

**OFF THE RECORD WITH EDWARDS AND RILEY**  
**Here's the bait – it rhymes with mate!**



Detective Edwards asks Sarah Riley to come with him to Frances's home. He needs a written transcript of the conversation that he will have with Ann Leeds, Frances's mother. Miss Riley is happy to help the detective. Her hastily written transcript is below. Can you circle the correct words? When you are finished, write a summary of the conversation.



**DETECTIVE:** May (**we, us**) come in, Mrs. Leeds? I believe you have met Miss Riley. (**Her, She**) is going to be writing down (**ours, our**) conversation, if you don't mind.

**MRS. LEEDS:** Not at all, Detective. Please come in. How may (**me, I**) help (**you, yours**)?

**DETECTIVE:** I am hoping to find a clue in (**your, yours**) home that may help (**I, me**) with the case. May (**me, I**) look around?

**MRS. LEEDS:** Of course. And feel free to ask (**me, mine**) any questions.

**DETECTIVE:** Thank you. May (**me, I**) look in the sitting room? I see (**their, there**) is a doll in the corner on the floor. Is that (**Frances, Frances's**) doll?

**MRS. LEEDS:** Yes, it's (**her's, hers**).

**DETECTIVE:** What is the (**dolls', doll's**) name?



**MRS. LEEDS:** (**Its, It's**) name is Octavia.

**DETECTIVE:** That's not a very common name for a doll, is it?

**MRS. LEEDS:** No, not really. Frances gave (**her, hers**) that name.

**DETECTIVE:** Interesting. I see some knitting on the chair. Is it (**your, yours**)?

**MRS. LEEDS:** Yes, (**it's, its**) (**me, mine**).

**DETECTIVE:** I see **(they're, there)** are some books over here. Whose are they?

**MRS. LEEDS:** Those history books belong to **(my, me)** husband and **(I, me)**. They are **(us, ours)**. **(They're, There)** not **(Frances's, Frances)**, Detective. **(She, He)** only likes mystery books, especially those with a twist.

**DETECTIVE:** What are these shiny coins I see on the table? **(They, Them)** are interesting. To whom do **(they, them)** belong?



**MRS. LEEDS:** **(They, Them)** are both **(my, me)** **(husbands, husband's)** and **(mine, my)** **(daughters', daughter's)**. Here's **(they're, their)** story: On **(her, his)** way to work one day, Mr. Leeds found the coins next to a tree stump. So, at first the coins were **(his, him)**. When he brought **(it, them)** home, Frances fell in love with **(they, them)**. Now you could say the coins are **(there's, theirs)**. **(Our, My)** husband told **(I, me)** that the coins are called *pieces of eight*. By the way, Detective, I assume **(you, your)** have not found my **(daughter's, daughters)** missing hair bow.

**DETECTIVE:** No, not yet. As a matter of fact, I have **(it's, its)** mate right here in **(my, me)** pocket. As I look at it more closely, I see that **(its, it's)** quite a fancy bow.

**MRS. LEEDS:** Frances made **(it, it's)** herself. I believe she stitched the ends of a ribbon together, shaped it into a circle, and then twisted it at the middle. Then she starched it, so that it would keep **(it's, its)** shape. She put the finalizing touches on the bow by sewing a hairpin on **(its, it's)** underside.

**SARAH RILEY:** Detective, excuse **(me, mine)**. Look at the hair bow in **(your, yours)** hand. *Turn* it a bit.

**DETECTIVE:** Oh, my! You're right, Miss Riley! At least three clues have been staring **(we, us)** in the face, and the hair bow is one of **(them, it)**! Mrs. Leeds, please think hard. Does **(your, yours)** daughter have a favorite number?

**MRS. LEEDS:** Why, yes. That's easy to answer, Detective. Can you guess what it is?

