

JUNIOR DETECTIVE!

*Do you have what it takes to be a detective one day?
How would you solve this practice case?*

The case

Jet-setting celebrities Dexter and Dara Corbett arrived back from their trip to New York to find a scene of total devastation. Thieves had broken in through the back door of their mansion, disabled the alarm and CCTV systems and blown open the safe. Thousands of pounds worth of diamonds had been stolen.



Could you find the criminals? Think about what steps you would take to solve the crime, then check with the expert tips below.

Tip 1: Search for clues at the scene of the crime. A squad of specialist officers will help you look for evidence. This could appear in many forms: blood stains, hairs, fibres from clothes, fingerprints or even footprints. Sometimes these clues are tiny, almost invisible to the human eye, so get your magnifying glass out!



Crime Scene Investigators (CSIs) wear plastic suits to make sure that they don't leave their own DNA traces at the scene. Any fingerprints they find can be checked against the computerised criminal database. However, the thieves may have worn gloves.

The CSI team will also look for samples of **DNA** that the thieves may have left behind. Every person's body has a unique DNA code, which can be found in their blood, hair, skin, sweat and saliva. The tiniest fibre from someone's clothing can contain traces of their DNA.

A DNA sample can't prove that a person committed the crime, but it will prove without doubt that they were at the scene.

Tip 2: Interview anyone who might be able to help, such as the victims, their family, the cleaner or gardener, neighbours or passers-by. You might even appeal for help on a TV crime programme. Try filming a reconstruction of the crime to jog people's memories. Did anyone see or hear anything unusual?

Watch out!

Identical twins have the same DNA. Also a clever criminal might try to plant DNA from another person at the crime scene.



Watch out!

Some people may not have good memories or might try to deliberately 'frame' another person to pass the blame on to them.