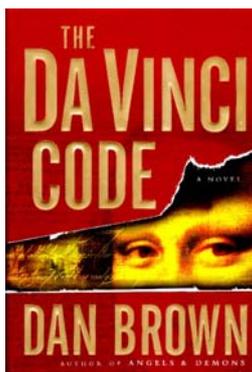# The Da Vinci Code
(*learn all about a bestseller*)

The Da Vinci Code is one of the most popular bestsellers of our time. Learn all about it by working through the following exercises.

Have fun (oh, and we promise not to say too much in case you haven't read the novel yet ☺).

Exercise 1. Before you start discussing the book, there are a couple of words and expressions that you should know. Below there the definitions of some of the words and expressions **in bold** from the text. Try to match them.
NB: this exercise is also available in an interactive format at
http://www.sulinet.hu/nyelvek/?p=content&id=1861

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1. A message written in a secret code
2. Thrilling
3. The custodian of a collection (as a museum or library)
4. Cleverly
5. Hidden
6. Decoder skilled in the analysis of codes and cryptograms
7. Not clear to the understanding
8. An antiquity that has survived from the distant past
9. Hard to comprehend or solve
10. Hidden
11. Shocked or surprised
12. See who is more clever

Exercise 2.   Below you will find the plot of the book. (Some of the words are missing –

unfortunately). Fill in the gaps using the appropriate words.

NB: if you wish to to do this task in an interactive format, visit the following site:
http://www.sulinet.hu/nyelvek/?p=content&id=1849

_____ **(1)** in Paris on business, Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon receives an urgent late-night phone call: the elderly **curator** of the Louvre _____ **(2)** been murdered inside the museum. Near the body, police _____ **(3)** found a **baffling cipher**. Solving the **enigmatic** riddle, Langdon is **stunned** to discover it leads to a trail of clues hidden in the works of Da Vinci…clues visible for all to _____ **(4)**…and yet **ingeniously disguised** by the painter.

Langdon joins forces _____ **(5)** a gifted French **cryptologist**, Sophie Neveu, and learns the late curator was involved in the Priory of Sion—an actual secret society _____ **(6)** members included Sir Isaac Newton, Botticelli, Victor Hugo, and Da Vinci, among others. The Louvre curator has sacrificed his life to protect the Priory's most sacred trust: the location of a vastly important religious **relic**, hidden for centuries.

In a breathless race through Paris, London, and beyond, Langdon and Neveu **match wits** with a faceless powerbroker _____ **(7)** appears to work for Opus Dei—a **clandestine**, Vatican-sanctioned Catholic sect believed to have long plotted to seize the Priory's secret. Unless Langdon and Neveu can decipher the labyrinthine puzzle _____ **(8)** time, the Priory's secret—and a stunning historical truth—will be lost forever.

In an **exhilarating** blend of relentless adventure, scholarly intrigue, and cutting wit, symbologist Robert Langdon (first introduced in Dan Brown's bestselling Angels & Demons) is the most original character to appear in years. THE DA VINCI CODE heralds the arrival of a new breed of lightening-paced, intelligent thriller…surprising at every twist, absorbing at every turn, and_____ **(9)** the end, utterly unpredictable…right _____ **(10)** to its astonishing conclusion.

Key:

Exercise 1.

1. cipher
2. exhilarating
3. curator
4. ingeniously
5. disguised
6. cryptologist
7. baffling
8. relic
9. enigmatic
10. clandestine
11. stunned
12. match wits

Exercise 2.

1. While
2. has
3. have
4. see
5. with
6. whose
7. who
8. in
9. in
10. up