

Read the case below to find evidence to identify the innocent and guilty suspects. Remember, the story and suspects' statements are true.

The Thieving Blatherskite

¹Earlier this year, authorities in Fenton investigated the Thieving Blatherskite—a thief who stole an expensive dress from Fenton's Finery. ²Three sales associates described the thief as a disheveled customer, whose incessant clattering caused agitation with the staff.

³The information from employees narrowed the list of culprits to the four suspects shown below.

⁴After further questioning, one suspect confessed, and police discovered the dress among her chattels later that day.

Sales Associate #1: ⁵"I have worked for the store for a long time and know the suspects well.

⁶Leila Haskins is notable for her badinage and Ann Peterson for her pell-mell mien. ⁷On the day of the theft, I had an immersing conversation with Ella Madison before Petra Cummins interjected."

Sales Associate #2: ⁸"My shift was just beginning when the thief stole the dress. ⁹I overheard my peeved cohorts griping about Ann Peterson and Petra Cummins—the latter for being taciturn."

Sales Associate #3: ¹⁰"When she's in the store, Ella Madison commandeers my attention. ¹¹I have worked exclusively with the natty customer for the past year. ¹²She is a pertinacious but loyal customer."



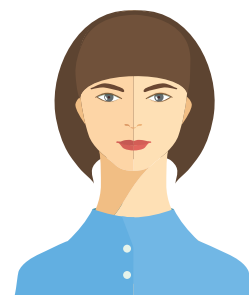
Ann Peterson



Leila Haskins



Ella Madison



Petra Cummins

Based on the evidence, circle the Thieving Blatherskite.

After solving the case, write the best vocabulary word to complete each sentence. Each word can only be used once.

mien	natty	peevled	cohorts	interject
badinage	chattels	clattering	incessantly	taciturn
finery	disheveled	immersing	pertinacious	
agitation	gripe	pell-mell	commandeered	

1. The leaky faucet dripped _____ all night.
2. The _____ witness was reluctant to answer questions.
3. Speak louder so I can hear you over the group's _____.
4. I had a/an _____ appearance after the windy walk.
5. The protestors' _____ delayed the start of the project.
6. During an emergency, supplies can be _____ by authorities.
7. My _____ was on display during the black-tie event.
8. We were in a hurry, so we packed in a/an _____ manner.
9. The bedroom is too small to contain my _____.
10. The conversation's flow will be smoother if you don't _____.
11. The _____ in the program have similar backgrounds.
12. To discourage their _____, the teacher moved the friends apart.
13. The first chapter is dull, but the rest of the book is _____.
14. I entered the makeover contest to improve my _____.
15. In anticipation of the promotion, I invested in a/an _____ wardrobe.

Answers

The Thieving Blatherskite (pages 2-3)



The Innocent

Leila Haskins: From sentence 2, the thief agitates the staff with clattering. In sentence 6, Haskins is notable for her badinage. This eliminates Leila Haskins.

Ella Madison: Employees describe the thief as disheveled in sentence 2, but Madison is natty in sentence 11. In sentence 2, incessant clattering agitates the staff. Madison is having an immersing conversation in sentence 7. This eliminates Ella Madison.

Petra Cummins: In sentence 2, the thief incessantly clatters. Cummins is taciturn in sentence 9. This eliminates Petra Cummins.

The Thieving Blatherskite

Ann Peterson is the Thieving Blatherskite because the process of elimination exonerates the other suspects. From sentence 4, we know one suspect confessed and had the dress among her chattels. In sentence 2, the thief is described as disheveled. Peterson's mien is described as pell-mell in sentence 6. In sentence 2, the thief is agitating the staff. Employees are griping about Peterson in sentence 9.

1. incessantly
2. taciturn
3. clattering
4. disheveled or pell-mell
5. agitation
6. commandeered
7. finery
8. disheveled or pell-mell
9. chattels
10. interject
11. cohorts

12. badinage
13. immersing
14. mien
15. natty

Vocabulary Words and Appropriate Synonym for Context Within Case

Vocabulary Word	Synonym
agitation	uproar
badinage	playful banter
blatherskite	one who talks nonsense
chattels	belongings
clattering	noisy talk
cohorts	associates
commandeered	seized
disheveled	lacking order
finery	dressy clothing
gripe	complain
immersing	interesting
incessantly	constantly
interject	interrupt
mien	appearance
natty	sharply dressed
peevd	annoyed
pell-mell	sloppy
pertinacious	stubborn
taciturn	closedmouthed