

Official Hints for Mind-bending Variety Puzzles Volume 1

This guide provides hints for finding the secret puzzle in the book. You will *not* find the answer within these pages, unless you are able to make that magical cognitive leap that reveals the hidden meaning of the clues.

All I can tell you is that 99% of what you read here is relevant and connected. (The 1% is the glue without which communication is impossible.)

Remember, these are *hints*, not gimmes. You're going to have to do some research, as well as comb through the book to find some of the clues pointed to by this guide. Have fun and don't give up!

One Number Will Put You On the Right Track	i
Nestled Squarely Within	ii
Exactly What You Are Looking For	iii
Noughts and Crosses	iv
Understand the Rules of Engagement	v
Mixed Signals	vi
Bend Your Ear	vii
Examination	viii
Relationships	ix

One Number Will Put You On the Right Track

Write that important number on this page. Memorize it.

Nestled Squarely Within

To make sense of the remaining hints, fill in the box.

Alagasta

The prince's advance fee

9 is too powerful, by half!

Exactly What You Are Looking For



Noughts and Crosses

Sephy and Callum participated in a head-to-head Tic-tac-toe match.

Eerily, no draws occurred in this match.

Even more strangely, Callum won every game where he had "O".

Sephy won every game where she had "X".

Ultimately, Sephy won more games than Callum.

Draw an O or X on the grids below, using the information above.

Observe the pattern made by your X's and O's.

Keep referring to *Nestled Squarely Within* and the pattern.

Underneath each grid is another clue.

	X	O
O	X	O
X	O	X

Kelvin paid 373.15 to repair his water heater. Now, both are _____!

X		X
X	O	O
O	X	O

Glenda tries to solve her problems on her own. Remember, she _____.

X	O	
X	X	O
O	X	O

Source of Feb. 2nd meat.

O	X	O
	X	O
O	O	X

This man was in the hole, just like his _____.

O	O	X
X		O
X	O	X

Immediately follows cryptic phone messages.

O	O	X
X	X	
X	O	O

Salad doesn't figure in the clue puzzle where it appears.

O	X	O
O	X	X
	O	X

Food fight!

O	X	O
X	X	O
O		X

Belonged to Martin.

O	X	X
X	X	O
O	O	

Read letters carefully. You'll find a bar in a clue puzzle.

Understand the Rules of Engagement

Hide and Seek	Sort it Out	Fill -er Up!
Mssng Ltrs	Classified!	Common Connection
Perfect Combination	Trivial Pursuit	Process of Elimination

Mixed Signals

The book contains overt clues, indirect clues, keys and red herrings. Overt clues have a direct one-to-one correspondence with the One Number and the box on the previous page. Indirect clues point to some of the overt clues.

Keys are embedded within various puzzles, as are red herrings. This may not help you unless you are close to figuring out the secret. Just know that serendipity (happy coincidence) plays a part in a few of the signals.

If you noticed anything in the book informing you that something was not part of the secret puzzle, believe it. This is hard enough without my resorting to trickery.

Bend Your Ear

Spoken aloud, the wordplay in one particular *answer* conceals one clue.

Examination

Although you found this guide after carefully examining the puzzle book's table of contents, rest assured, you don't need a fine-toothed comb and a magnifying glass to locate all of the clues. (You **do** need to carefully examine the book in order to get the correct numbers for *Nestled Squarely Within*.)

No clues are hidden in such a way that would require you to decode the instructions, grid or answer pages. Only one clue is explicitly hidden in the answer to a puzzle. (It's the same puzzle mentioned in *Bend Your Ear*.)

Some of the clues are images. Hopefully, this guide will help you narrow the scope of what you need to study closely.

Relationships

Refer to *Nestled Squarely Within*, otherwise this will make no sense at all.

