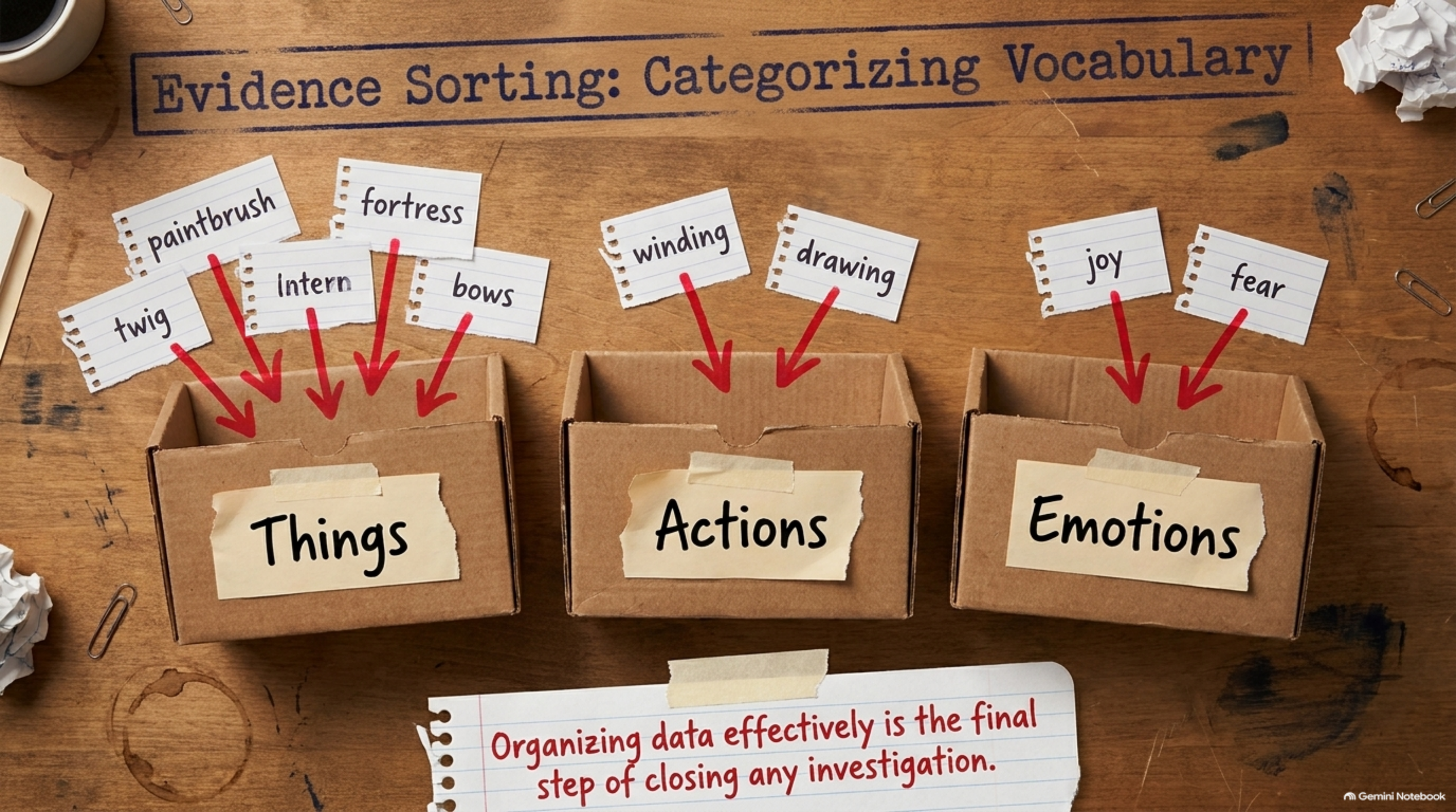
Evidence Sorting: Categorizing Vocabulary



Organizing data effectively is the final step of closing any investigation.

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Case Closed

CASE CLOSED

Skills Mastered in this Dossier:

- [X] Cryptography & Anagram Logic
- [X] Evaluating Fact vs. Opinion
- [X] Deciphering Phrasal Verbs
- [X] Mastering Reported Speech Rules

An encyclopedia is a book of facts, but a true detective knows how to connect them.

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