

## Dr. Langstrom's Notes

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Answer: **TAX FRAUD**

The redactions occur so that each sentence has exactly two spots to fit a pair of related words.

Not to be [A1], but this is the [A2] of day that convinced me to do this. Spent time in enzyme lab trying to encourage more growth of [B1] in engineered turtle DNA, wouldn't react no matter how I tried to [B2] with it. Synthesized something similar to a pufferfish's [C1] instead; [C2] the freezer with it for now, while I figure out how to dispose of it. Some accused [D1] must have mislabeled my bottles... "to bait fish [D2]" indeed. About as helpful as [E1] toenails, the lot of them; once I'm the one [E2] this place, they're first to go.

Project [F1] left his credentials on his desk; wired most of budget conspicuously to a [F2] account, then sent anonymous tip to ethics board. The firm that [G1] the lab will hopefully take the bait I laid; spent rest of day on loan to test new synthetics against plant [G2] for biodegradability. Finally [H1] myself of this cretin will be worth it... maybe I'll keep that secretary of his... Svenka or [H2] or Freya or whatever.

The key to puzzle is Dr. Kirk Langstrom's alter ego, "Man-Bat", and relation "Batman" visually. In each word pair, the first "Man-Bat" word is of odd length; the middle letter can be removed and the halves transposed to form a "Batman" word.

	1	2
A	PE[T]TY	TYPE
B	KER[A]TIN	TINKER
C	TO[X]IN	INTO
D	HAL[F]WIT	WITHAL
E	ING[R]OWN	OWNING
F	MAN[A]GER	GERMAN
G	INS[U]RES	RESINS
H	RID[D]ING	INGRID

Taking the removed central letters and reading in order spells the answer, **TAX FRAUD**.

### Author's Notes

Scott: Before we had any real idea for a metameta structure, a few of us just decided to jump in head first and make metas based on Batman villains. Some, like my Penny Plunderer meta, never really saw the light of day. This meta is the only one to see the light of day as a normal puzzle. The original question posed by the puzzle was "What can get you out of Man-Bat's grasp?" The answer was BAT EYES. Whether you think that means "poke at the weak spot" or "flirt with the horrible monster" says a lot about you, I think.

Other than a handful of my original answers surviving into the puzzle, I didn't really have much to do with its current non-meta incarnation.

Adam: Yeah, this started life as an early meta concept, but it was just too fun to let go of. I took the liberty of refurbishing it; it really was shocking how we were able to mostly stick to 7-letter "Man-Bat" words and that, say, "T" gave us more trouble than "F" to work in.