

## Did The Butler Do It?

“One morning, a wealthy coin collector noticed that all but two of his very old and valuable Indian-head pennies were missing from their square display array. The owner asked his butler if he knew what had happened to the missing coins.

The butler explained that he awoke to the voices of three burglars in the middle of the night. The burglars were dividing the coins equally amongst themselves. They left the two remaining coins so that they each had the same number of coins.

After hearing the butler’s explanation, the wealthy coin owner thought for a moment, then told the butler that he could use algebra to prove he was lying. The butler then confessed. Show how the coin owner knew the butler was not telling the truth.”