

# Language Detective

# Player Handbook

EN



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



# Table of contents

- [Introduction](#) - 3
- [Application Installation](#) - 4
- [Initial Configuration](#) - 5
- [Case & Lobby Setup](#) - 7
- [How to play a case](#) - 10
  - [Teampay & Communication](#) - 10
  - [Deduction & Comprehension](#) - 11
  - [Locations](#) - 12
  - [Activities](#) - 13
  - [Exercises](#) - 15
  - [Database](#) - 16
  - [Report Phase](#) - 17
- [Language Puzzles](#) - 19
- [Project Information](#) - 20

# Introduction

Language Detective is an interaction- and deduction-based criminal-drama-style game, where players need to communicate with each other, coordinate their activities, understand the narrative, and complete language learning exercises to solve criminal mysteries.

Language Detective can be played solo, but it is a great team-building application that helps users develop and train their soft skills such as communication, reading comprehension, deduction, critical thinking, note-taking, and resource management. All done in an exciting environment of investigating a crime.

The goal of the game is not only to determine whodunit\*, but also to introduce players to concepts and vocabulary in the language they wish to learn, and provide them opportunities to read, write, and converse about useful topics, that will inevitably allow them to expand their language skills in a fun and informal environment.

This document helps players use the Language Detective application. It provides detailed guidelines on how to install the game, create lobbies, play cases, and solve language puzzles.

*\*combination of "who" and "done it," emphasizing the central issue:  
who committed the act in question?*



# Application Installation

Language Detective can be downloaded on Google Play Store or Apple App Store. Choose the right store for your operating system, download the app, install it, and you are good to go.

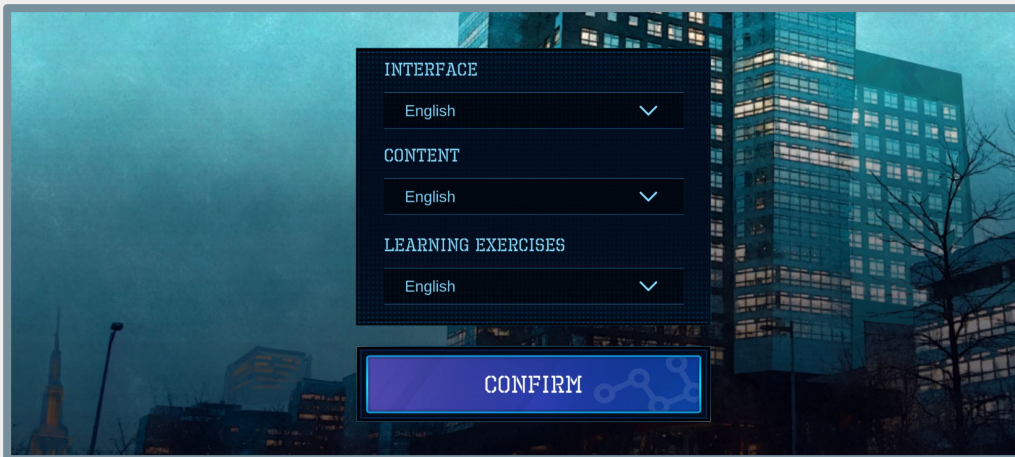
- The app does not need any special permissions.
- The app requires around 250 MB of storage space.
- You don't need to provide an email or any personal data to create an account.





# Initial Configuration (1/2)

After installing the app you will need to perform the initial configuration, starting with the language settings. You can always change the language settings later.



