

FINAL EXAM (META-META), PART ONE: Phone Tap

Well, Agents, congratulations are in order! You've successfully passed your classes AND determined the four objects that Carmen's minions stole from Boston. Senior ACME officers are already traveling to find that quartet of quivering quacks and restore what they snatched. You're now ready for your Final Exam...capturing Carmen Sandiego herself!

Catching Carmen won't be easy, though. As always, the first thing we need to do is determine what she stole--have to have evidence to get the warrant. To that end, Alexandra Grambelle, ACME's Head of Telecommunications (and chief gossip!) has successfully intercepted phone calls from Carmen's operatives. They're planning on using the VILE Morphemic Morpher to transform the items they stole into different objects! Alexandra has been able to hack the process, but not by much. There must be a connection between the loot, the intended object, and what the goal of this operation is...find it, and you can begin the quest to capture Carmen!

PHONE CONVERSATION #1:
(Indiscriminate munching noises)

Mmm...mmm! Carmen, this is the tastiest caper I've ever pulled!

Save some of that loot for me--and start running it through the Morpher!

All right, all right...oh, no. I already ate one whole word's worth of loot!

Good thing I planned ahead. Use the four letters that are left. I want you to run it through five transformations.

OK, OK. *(Munch, munch)* What am I aiming for?

When you've hit something that you'd find on a family tree, you'll be good to go...

WORE

PHONE CONVERSATION #2:

Carmen, this theft was a snap. When it comes to survival of the fittest, I'm clearly at the top of the gene pool!

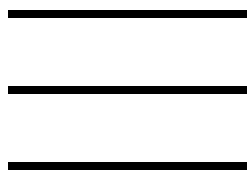
Yes, but that ego of yours is bound to drive you extinct eventually.

...You may have a point. Those ACME annoyances have somehow naturally selected all of the right answers, and are onto me!

Then rev up the Morphemic Morpher! Thankfully, you have the easiest job of all. Take the first half of that six-letter word of yours, and run it through two transformations.

Done and done, Carmen! I must say, even a protozoa could pull that off.

Let's hope that swelled head of yours doesn't get passed on to the next generation. When you have something decorative, bring it to me...



PHONE CONVERSATION #3:

Carmen, my sneaky superior! The loot is successfully taken--or
absconded, removed, lifted, snatched--

Ever heard of the phrase “Less is more?”

Yes, but my musings are worth a thousand words each!

**Never mind your musings. Do you have a
five-letter word for the Morpher?**

I do believe so--but alas, this last letter is making me worried,
nervous, confound, bewildered--

**Then take it off--and use it to keep your mouth
shut! I’m giving you five transformations for the
four letters to get me “trifling.”**

As in vexing, bothersome, frustrating--

**No, ANOTHER definition! The only thing frustrating
around here is your chatter!**

HERD

PHONE CONVERSATION #4:

Darling Carmen, we have a problem! The minds of those new ACME agents are sharper than I foresaw! I need to rediagnose--

Never mind that. Do you have what I sent you to steal?

Of course, madame. Granted, they're rather hard to carry...

Well, let me lighten that load. Run the second five-letter word in the loot through the Morphemic Morpher. You have eight transformations!

Right away! But what's the word association?

Something outdoorsy will do nicely. Now stop analyzing and get changing!

GOADS
