

ENTRY KEY

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|-----|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | A mushroom having a cap - with either gills or pores - and a stem | 2 |
| 1*. | Some other type of fungus, ie not as above | 4 |
| 2. | Growing on wood - either living or dead, standing or fallen, or woody debris | KEY A |
| 2*. | Growing in soil or woodland litter, not on wood | 3 |
| 3. | A mushroom having a cap with gills, not pores | KEY B |
| 3*. | A mushroom having a cap with pores, not gills | KEY C |
| 4. | A puffball or similar, ie squat, roundish or pear-shaped with no gills or pores and entirely enclosed within a skin which may be textured, growing either on wood or in soil / litter | KEY D |
| 4*. | Some other type of fungus, ie not as above | 5 |
| 5. | A white phallic-shaped fungus with dark olive brown top and foul smell | <i>Phallus impudicus</i> (Stinkhorn) |
| 5*. | Some other type of fungus, ie not as above | 6 |
| 6. | A bracket type, on wood, no stem or gills, underside either with pores or smooth | KEY E |
| 6*. | Some other type of fungus, ie not as above | 7 |
| 7. | A fungus having soft gelatinous flesh, either some shade of beige to brown or pink to reddish purple. On deciduous wood | KEY F |
| 7*. | A fungus having hard dry or crusty texture, dark brown to black, on wood | KEY G |

KEY A (Mushrooms growing on wood or woody debris)

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| 1. | Stem short and eccentric (ie not central), gills decurrent (ie curving down the stem); cap shell-like, colour variable: some shade of grey; on fallen trunks and branches (commonly Beech) | <i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i> (Oyster Mushroom) |
| 1*. | Stem central, gills not decurrent, cap not shell-like; other features may or may not be as above | 2 |
| 2. | Fruitbody slimy, white; cap up to 6 cm across when fully expanded; gills widely spaced; stem with a ring; only on Beech, often high up in the canopy, also on fallen branches | <i>Mucidula mucida</i> (Porcelain Fungus) |
| 2*. | Fruitbody dry, some other colour; cap size as above or smaller; gills not widely spaced; stem at most may have a faint ring-zone; on deciduous or coniferous fallen branches or woody debris | 3 |
| 3. | Gills notably crowded and ventricose (centrally swollen), immature gills almost white but pink when mature, sporeprint pink, gill attachment free; cap brown, usually darker in the centre and smooth; no ring zone; on fallen deciduous wood | <i>Pluteus cervinus</i> (Deer Shield) |
| 3*. | Gills not as above, either remaining white when mature (sporeprint white) or yellow or beige becoming darker then black (sporeprint black) when mature; other features may or may not be as above | 4 |
| 4. | Gills (and sporeprint) white; cap thin-fleshed and campanulate (bell-shaped), some shade of brown; stem slender, no ring; on deciduous fallen wood | genus <i>Mycena</i> (the Bonnets): 5 |
| 4*. | Gills either yellow or beige when young, becoming blackish when mature (sporeprint black); caps may be yellow or brown; often caespitose (growing in clusters), on stumps, fallen wood, submerged roots, deciduous or coniferous | 6 |
| 5. | Stem distinctly orange-red, if broken exuding bright orange droplets of latex, this colour often 'bleeding' into gills and / or cap when damaged; cap to 2.5cm across at most; predominantly on fallen Beech | <i>Mycena crocata</i> (Saffrondrop Bonnet) |
| 5*. | Stem greyish-brown, latex of any colour absent; cap can be 2.5cm across but sometimes up to 6cm; common on any fallen deciduous wood or stumps, rooting firmly into the wood | <i>Mycena galericulata</i> (Common Bonnet) |
| 6. | Gills at first beige but soon darker and eventually black, crowded; cap ochre-tan to brown, finely furrowed, campanulate (bell-shaped), surface dusted with fine white powdery granules; stem white - no ring zone; often forming loose groups / clusters; only on deciduous wood | <i>Coprinellus micaceus</i> (Glistening Inkcap) |
| 6*. | Gills at first sulphur yellow but soon darker and eventually black; cap sulphur yellow with orange centre, surface smooth, domed then flat, lacking white granules; stem yellow above with faint black ring zone, darker below; forming tight clusters with stem bases often almost adjoining; on both deciduous and coniferous wood | <i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i> (Sulphur Tuft) |

KEY B (Mushrooms having gills - not pores, growing in soil or woodland litter)

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| 1. | Cap bright rose pink; gills concolorous or paler; stem hollow, white – sometimes pale pink, tapering towards the top; smell sharp, of radish; in deciduous litter, especially under Beech | <i>Mycena rosea</i> (Rosy Bonnet) |
| 1*. | Cap some other colour or if dull pink then not having the above combination of features | 2 |
| 2. | Gills persistently white / cream / beige-buff / pink / amethyst, never darkening to black in age; sporeprint white | 3 |
| 2*. | Gills soon becoming darker, eventually black; sporeprint black; in woody litter adjacent to fallen wood or possibly attached to submerged roots | go to Key A couplet 6 |
| 3. | Gills white to palest cream | 4 |