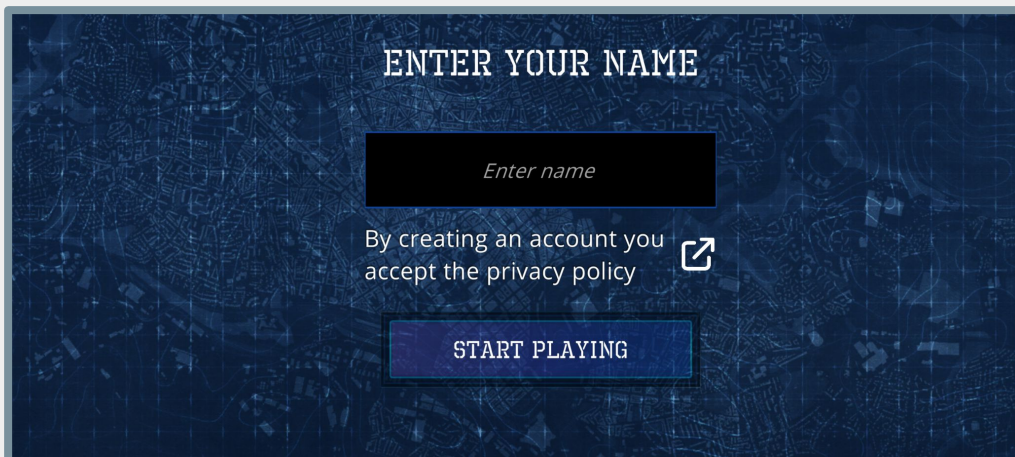
You can choose from English, German, and Polish.

- **Interface** - user interface language. Used to navigate and configure the app. We recommend choosing the language you are most familiar with.
- **Content** - case language. We recommend choosing a language you are familiar with on at least B2 level.
- **Learning Exercises** - language puzzles. We recommend choosing a language you wish to learn, and improve your skills at.



# Initial Configuration (2/2)

After language configuration, you will be asked to create your username and accept the privacy policy. To later change your username, you would need to delete the app data.



- **Username** - This is a name you will be identified in the game, and other players will be able to see it on their map screens.
- **Privacy Policy** - Before creating an account, please read the privacy policy. The link will redirect you to a website that hold the privacy policy text. You can also access it through [THIS LINK](#).

After clicking the “Start Playing” button, you are good to go.

Good luck and have fun!

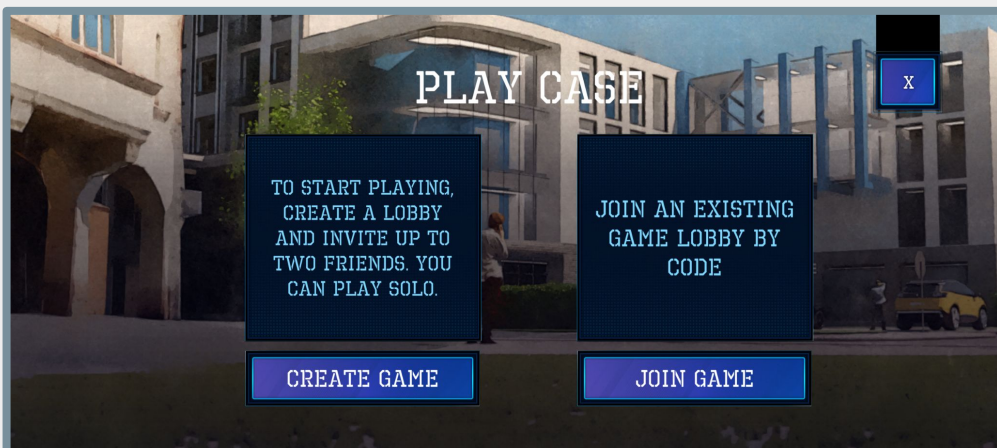


# Case & Lobby Setup (1/3)

After the initial app configuration, you can start playing cases. Tap on the “Play Case” button in the main menu.



