

Section 1. Paramahjong Mysteries

“Paramahjong” mysteries are not really mahjong mysteries, they are “**around**” (“para”) mahjong. The reader is given the opportunity to recollect some very general facts about mahjong and some very basic rules in this section.

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Mysteries

1-1. Bamboo Image Tile

Dear reader, are you ready?

Please, consider a typical mahjong game set.

Question: How many "tiles with a Bamboo image" are in a typical mahjong set?

[Hint](#)

[Solution](#)



1-2. The Hound of the Baskervilles

Mrs. Hudson was invited to watch a game of mahjong for the first time ever. The session was conveniently arranged right at 221B Baker Street. The game was played by Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, Inspector Lestrade, and very special guest – Wan Dongtiao, clerk of the Chinese embassy, an experienced mahjong player.

Just after the game had finished, Mrs. Hudson asked, "It is very strange. Why was the name of such a breed of **dog** mentioned during the game? If only the **Hound of the Baskervilles** might be of such a breed, then Sir Charles Baskerville might escape the curse."

Question: What was the breed of dog Mrs. Hudson heard during mahjong game?

[Hint](#)

[Solution](#)



1-3. Hand Structure? It's Elementary!

Sherlock Holmes explains to Mrs. Hudson that the simplest winning **hand** in mahjong has fourteen tiles in 3-3-3-3-2 distribution.

"Holmes! It's rather elementary!"

Question: What ingenious insight came to Mrs. Hudson?

[Hint](#)

[Solution](#)



1-4. Robbery of the Century

"Heavens! The world is falling apart!" exclaimed Mrs. Hudson while bringing morning coffee to Holmes and Watson.

"Here is an article. Please, listen carefully", "Three solid gentlemen were mixed up in a robbery of a police chief. Loot was taken only by one of them. The whole event was observed by at least two dozen other gentlemen." "Heavens!"

"Mrs. Hudson, please, calm down! Oh, it's rather elementary. Look only at..."

Question: What should Mrs. Hudson take a look at? Please explain what has happened.

[Hint](#)


[Solution](#)



1-5. How many points does Mrs. Hudson have?

So, Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, Inspector Lestrade and Mrs. Hudson are playing mahjong at 221B Baker Street. At the table Mrs. Hudson has:



The last tile taken (from the wall) is .

Question: How many points does Mrs. Hudson have (MCR Rules)?

[Hint](#)

[Solution](#)



Hints

1-1. Bamboo Image Tile

Search thoroughly amongst the Bamboo suit tiles and ... Flower tiles.

[Solution](#)



1-2. The Hound of the Baskervilles

Check declaration words.

[Solution](#)



1-3. Hand Structure? It's Elementary!

Mrs. Hudson needed just 5 seconds to get the answer.

[Solution](#)



1-4. Robbery of the Century

The whole affair takes place at a mahjong table.

[Solution](#)



1-5. How many points does Mrs. Hudson have?

Why are tiles shown in several layers?











[Solution](#)



Solutions

1-1. Bamboo Image Tile

Let's take a look at typical mahjong set. There are thirty-three tiles with a Bamboo image:

four identical tiles of Bamboo suit tiles numbered from 2 to 9 ( ,  ,  ,  ,  ,  ,  , ) and one tile of the "Bamboo" flower (). Bamboo-1 is typically depicted in a form of a bird ().



1-2. The Hound of the Baskervilles

Mrs. Hudson noticed that Wan Dongtiao took a Chow and pronounced "Chi!" The next two calls with Flower replacement sounded like "Hua!", "Hua!" Altogether – "Chi-Hua-Hua".



1-3. Hand Structure? It's Elementary!

Mrs. Hudson unintentionally looked at her hand and bent her fingers slightly. "What is it?" she thought. Four fingers consist of 3 phalanxes, and a thumb – of 2 only. "That's exactly 3-3-3-3-2!"



1-4. Robbery of the Century

Mrs. Hudson was reading ... 'Mahjong News'. The article was about a mahjong hand. Inspector Lestrade declared a Kong which was robbed by all **three** other players. Only one could win under MCR Rules. This took place at the MCR London Championship with dozens of spectators.



1-5. How many points does Mrs. Hudson have?

Since this is a paramahjong mystery there would be no rational solution.

Please look at the rows of tiles – 6+6+2 – and read carefully what is written in the question: “Last tile taken”.

The above tiles are in the **discard** zone! No points are won and the game is still going on.

