

# The Christmas Pudding Conundrum

## Answers

### Clue 1 A Cut above the Rest

tion	sion	ssion	cian
invention	expansion	admission	musician
hesitation	extension	permission	electrician
			magician

The word ending with the most matching words is **cian** so the naughty elf's hair must be **black**.

### Clue 2 A Shred of Evidence

Sentence	dis-	mis-	in-
I can't believe an elf would <b>mis</b> behave in this way.		✓	
We are so <b>dis</b> appointed that someone would do this.	✓		
Who would make such an <b>in</b> correct choice?			✓
It was wrong of the naughty elf to <b>mis</b> lead us.		✓	
I totally <b>dis</b> agree with what the naughty elf has done.	✓		
Mrs Claus has been <b>in</b> credibly upset about this.			✓
The naughty elf has been so <b>in</b> considerate.			✓
Surely, Mrs Claus didn't just <b>mis</b> read the recipe.		✓	
Did the naughty elf simply <b>dis</b> appear after their trick?	✓		
Who would <b>dis</b> respect Mrs Claus like this?	✓		

The prefix which is used most is **dis-** so the naughty elf's hat must be **red**.

### Clue 3 A Tasty Hint

**super-**  
market  
man  
star

**anti-**  
septic  
clockwise  
social  
biotic

**auto-**  
biography  
graph

The prefix with the most matching root words is **anti-** so the naughty elf's favourite Christmas snack must be **cookies**.

## Clue 4 **Elf and Safety**

Sentence	Missing Punctuation
Bumble, Zippy and Sparkles did not enjoy the Christmas pudding.	comma
Mrs Claus' Christmas pudding has been ruined.	apostrophe
Who could show such little respect?	question mark
What a horrible trick that was!	exclamation mark
Will the police catch the elf before Boxing Day?	question mark
Do the police know all of the elves' whereabouts?	apostrophe
Why would they do that to poor Mrs Claus?	question mark
How rude of the elf to do that!	exclamation mark
I can't believe someone would do something like this.	apostrophe
I don't want to see the look on Santa's face when he hears.	apostrophe

The most common piece of missing punctuation is **an apostrophe** so the naughty elf must be **an inventor**.

## Clue 5 **Putting Their Foot in It**

The correct answer should read:

Plan to ruin Christmas:

1. Get up **early** on Christmas Eve.
2. **Arrive** at Mrs Claus' cottage and enter **through** the back gate.
3. Find the sugar tin and make it all **disappear**.
4. **Remember** to fill the tin back up with salt.
5. Make a quick escape and hide...

There were **5** spelling mistakes in the note so that must be the elf's shoe size.

**The naughty elf who swapped the sugar must be Buddy Glittersnoot.**