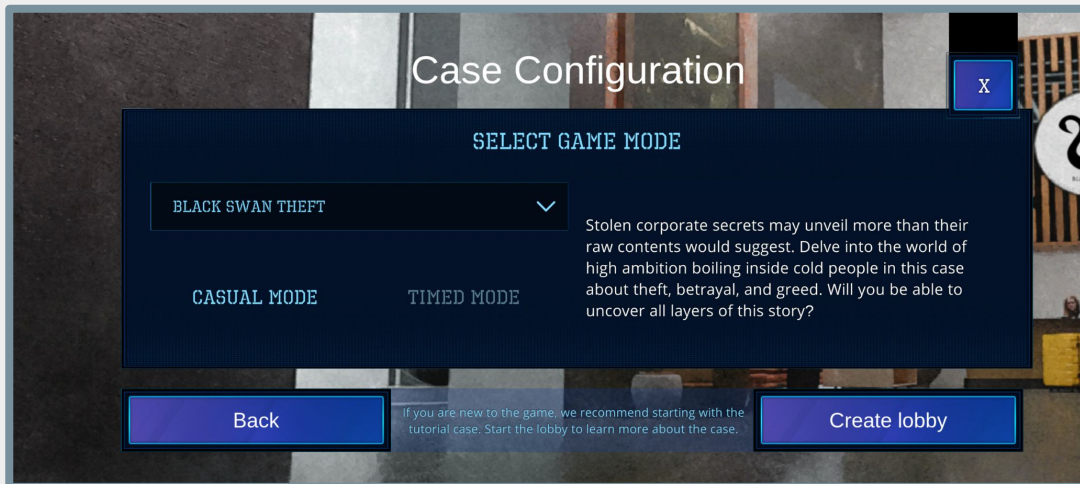
Then you will have the option to create a new case lobby or join an existing lobby. For new players, we recommend creating a solo lobby and playing the tutorial case.





# Case & Lobby Setup (2/3)

To create a case lobby, you will need to perform one more step: choose a case you want to play, and select the game mode:

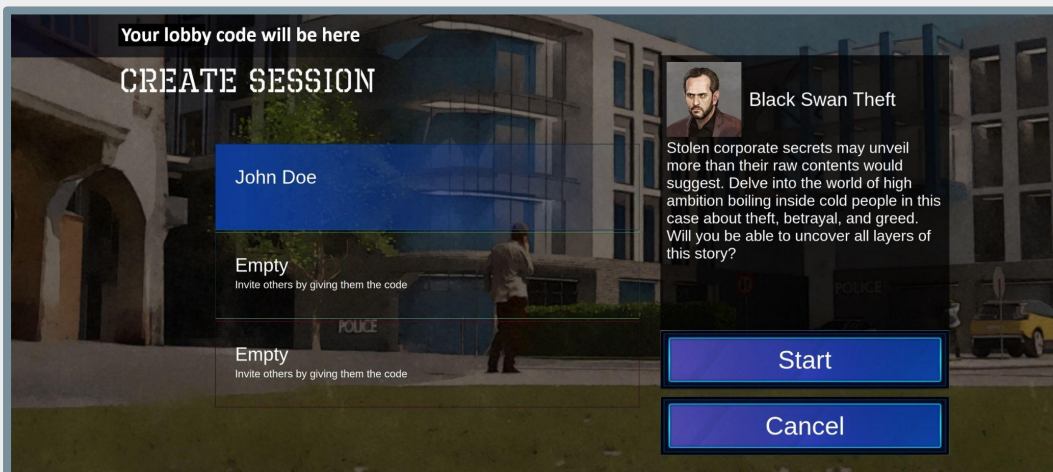


- **Casual Mode** - offers a relaxed, time-free investigation experience. Each activity will cost a point representing an hour of game time. They are unlimited, but going over the threshold negatively affects the final score. Ideal for flexible play, it suits those preferring a leisurely, untimed approach to solving cases.
- **Timed Mode** - embrace a challenging, time-pressured experience. Perfect for those with limited game time or seeking structured sessions, this mode enforces time limits for the entire case. Manage time for travel between locations, adapting to distance-based costs. Tailored for synchronized finishes among groups and advanced learners, each session spans 15-30 minutes, delivering an immersive and stimulating gameplay.



# Case & Lobby Setup (3/3)

This is your case lobby. You can tap on the “Start” button to play solo, or you can share your lobby code with up to two other people and play a team game.



Note that if you have chosen the Timed Mode, the time will start immediately after you press the “Start” button.

If your players have trouble joining your lobby, make sure that you all have an Internet connection. You may also try to reset your devices or choose a different player to be the lobby host.



# How to play a case (1/9)

## Teampay & Communication

*The following section is relevant only if you are playing in a team, with other players. If you are playing solo, skip this section and go to [the next section about Deduction & Comprehension](#).*

Language Detective isn't just about solving crimes; it's about teamwork and effective communication. Coordinate with your fellow detectives, share discoveries, and strategize to crack the case. Work together to understand the narrative, solve puzzles, and complete language exercises. Strong communication skills are key—listen actively, exchange ideas, and assign tasks efficiently to make the most of your investigation.

