

# OSINT CHALLENGE 1

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## Challenge Write-Up: *The House That Believed*

### Challenge Description Recap

Before the wizarding world spread across continents, a small Muggle house in the United Kingdom took a leap of faith and released the very first tale of **The Boy Who Lived** into the world.

Trace the origins of that first spellbound book.

**Find the name of the publishing house that first brought Harry Potter to life in the UK.**

**Flag format:** `EXC{publishername_suffix}`

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### Understanding the Clue (Beginner Breakdown)

Let's simplify what the challenge is asking:

- **"The Boy Who Lived"** → This clearly refers to **Harry Potter**
- **"First tale"** → The very first Harry Potter book
- **"Small Muggle house"** → A metaphor for a **publishing house**
- **"United Kingdom"** → We must focus on the **UK publisher**, not international ones

So our task is:

Find **which publishing house first published Harry Potter in the UK**

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### Step 1: Identify the First Harry Potter Book

The first book in the series is:

| **Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone**

This is the book that introduced Harry Potter to the world.

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## Step 2: Search for the Original UK Publisher

Now, search something like:

```
first publisher of Harry Potter in the UK
```

or

```
Harry Potter Philosopher's Stone original UK publisher
```

From reliable sources (Wikipedia, official publishing history, book references), we find:

| The first Harry Potter book was published in the UK by **Bloomsbury Publishing**

This publishing house took the initial risk and released the book when Harry Potter was still unknown.

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## Step 3: Format the Flag Correctly

The challenge specifies the flag format:

```
EXC{publishername_suffix}
```

From the solution file and verification, the correct suffix is:

```
bloomsbury_publishing
```

So the final flag becomes:

```
EXC{bloomsbury_publishing}
```

This matches the provided correct flag

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## Final Answer

Flag:

```
EXC{bloomsbury_publishing}
```

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## Key Takeaways for Beginners

- Always **translate poetic clues into plain meaning**
  - Identify **keywords hidden in storytelling**
  - Focus on **first / original / earliest** when mentioned
  - Pay attention to **geography clues** (UK vs worldwide)
  - Double-check the **flag format**
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