

WORK RIDDLES VOCABULARY

1) A railroad **tycoon** is found murdered on a Sunday morning.

His **unemployed** wife calls the police, who question the wife and the servants. The police collect the following **alibis**: the wife was in bed, the butler was polishing the silverware, the maid was getting the mail, the cook was preparing breakfast, the driver had recently been **fired** and so was nowhere near the house, the gardener was **on strike** because he was unhappy with the **benefits**, low **salary**, and lack of a **pension**, and was demanding a **pay rise** and **bonuses**.

The police arrest the murderer on the spot. Who did it, and how did the police know?

2) Mr. Brown was killed on Sunday afternoon. His **retired** wife said she was reading a book, so the police went on to interview the rest of the **staff**. The butler said he was taking a shower at the time of the murder, and said that it must have been one of his **colleagues**. The chef said he was making breakfast, and provided **references** from other places he'd

worked to show he was a kind and gentle **employee**. The maid said she had been doing nothing; she didn't care about the job anymore because she was about to be made **redundant**. The gardener said he was sending out **applications** to find new job **vacancies**, saying the **wages** for his **position** were far too low. Who did it?

3) A Japanese ship was sailing in the Pacific Ocean. When Japanese captain of the ship decided to take a shower. He put his diamond chain and golden watch in the table drawer and went for shower and returned ten minutes later to find his possessions were missing.

"I have over 25 years **experience** sailing ships!" the captain bellowed, "and never have I ever experienced a theft. Come forward and explain where you were and what you were doing for the last ten minutes."

All of the staff stepped forward. Firstly, the cook said "I was in the kitchen preparing lunch."

Secondly, a deckhand stepped forwards, "I was at the top of the ship correcting the flag which was upside down."

Thirdly, the engineer spoke up, “I was in generator room checking the generator.”

Fourth to speak was a **volunteer** deckhand, who was not being paid but simply there to gain **experience**, and for the simple **perk** of free travel.

“I was sleeping after the night shift.” she said.

After listening to all of them , the captain realized that one of them was telling a lie and must be the thief.

VOCABULARY

On strike - Refusing to work until conditions or pay improve.

unemployed - *adj.* not engaged in a gainful occupation; *noun* people who are not working.

vacancy - *noun* a job that needs to be filled

application - *noun* a verbal or written request for employment

bonus - *noun* an additional payment (or other remuneration) to employees as a means of increasing output

perk - *noun* an incidental benefit awarded for certain types of employment (especially if it is regarded as a right)

pension - *noun* a regular payment to a person that is intended to allow them to subsist without working.

benefit - *noun* something that aids or promotes well-being.

retired - *adj.* no longer active in your work or profession; discharged as too old for use or work; especially with a pension;

fired - *adj.* having lost your job

reference - *noun* a formal recommendation by a former employer to a potential future employer describing the person's qualifications and dependability.

Candidate - *noun* someone who is considered for something

colleague - *noun* a person who is member of your class or profession; an associate you work with

employee - *noun* a worker who is hired to perform a job

position - *noun* a job in an organization.

Experience - *noun* the accumulation of knowledge or skill that results from direct participation in events or activities;

wages - *noun* a recompense for worthy acts or retribution for wrongdoing

salary - *noun* something that remunerates

volunteer - *adj.* without payment; *noun* a person who performs voluntary work.

Staff - *noun* the people who work in an organisation

redundant - *adj.* more than is needed, desired, or required, and so no longer in work.