Just like in real world problem-solving scenarios, effective teamwork and clear communication enhance your chances of success. Share insights, discuss findings, and connect the dots collectively to unravel the mystery. Remember, everyone brings unique skills to the table—use them to your advantage. Engage in meaningful discussions to not only crack the case but also improve your language skills through immersion and collaborative problem-solving.



# How to play a case (2/9)

## Deduction & Comprehension

In Language Detective, solving mysteries is like piecing together a puzzle. Deduction is your superpower—it's about connecting the dots and finding the missing pieces. Use your detective skills to uncover hidden clues, analyze information, and make logical connections. Remember, the solution isn't handed to you; it's up to your team to figure it out by putting together all the bits and pieces you find.

Comprehension is your ally in this adventure. Pay close attention to details in the narrative—every word matters! Spot the important facts, separate them from distractions, and focus on what's crucial to crack the case. Train your mind to sieve through information, spot red herrings, and piece together the real story. It's about understanding the facts and weaving them into a solution that makes sense.

Your sharp deductive skills, and strong comprehension will lead you closer to the truth. Stay curious, ask questions, and piece together the story step by step. Every detail matters, and your ability to understand and connect them is what makes you an exceptional language detective.



# How to play a case (3/9)

## Locations



Welcome to the Map Screen! It showcases our Europe-inspired city, teeming with intriguing locations. It's your go-to hub during the Investigation phase.

Choose your path wisely as some locations are more important to the story than others. Whether it's a crime scene or a suspect's house, your avatar's next move is entirely up to you!

Remember that in Timed Mode, moving between locations costs valuable time. In Casual Mode, managing Action Points among your team is crucial for success. Stay focused, deduce the best course of action with your team, and success will be yours!



# How to play a case (4/9)

## Activities (1/2)



In Language Detective, activities drive your investigation. You can engage with them in locations, and they are divided into two types:

- **Simple activities** offer concise text describing the situation, and optional language exercises.
- **Complex activities**, like interrogations or detailed searches, unfold with multiple interactive choices, unlocking more information.

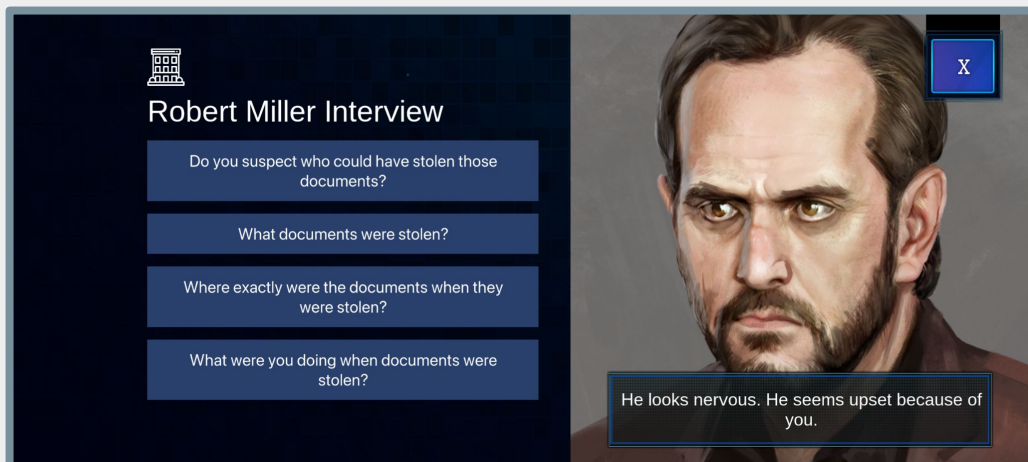
Simple ones are quick reads, while complex ones provide deeper insights - you may even need to revisit them as you uncover new leads.