- 3*. Gills pink / amethyst or beige- buff (if the latter then with latex apparent in damaged gills) 10
4. Stem rubbery and pliable; fruitbody small to medium, cap loosely some shade of brown 5
- 4*. Stem firm and inflexible; fruitbody medium to large, cap some other colour 6
5. Cap soon flattish, feels dry, evenly russet to orange brown though can fade to buff; stem paler than cap, cylindrical; tending to appear in early autumn ***Gymnopus dryophilus*** (Russet Toughshank)
- 5*. Cap rounded with slightly raised central bump, feels greasy, deep reddish to rich purplish brown though soon fading often unevenly leaving different zones of pale to dark, ie very variable; stem hollow with clavate base, tapering upwards, concolorous with cap but often with purplish appearance; tending to appear in late autumn
Rhodocollybia butyracea (Butter Cap)
6. Fruitbody large, cap to 7cm across or more; stem sturdy with a distinct ring and swollen base; cap dotted with white flecks which can be rubbed off; gill attachment free (see doc 4 entitled *All about gills & gill attachment*) genus ***Amanita***: 7
- 6*. Fruitbody as above or smaller; stem sturdy or not but lacking a ring or a swollen base; cap lacking white flecks; gill attachment not free but adnate (see doc 4 entitled *All about gills & gill attachment*) genus ***Russula***: 8
7. Cap lemon yellow to pale yellow (occasionally white); stem white, with ring when young though sometimes lost later, base with distinct rim / gutter; smell distinctly of potato peelings; flesh where damaged not discolouring; under various different trees ***Amanita citrina*** (False Deathcap)
- 7*. Cap colour variable but some shade of pinkish beige to vinaceous brown, never yellow; stem concolorous with large skirtlike ring, base at most clavate to swollen, no gutter; flesh where damaged (eaten by slugs etc) discoloring pink; smell insignificant; also under various trees ***Amanita rubescens*** (Blusher)
8. Fruitbody chunky and solid, up to 10 cm across or more; gills notably widely spaced and fragile; cap white when young but soon discolouring with smudges of dirty grey to black; flesh - when fruitbody split lengthways – turns first pink (after 20 mins) then gradually dirty grey to black (after 1 hour) ***Russula nigricans*** (Blackening Brittlegill)
- 8*. Fruitbody smaller, not as above; gills normally spaced; cap either red or yellow, contrasting with white gills and stem; flesh unchanging 9
9. Cap cherry red; host specific to Beech ***Russula nobilis*** (Beechwood Sickener)
- 9*. Cap ochre-yellow; under many different trees ***Russula ochroleuca*** (Ochre Brittlegill)
10. Gills beige to buff, crowded to normally spaced, when damaged (slice with a penknife) exuding white droplets of latex (milk) genus ***Lactarius*** (the Milkcaps): 11
- 10*. Gills pink / amethyst, widely spaced, without latex when damaged genus ***Laccaria*** (the Deceivers): 12
11. Cap up to 6cm across, quite thick-fleshed, dull mid-brown with darker zones and spots near the margin, stem concolorous; smell distinctly oily (said to be of bed bugs!); host specific to Oak ***Lactarius quietus*** (Oakbug Milkcap)
- 11*. Cap up to 4cm across, quite thin-fleshed, clay-pinkish to more orange-brown, lacking darker zones or spots; stem concolorous or paler; smell faint; under deciduous trees, particularly Beech, though not host specific
Lactarius subdulcis (Mild Milkcap)
12. Gills pink, retaining their original colour even when cap and stem fade; cap up to 3 cm across, cap and stem bright orange-brown when fresh and moist but hygrophanous, fading rapidly to almost white as it dries; very common
Laccaria laccata (Deceiver)
- 12*. Gills amethyst, also retaining their original colour even when cap and stem fade; cap up to 2 cm across, cap and stem rich amethyst purple when fresh and moist but hygrophanous as above; in some autumns common, in others not
Laccaria amethystina (Amethyst Deceiver)
- KEY C** (Mushrooms having pores - not gills, growing in soil)
1. Cap firm to touch, evenly rich bay brown, smooth (slimy after rain); pores fine, pale yellow, quickly bruising dirty blue-green when pressed; stem brown, paler than cap; under deciduous and coniferous trees
Imleria badia (Bay Bolete)
- 1*. Cap quite soft to touch, blotchy sepia to olive brown and velvety, sometimes cracking with pink flesh beneath, not slimy after rain; pores larger, yellow, bruising blue either quickly or slowly when pressed; stem with red and yellow patches, also sometimes bruising blue either quickly or slowly if scratched; under deciduous trees and occasionally conifers (NB: Further separation between species only possible with advanced ID skills)
Xerocomellus chrysenteron / cisalpinus / pruinatus (Red Cracking Bolete / Bluefoot Bolete / Matt Bolete)
- KEY D** (Puffballs and similar)
1. Growing on fallen deciduous wood or stumps; fruitbody ± smooth and pear-shaped, white at first, later brown; often forming tight clusters
Lycoperdon pyriforme (Stump Puffball)
- 1*. Growing in soil / litter; not in tight clusters but may be in loose groups 2

