

The Little Village Logic Club

Six complete puzzles to try

A free sampler from Hazel Maple. Includes the solving guide, the first six puzzles, their grids, hints and worked answers. Page numbers inside match the full book.

THE LITTLE VILLAGE LOGIC CLUB

36 Large-Print Puzzles with Gentle Clues,
Helpful Hints and Step-by-Step Solutions

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Make yourself comfortable

First edition, 2026

Hazel Maple

Original fictional scenarios and puzzle arrangements created for this edition. Names and events are invented. Any resemblance to actual people or events is coincidental.

Keep this copy for your personal use. Please do not redistribute the book or its complete puzzle collection.

This is a book of pencil-and-paper entertainment. No health or therapeutic outcome is promised. The puzzles require no outside knowledge and no timed performance.

Print design: 8.5 x 11 inches, with 16-point main text, clues, grid labels, hints and solutions. Small running headers and page numbers help you navigate.

You can solve alone or with a friend. If you work together, take turns explaining a deduction before marking the grid. Use the hint when you want a nudge, then return to the clues.

A quiet place to think

A kettle clicks off. Someone brings a cake. A few parcels arrive in the wrong order. Nothing disastrous happens in this village, but there is always a small muddle to put right.

Each puzzle asks you to match people with things and arrange them from first to last. Every name and item is used once. Only the clues are needed: there are no hidden facts in the stories and no outside knowledge to look up.

Start at the beginning if you are new to logic puzzles. The first six puzzles have three places, the next eighteen have four, and the final twelve have five. Larger puzzles may take longer; the order is a gentle learning path, not a timed test.

Use a pencil. Cross out a match when you know it is impossible. Put a tick in a square when you know it is right. There is no penalty for turning to a hint or starting again.

Each puzzle has its own grid page. Hints are grouped after the puzzles, and the worked solutions follow. Keep the solution pages covered until you want them.

Three rules do most of the work

- 1. Each person gets one item and one place.** If Ada is first, no other person is first. If Ada has the mug, Ada cannot also have the jug, and nobody else has the mug.
- 2. A match carries across the grids.** If Ada has the mug and the mug is third, Ada is third too. This is why there are grids for people/place, items/place and people/items.
- 3. The last possibility must be right.** If a person cannot be first or third in a three-place puzzle, that person must be second. If two people can only fill first and second, the other people must use other places.

In clues, an item stands for the person paired with it. “Coffee is first” means the person collecting coffee is first. “Ada is earlier than coffee” means Ada comes before the person collecting coffee.

An item may be called an “entry”: the Coffee entry means the person matched to Coffee. This wording keeps colours, objects and other labels consistent across the puzzles.

Earlier and later refer only to the stated order. They do not tell you a clock time, an age or a distance.

Read each clue literally

Paired with: the person and item share the same place.

Not paired with: they belong to different places.

Earlier than: somewhere before, not necessarily immediately before.

Immediately before: in the next place before. In four places, the possible pairs are first/second, second/third and third/fourth.

Exactly one place separates: there is one occupied place between the two entries. The clue also tells you which entry is earlier.

Neighbouring places, in either order: consecutive places, but either entry could come first.

Do not assume a name indicates gender, age or a relationship. A name is simply a label. The order of names in the lists is not a clue.

Try a three-place example

Ada, Bo and Cy each collect a different drink: cocoa, coffee or tea. They collect their drinks one at a time. Work out who has what and in which order.

1. Ada is immediately before Bo.
2. Bo is second.
3. Tea is paired with Ada.
4. Coffee is not paired with Cy.

Step 1. Bo is second (clue 2). Ada is immediately before Bo (clue 1), so Ada is first. Cy is the only person left for third.

Step 2. Ada has tea (clue 3). Coffee cannot belong to Cy (clue 4) or Ada, who already has tea. Therefore Bo has coffee. Cy has cocoa.

Answer: first - Ada, tea; second - Bo, coffee; third - Cy, cocoa. Check all four clues against this answer. Each still holds true.

When you reach a blank square

Read the clues again after every firm match. A clue that gave little away at first may become useful once another place is filled.

For an “earlier than” clue, the earlier entry cannot be last and the later entry cannot be first. An immediate pair moves together: if one half loses a possible place, check the other half.

If a person and an item have no possible place in common, they cannot be paired. Mark that cross in the people/items grid. If they are paired, they must share all remaining possible places.

The grids are a working space, not a required method. You can also write possible places beside each name and item. Cross possibilities out until each entry has only one.

A hint gives one useful deduction. The solutions show a possible route through the clues. You may find a shorter or different route; if every clue is satisfied, your route works.

In the worked solutions, a list after a name gives the places still possible at that step. Each step builds on the previous ones. “Different places” applies the rule that every entry in a category occupies its own place.

Before turning the page, check that each person, item and place appears exactly once in your answer. Then read every clue against the completed order.