*More on complex activities on the next page...*



# How to play a case (5/9)

## Activities (2/2)



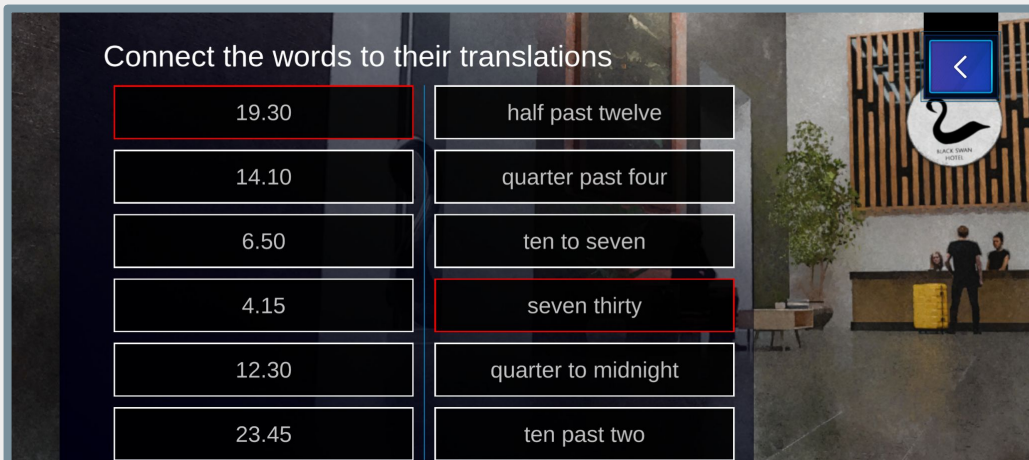
In Language Detective, complex activities are multifaceted puzzles waiting to be unraveled. They encompass interactive choices unlocking deeper layers of information. Some questions remain hidden until other activities unveil them, creating a web of interconnected clues.

But it's more than just questions—these activities become resource mini-games, managing stress and boosting confidence during interrogations, ensuring suspects stay cooperative. It's a delicate balance—keeping stress low and confidence high to maintain a smooth conversation. Push too hard, and they might shut down, refusing further cooperation. Complex activities offer an intricate dance of choices, stress, and confidence, shaping the course of your investigation.



# How to play a case (6/9)

## Exercises



Accessible only through simple activities (or the main menu) language exercises complement your investigation. They're your gateway to mastering the chosen language. Thematic exercises directly tie to the activity's topic, while abstract exercises offer broader linguistic challenges.

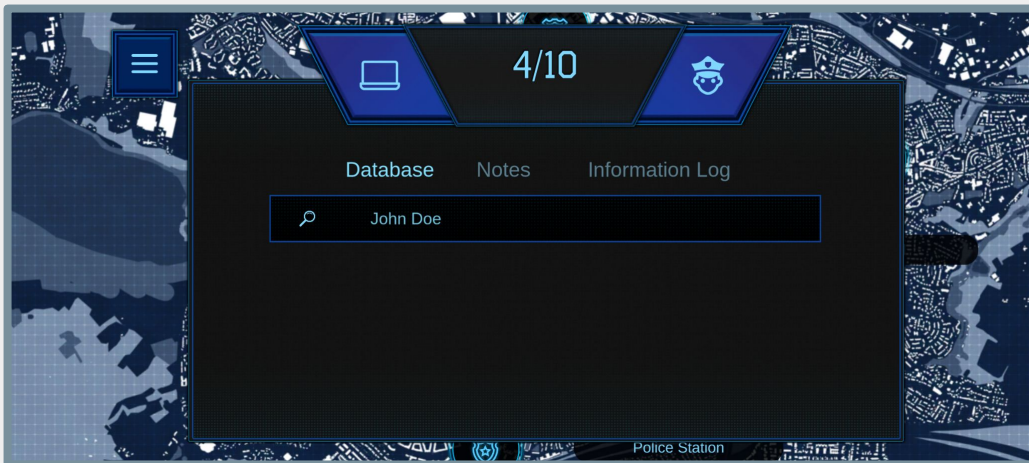
Mastering these exercises not only aids your language learning but also boosts your overall case performance. The score bonus affects all players, even if only a single player solves the puzzle.

All unlocked exercises are accessible independently, allowing focused language practice beyond just the case gameplay.



# How to play a case (7/9)

## Database



The database is like an organized wiki, showing names, portraits, and background info of characters relevant to the case. To access it, open the Investigators' Tools popup by tapping the computer icon on the map screen.

