

CASE 3

City of Los Angeles Police Department

¹She was lying on a tombstone in Forest Lawn Cemetery. ²She was beautifully dressed and perfectly groomed. ³Except for the dagger in her chest, one would have thought she was taking a nap.

⁴Dr. Mendez, the medical examiner, was at the scene when Detective Wise arrived at 9:22 a.m. ⁵"The body is cold—air temperature. ⁶So, she has been dead for a while," Dr. Mendez remarked. ⁷"And there's no blood anywhere. ⁸So, either she was killed elsewhere and carefully cleaned, or the dagger was added as a decoration. ⁹I should be able to tell you the cause of death in a couple of days."

¹⁰The body had been found by a gardener, Charley Kahn. ¹¹He said, "I was mowing at about 7:30 this morning when I saw a woman lying on a tombstone. ¹²We've had a little trouble with kids breaking in and drinking lately. ¹³First I thought one of them had passed out. ¹⁴Then I saw the dagger and called the police."

¹⁵Mort Tician, the president of the cemetery association, commented, "We lock the gates every night at 6:00 and open at 8:00 a.m. ¹⁶When the body was discovered, I called Sam Smiley, our head of security. ¹⁷Sam checked all the entrances. ¹⁸There was no sign that anyone had broken in."

¹⁹The body was identified as Amanda Smith. ²⁰Her fingerprints were in the national fingerprint registry. ²¹She had served five years for armed robbery in Nebraska.

²²Two days after the body was discovered, Dr. Mendez phoned Detective Wise and said, "She was poisoned. ²³Someone injected a large dose of nicotine into her right thigh. ²⁴Given the condition of the body, I suspect she'd been dead for about two days before she was found."

²⁵Detective Wise pondered the facts.



1.12 Review Exercise Each claim below is about Case 3. Circle the best answer for each claim.

1. **Example:**

The body was found near the main entrance to the cemetery.

- a. The meaning of the claim is clear.
- b. The claim is unclear because the meaning of “body” is not clear.
- c. The claim is unclear because the meaning of “near” is not clear.**
- d. The claim is unclear because the meaning of “cemetery” is not clear.

2. Charley Kahn said, “On a tombstone I saw the body.”

- a. The meaning of the claim is clear.
- b. The claim is unclear because the meaning of “on” is not clear.
- c. The claim is unclear because the meaning of “saw” is not clear.
- d. The claim is unclear because the meaning of the “body” is not clear.

3. The victim was an old woman.

- a. The meaning of the claim is clear.
- b. The claim is unclear because the meaning of “victim” is not clear.
- c. The claim is unclear because the meaning of “old” is not clear.
- d. The claim is unclear because the meaning of “woman” is not clear.

4. Sam Smiley said, “At 6:00 all the gates were locked.”

- a. The meaning of the claim is clear.
- b. The claim is unclear because the meaning of “6:00” is not clear.
- c. The claim is unclear because the meaning of “gates” is not clear.
- d. The claim is unclear because the meaning of “locked” is not clear.

5. A track was within twenty feet of the victim’s body.

- a. The meaning of the claim is clear.
- b. The claim is unclear because the meaning of “track” is not clear.
- c. The claim is unclear because the meaning of “twenty feet” is not clear.
- d. The claim is unclear because the meaning of “the victim’s body” is not clear.

6. If the dagger had killed her, the body would have been swimming in blood.

- a. The meaning of the claim is clear.
- b. The claim is unclear because the meaning of “dagger” is not clear.
- c. The claim is unclear because the meaning of “the body” is not clear.
- d. The claim is unclear because the meaning of “swimming in blood” is not clear.

7. The signs indicate that the victim had been dead for almost a day.

- a. The meaning of the claim is clear.
- b. The claim is unclear because the meaning of “victim” is not clear.
- c. The claim is unclear because the meaning of “almost a day” is not clear.
- d. The claim is unclear because the meaning of “dead” is not clear.