









Another One Bites the Dust
SOLUTION

Spring 2018

As implied by the eight positions around the circular table, the first phase of this puzzle involves semaphore code using the action sentences as the friends settle around the table.

Each of the lines on the first page describe exactly two "active" people, as well as which nametag around the table they are at for that line. Taking these two spots, we can translate each line to a letter:

Line	Semaphore
<p><i>Realizing they won't win this argument, Willis and Neil head over to the designated spots at the table.</i></p> <p>Active People: Willis, Neil. Positions: Willis, Neil</p>	 S
<p><i>Neil then remembers something and goes to talk to Willis. Logan also gives in and grouchy takes his own place.</i></p> <p>Active People: Neil, Logan. Positions: Willis, Logan</p>	 H (8)
<p><i>Neil finishes his previous conversation and moves over to speak to Logan. Meanwhile, Bella has been convinced and also heads to her chair.</i></p> <p>Active People: Neil, Bella. Positions: Logan, Bella</p>	 A (1)
<p><i>Wrapping up his conversation with Logan, Neil goes back to his original spot and turns to talk to Shauna, who has walked over to her designated chair.</i></p> <p>Active People: Neil, Shauna. Positions: Neil, Shauna</p>	 Z

<p><i>Heather and Peter head over to Bella and Logan to try to convince them to refuse the game.</i></p> <p>Active People: Heather, Peter. Positions: Bella, Logan</p>	 <p>A (1)</p>
<p><i>Peter continues to discuss with Logan while Heather, having given up, goes to try to convince Shauna instead.</i></p> <p>Active People: Peter, Heather. Positions: Logan, Shauna</p>	 <p>M</p>
<p><i>Heather has made no progress and heads to her own spot. Peter, unmoved, is still trying to argue his case.</i></p> <p>Active People: Heather, Peter. Positions: Heather, Logan</p>	 <p>I (9)</p>
<p><i>Peter finally gives in and moodily takes his spot. Heather is about to walk over to him but seeing that everyone is now at the table, stays in place and instead shoots him a sympathetic look.</i></p> <p>Active People: Peter, Heather. Positions: Peter, Heather</p>	 <p>T</p>

This spells out SHAZAMIT, which is exactly what you should do for the next phase!

Throughout the hunt, we had a few songs playing on repeat. The playlist is available [here](#)). Using Shazam, we can find that the eight songs are (in no particular order):

- I Write Sins Not Tragedies* by Panic! at the Disco
- Sister Sin* by Nickelback
- Starving* by Hailee Steinfeld, Grey, and Zedd
- Sing* by Ed Sheeran
- In The End* by Black Veil Brides
- Sting* by Stellar
- Hangin' On a String* by Loose Ends
- Staring At The Sun* by Wooden Shjips

This puzzle is themed around musical chairs, where one player is eliminated at a time. Combined with the title and Esther's closing line "everyone is **starving**", we realize that we can take the word

STARVING and remove one letter at a time such that each step is still a word:

STARVING -> STARING -> STRING -> STING -> SING -> SIN -> IN -> I

This puts the songs in order:

Starving by Hailee Steinfeld, Grey, and Zedd

Staring At The Sun by Wooden Shjips

Hangin' On a String by Loose Ends

Sting by Stellar

Sing by Ed Sheeran

Sister Sin by Nickelback

In The End by Black Veil Brides

I Write Sins Not Tragedies by Panic! at the Disco

Note that "sin" is indeed in *I Write Sins Not Tragedies*, but it's not the exact word PLUS there is only one song with "I" in the title.

Next, we notice that the first letter of each of the friends matches up with the first letter of the artist (or primary artist, in the case of *Starving*), which puts the friends in order (of elimination in their game, probably):

Heather (Hailee Steinfeld)

Willis (Wooden Shjips)

Logan (Loose Ends)

Shauna (Stellar)

Esther (Ed Sheeran)

Neil (Nickelback)

Bella (Black Veil Brides)

Peter (Panic! at the Disco)

Finally (almost there!), we notice that another one can bite the dust again: for each friend's name, we can remove one letter such that the result is a valid word:

Heather -> Heater

Willis -> Wills

Logan -> Loan

Shauna -> Sauna

Esther -> Ester OR Ether

Neil -> Nil

Bella -> Bell

Peter -> Peer.

The removed letters spell out either HIGHHEAT or HIGHSEAT (depending on the choice for Esther). Given that this puzzle is about musical chairs, **HIGHSEAT** is the answer. (HIGHHEAT would have prompted a response from the submission bot!)