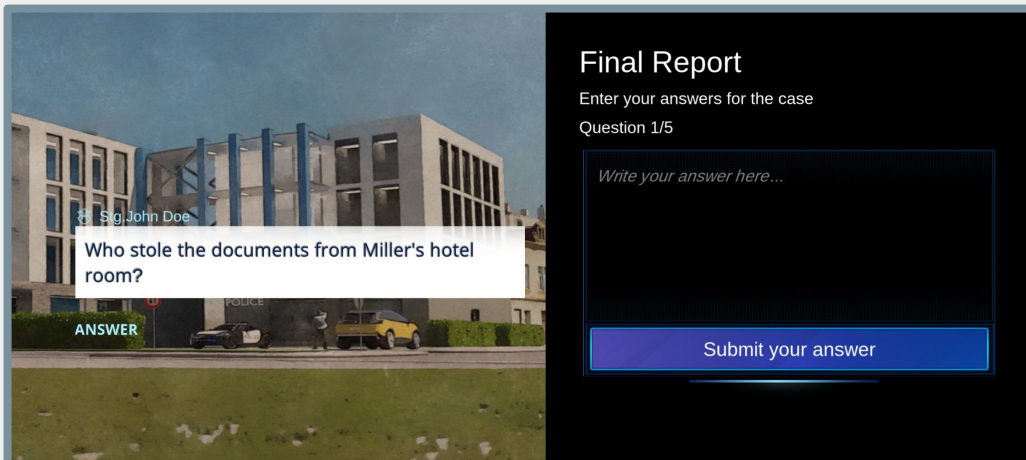
There's no limit to usage, however, to look up a specific person, you need to provide their full name (and surname) in the search bar. Some searches may be crucial for your case, unlocking new locations, activities, and questions in interrogations. It's your go-to for essential case-related details, helping you stay informed and crack the mystery.

When playing in a team, remember that after learning a new suspect's name, you can always ask another player to look it up, if they are currently less occupied.



# How to play a case (8/9)

## Report Phase (1/2)



In the final phase of Language Detective, the Report Phase, it's your time to showcase what you've discovered! You can initiate the report phase by clicking on the investigator's icon on the main screen (requires confirmation from other players), or it will initiate automatically when you run out of time in the Timed Mode. Remember, once you're in, there's no going back to the investigation phase.

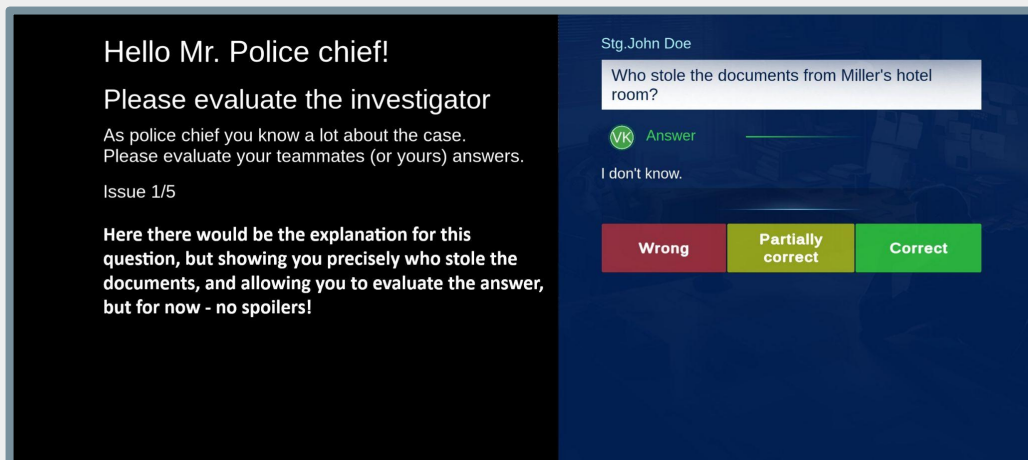
Here's the scoop: once the Report phase starts, everyone answers case-related questions. Your Performance Score - how well you solved the case - depends on three factors: nailing language exercises, avoiding overtime (in Casual Mode), and, most importantly, accurately answering final questions. Each success adds to your final score.

