



Mystery Objects:

The object I will give you has a purpose. The structure and design of the object will give you clues. You may not be able to determine the function but you should be able to create a defensible hypothesis about the object's use. As in real science, you will have what is before you. No clues are given outside of evidence you gain from examining structure.

You are to use several levels of thinking. The first is to examine the object and try to see if it relates to anything you have used before (if you know what the object is actually used for or have used one, please select another object). This level of thinking is connecting. For example, something used for fastening two objects together might have some sort of hook on both ends.

The second level is to look at how the parts of the object work and try to determine use from the parts of the object. This, of course, works better if there are interconnected parts in the object. If a part of the object spins, what would that work with?

The third layer is to propose a use and argue the counterpoint. For example, if you think that this object is used to anchor things in concrete, but the metal is smooth and flexible, it may not work for the proposed purpose.

When you get stuck, do some brainstorming. As always, have your recorder keep an accurate record of your work. You will turn in a short paragraph or two explaining what you know about the structure of the object and what you believe it may be used for. You need to back up your proposed use with evidence from the structural examination.