Your village visits

First steps: puzzles 1-6

Finding your rhythm: puzzles 7-24

A little more to untangle: puzzles 25-36

Hints: one useful nudge for each puzzle

Worked solutions: an answer and a route to it

Every puzzle occupies a story-and-clues page followed by a grid page.
Page references beside each puzzle point to its hint and solution.

Puzzles begin on page 10.

Hints begin on page 82.

Worked solutions begin on page 88.

Open the book. Keep both pages in view.

The clues sit on the left-hand page and the grids on the right. You can read a clue and mark a grid without turning the page. Use the answer table below the clues to write your final matching order.

Take the first puzzle slowly. Notice what “earlier” rules out, follow an immediate pair, then see what place is left. When you finish, compare every clue with your answer.

Ready? The kettle is on.

01 The early kettle

At the village cafe, three neighbours collect a different drink each. The kettle is slow, so only one order is ready at a time. Match each neighbour with a drink and work out the order in which the three drinks are collected.

People: Amira, Ben, Cleo.

Drinks: Mint tea, Cocoa, Coffee.

1. The Mint tea entry is earlier in the order than Cleo.
2. The Coffee entry is not first.
3. Amira is immediately before the Mint tea entry.

Your answer

Place	Person	Drinks
First		
Second		
Third		

Find each match

People / place

	First	Second	Third
Amira			
Ben			
Cleo			

Items / place

	First	Second	Third
Mint tea			
Cocoa			
Coffee			

People / items

	Mint tea	Cocoa	Coffee
Amira			
Ben			
Cleo			

A tick means yes. A cross means no. Use every entry once.

02 Parcels at the gate

Three neighbours collect parcels from the gatehouse, one after another. Each takes a different coloured box. The labels are perfectly legible; only the collection list has gone astray. Work out who takes each box and the order of collection.

People: Dara, Eli, Faye.

Parcels: Blue box, Red box, Gold box.

1. The Blue box entry and the Gold box entry occupy neighbouring places, in either order.
2. The Blue box entry is immediately before Dara.
3. Dara is earlier in the order than Eli.

Your answer

Place	Person	Parcels
First		
Second		
Third		

Find each match

People / place

	<i>First</i>	<i>Second</i>	<i>Third</i>
Dara	☐	☐	☐
Eli	☐	☐	☐
Faye	☐	☐	☐

Items / place

	<i>First</i>	<i>Second</i>	<i>Third</i>
Blue box	☐	☐	☐
Red box	☐	☐	☐
Gold box	☐	☐	☐

People / items

	<i>Blue box</i>	<i>Red box</i>	<i>Gold box</i>
Dara	☐	☐	☐
Eli	☐	☐	☐
Faye	☐	☐	☐

A tick means yes. A cross means no. Use every entry once.

03 A shelf for seedlings

Three gardeners arrive at the seedling stall one at a time. Each chooses a different herb. The stallholder wants to put their names beside the right pots in the order they arrived. Match each gardener, herb and arrival place.

People: Hugo, Iris, Jonah.

Herbs: Basil, Mint, Thyme.

1. The Thyme entry is immediately before Hugo.
2. Jonah is not third.
3. Hugo is earlier in the order than the Mint entry.

Your answer

Place	Person	Herbs
First		
Second		
Third		

Find each match

People / place

	<i>First</i>	<i>Second</i>	<i>Third</i>
Hugo	☐	☐	☐
Iris	☐	☐	☐
Jonah	☐	☐	☐

Items / place

	<i>First</i>	<i>Second</i>	<i>Third</i>
Basil	☐	☐	☐
Mint	☐	☐	☐
Thyme	☐	☐	☐

People / items

	<i>Basil</i>	<i>Mint</i>	<i>Thyme</i>
Hugo	☐	☐	☐
Iris	☐	☐	☐
Jonah	☐	☐	☐

A tick means yes. A cross means no. Use every entry once.

04 The cake stand

Three bakers place their cakes on the village hall table, one baker at a time. Each brings a different kind of cake. Reconstruct the order in which the cakes reach the table and match each cake with its baker.

People: Kit, Lena, Milo.

Cakes: Lemon cake, Apple cake, Plum cake.

1. Lena is immediately before the Lemon cake entry.
2. Kit is earlier in the order than the Lemon cake entry.
3. Milo and the Apple cake entry occupy neighbouring places, in either order.

Your answer

Place	Person	Cakes
First		
Second		
Third		

Find each match

People / place

	First	Second	Third
Kit			
Lena			
Milo			

Items / place

	First	Second	Third
Lemon cake			
Apple cake			
Plum cake			

People / items

	Lemon cake	Apple cake	Plum cake
Kit			
Lena			
Milo			

A tick means yes. A cross means no. Use every entry once.