*More on the Report Phase on the next page...*



# How to play a case (9/9)

## Report Phase (2/2)



The screenshot shows a game interface with a dark blue background. On the left, a black box contains white text: "Hello Mr. Police chief!", "Please evaluate the investigator", "As police chief you know a lot about the case. Please evaluate your teammates (or yours) answers.", "Issue 1/5", and "Here there would be the explanation for this question, but showing you precisely who stole the documents, and allowing you to evaluate the answer, but for now - no spoilers!". On the right, a player's name "Stg. John Doe" is shown above a question box: "Who stole the documents from Miller's hotel room?". Below the question, there is a green checkmark icon and the word "Answer" followed by a blank line. Underneath, it says "I don't know.". At the bottom right, there are three colored buttons: "Wrong" (red), "Partially correct" (yellow-green), and "Correct" (green).

After all players submit their answers, you step into the role of a police chief. You'll receive answers from other players (or yours, if you are playing solo), along with explanations.

Your task? Read the answer and the explanation, compare them, and score each response. There are three evaluation options - "Wrong," "Partially Correct," and "Correct".

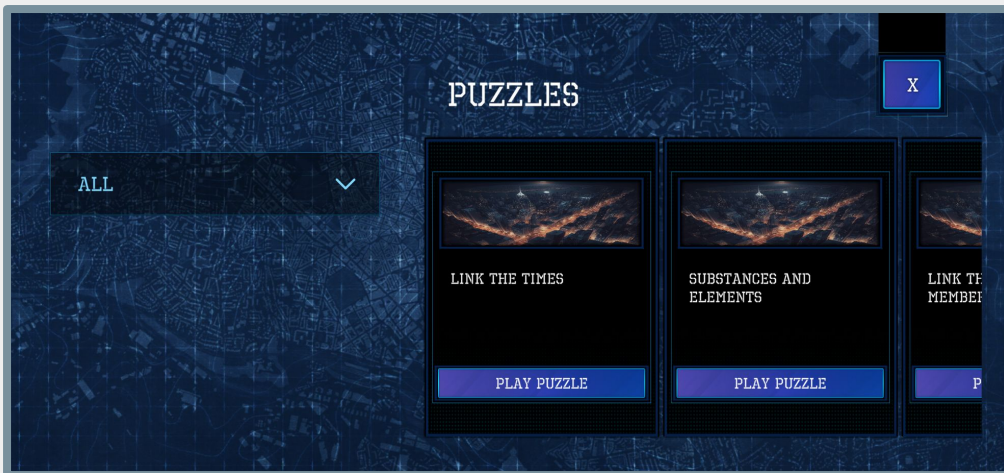
It's all about fairness and trust, so accuracy counts. Your judgments directly impact each player's Performance Score, shaping the outcome of the thrilling case you've just cracked.

After all answers are evaluated, you will learn your score, and that's it! Congratulations on another case solved!



# Language Puzzles

In the main menu, you can tap on the “Play Puzzle” button to open the list of all unlocked language exercises.



These puzzles offer independent challenges, testing language skills without being tied to specific case activities. Divided into thematic and abstract categories, they cover various linguistic aspects.

Thematic exercises directly relate to specific subjects, while abstract exercises offer broader language challenges.

Accessible independently, they provide focused language practice, enhancing linguistic proficiency beyond case investigations. If you are playing Language Detective in a learning environment, educators may ask you to revisit those exercises to analyze them or to provide further comments.



# Project Information

**Project Title: Language Detective – Interaction-Based Language Learning**

**Project Code: 2020-3-PL01-KA205-095063**

Language Detective is a K2 action Erasmus+ project. It focuses on developing soft skills and enhancing language learning methodologies through innovative approaches. The project integrates technology, gamification, and collaborative learning strategies to improve language acquisition among participants. Language Detective is aimed at fostering cultural understanding, skill development, and multilingualism through engaging and interactive platforms. These initiatives aim to address contemporary challenges in youth integration and language education while promoting cross-cultural exchanges and cooperation among participating institutions and learners across Europe. The project was developed by the following organizations:

- Stowarzyszenie Mistrzów Gry Tempus (Poland)
- Ingenious Knowledge (Germany)
- Goethe-Institut (UK branch)
- IZI School (Malta)

Website: <https://languagedetective.eduproject.eu/>

The Language Detective Player Handbook was created by  
Jakub Łapot