

A briefcase of secrets

Two spies, Jayda and Tariq, have infiltrated enemy lines in order to learn where exactly the enemies will strike next. Jayda has managed to retrieve a confidential briefcase full of military secrets. Jayda must get this briefcase to Tariq who has an encrypted telephone to call their commander.

Jayda and Tariq cannot be seen together as it might cause suspicion, but they can send the briefcase to one another using a messenger. Unfortunately, messengers have a habit of peeking inside deliveries. Luckily, Jayda and Tariq each have their own set of padlocks to lock the briefcase but they cannot exchange keys. How can Jayda and Tariq exchange the secrets without the messenger peeking inside?

Sample solution:

Jayda can put a lock on the briefcase and send it to Tariq. Tariq cannot unlock the briefcase, but puts on another lock and sends it back. Now Jayda unlocks the lock she initially put on the briefcase and sends it back. Finally, Tariq can unlock his own lock to access the secrets inside and call his commander.