05 Umbrellas by the door

Rain sends three walkers into the library one after another. Each leaves a different coloured umbrella by the door. Match the walkers with their umbrella colours and place them in arrival order. There is no need to know anything about the weather beyond this scene.

People: Nora, Omar, Pia.

Colours: Green, Yellow, Purple.

1. The Purple entry is immediately before Omar.
2. The Green entry and the Purple entry occupy neighbouring places, in either order.
3. The Yellow entry is earlier in the order than Pia.

Your answer

Place	Person	Colours
First		
Second		
Third		

Find each match

People / place

	First	Second	Third
Nora			
Omar			
Pia			

Items / place

	First	Second	Third
Green			
Yellow			
Purple			

People / items

	Green	Yellow	Purple
Nora			
Omar			
Pia			

A tick means yes. A cross means no. Use every entry once.

06 A song before lunch

Three musicians each play a short solo before the village lunch. They use different instruments and perform one at a time. Match each musician with an instrument and find the order of the three performances.

People: Rafi, Suki, Theo.

Instruments: Piano, Flute, Violin.

- 1. Rafi is immediately before the Piano entry.
- 2. Theo is earlier in the order than Rafi.
- 3. Suki and the Violin entry occupy neighbouring places, in either order.

Your answer

Place	Person	Instruments
First		
Second		
Third		

Find each match

People / place

	First	Second	Third
Rafi			
Suki			
Theo			

Items / place

	First	Second	Third
Piano			
Flute			
Violin			

People / items

	Piano	Flute	Violin
Rafi			
Suki			
Theo			

A tick means yes. A cross means no. Use every entry once.

A small nudge

01 The early kettle

Clue 1: Mint tea must be first or second.

02 Parcels at the gate

Clue 2: Blue box must be first or second.

03 A shelf for seedlings

Clue 1: Thyme must be first or second.

04 The cake stand

Clue 1: Lena must be first or second.

05 Umbrellas by the door

Clue 1: Purple must be first or second.

06 A song before lunch

Clue 1: Rafi must be first or second.

01 The early kettle

Place	Person	Drinks
First	Amira	Cocoa
Second	Ben	Mint tea
Third	Cleo	Coffee

Deduction route: possible places

Clue 1: Mint tea - first or second; Cleo - second or third.

Clue 2: Coffee - second or third.

Clue 3: Amira - first; Mint tea - second.

Different places: Ben - second or third.

Different places: Cocoa - first; Coffee - third.

Clue 1: Cleo - third.

Different places: Ben - second.

Every clue is satisfied by the completed table.

02 Parcels at the gate

Place	Person	Parcels
First	Faye	Blue box
Second	Dara	Gold box
Third	Eli	Red box

Deduction route: possible places

Clue 2: Blue box - first or second; Dara - second or third.

Clue 3: Dara - second; Eli - third.

Different places: Faye - first.

Clue 2: Blue box - first.

Different places: Red box - second or third; Gold box - second or third.

Clue 1: Gold box - second.

Different places: Red box - third.

Every clue is satisfied by the completed table.

03 A shelf for seedlings

Place	Person	Herbs
First	Jonah	Thyme
Second	Hugo	Basil
Third	Iris	Mint

Deduction route: possible places

Clue 1: Thyme - first or second; Hugo - second or third.

Clue 2: Jonah - first or second.

Clue 3: Hugo - second; Mint - third.

Different places: Iris - third; Jonah - first.

Different places: Basil - first or second.

Clue 1: Thyme - first.

Different places: Basil - second.

Every clue is satisfied by the completed table.

04 The cake stand

Place	Person	Cakes
First	Kit	Plum cake
Second	Lena	Apple cake
Third	Milo	Lemon cake

Deduction route: possible places

Clue 1: Lena - first or second; Lemon cake - second or third.

Clue 2: Kit - first or second.

Different places: Milo - third.

Clue 3: Apple cake - second.

Different places: Lemon cake - third; Plum cake - first.

Clue 1: Lena - second.

Different places: Kit - first.

Every clue is satisfied by the completed table.

05 Umbrellas by the door

Place	Person	Colours
First	Nora	Yellow
Second	Pia	Purple
Third	Omar	Green

Deduction route: possible places

Clue 1: Purple - first or second; Omar - second or third.

Clue 3: Yellow - first or second; Pia - second or third.

Different places: Nora - first.

Different places: Green - third.

Clue 2: Purple - second.

Different places: Yellow - first.

Clue 1: Omar - third.

Different places: Pia - second.

Every clue is satisfied by the completed table.

06 A song before lunch

Place	Person	Instruments
First	Theo	Flute
Second	Rafi	Violin
Third	Suki	Piano

Deduction route: possible places

Clue 1: Rafi - first or second; Piano - second or third.

Clue 2: Theo - first; Rafi - second.

Different places: Suki - third.

Clue 1: Piano - third.

Clue 3: Violin - second.

Different places: Flute - first.

Every clue is satisfied by the completed table.