2. Fruitbody as above in general appearance but covered in loose 'warts' which rub off on your finger; feels quite soft to the touch; if sliced open, outer skin thin and soft, flesh white though eventually turning brown as the spores mature, smell pleasant, 'mushroomy'; in deciduous litter ***Lycoperdon perlatum*** (Common Puffball)
- 2*. Fruitbody not pear-shaped, more oval with width greater than height; dirty yellow, covered in coarse textured scales; feels hard to the touch; if sliced open, outer skin thick and tough, flesh dirty olive brown, smell strong, unpleasant; under deciduous trees, most frequently Oak ***Scleroderma citrinum*** (Common Earthball)

KEY E (Brackets, on deciduous wood, underside with pores or smooth)

1. Fruitbody hard, firm or leathery and inflexible, thick-fleshed, up to or more than 6 cm across, upper surface brown, reddish or whitish 2
- 1*. Fruitbody tough but flexible, thin-fleshed, less than 6 cm across, upper surface with concentric zones of varying colours 4
2. Fruitbody evenly whitish or pale grey to pale buff; pores beneath white, hard to see individually – ie tiny, their colour unchanging when pressed; only on Birch, both standing and fallen ***Fomitopsis betulina*** (Birch Polypore)
- 2*. Fruitbody darker, some shade of brown, maybe reddish in places; pores tiny or not; on Birch or not 3
3. Pores beneath easy to see - ie not tiny, buff brown and when fresh bruising pinkish when deliberately pressed; upper surface varying shades of brown with some concentric outer markings, centre often reddish or even blackish; usually semicircular, to 10(12) cm across, most commonly on standing or fallen Birch or Willow ***Daedaleopsis confragosa*** (Blushing Bracket)
- 3*. Pores beneath hard to see individually – ie tiny, white but bruising instantly and lastingly dark brown when handled / scratched; upper surface woodlike, uneven to knobbly in places, evenly cocoa brown; very thick-fleshed, can get to more than 1 ft across; commonly on standing Beech or Oak but also on other deciduous woods, standing or fallen (NB: Further separation between species only possible with advanced ID skills) ***Ganoderma applanatum/ australe*** (Artist's Bracket / Southern Bracket)
4. Underside marked with fine pale cream to white pores; upper surface zoned with amazingly variable colours: black, brown, orange, green, even bluish, often in dense clusters / rows along fallen branches and log piles of many deciduous woods ***Trametes versicolor*** (Turkeytail)
- 4*. Underside smooth – no pores, ochre yellow to brown – not cream to white; upper surface also zoned but less varied in colour than above: yellow, orange, ochre, greyish brown; surface finely hairy; also often in dense clusters / rows along fallen branches and log piles of many deciduous woods ***Stereum hirsutum*** (Hairy Curtain Crust)

KEY F (Soft gelatinous fungi - beige, brown, pink, reddish purple, on deciduous wood)

1. Fruitbody shaped and sized like a human ear, flabby though dry, reddish tan brown all over, inner surface - sometimes also outer surface – with wrinkles or veins; in clusters on standing or fallen Elder, less often on Beech ***Auricularia auricula-judae*** (Jelly Ear)
- 1*. Fruitbody smaller, not shaped like an ear, beige-pink or purple tinted; on fallen deciduous wood and stumps, particularly Beech 2
2. Fruitbody to 3cm across, shaped like a spinning top with smooth flat upper surface then tapering below where more granular, single or in tight clusters, rubbery, squidgy and sticky, pale flesh-pink with violaceous tinge (sometimes almost colourless after heavy rain); only found on Beech ***Neobulgaria pura*** (Beech Jellydisc)
- 2*. Fruitbody smaller, to 1.5cm across, at first forming brainlike squirming tight clusters, later more individually disc-shaped; colour deep pink-red to purple, not or hardly fading; common on Beech but also on stumps and rotting wood of other trees ***Ascocoryne sarcoides*** (Purple Jellydisc)

KEY G (Hard, crusty fungi, dark brown to black, on dead or fallen wood)

1. Fruitbody cylindrical, upright and black, either thin and flexible or thick like a finger 2
- 1*. Fruitbody stemless, lying flat, forming individual small round balls / bobbles 3
2. Fruitbody a thin flexible dry strand, about 5cm tall, black below but often branching antler-like above where cream to pinkish when fertile (later entirely black); common in colonies on fallen deciduous wood and stumps ***Xylaria hypoxylon*** (Candlesnuff Fungus)
- 2*. Fruitbody tubular forming a thick black firm projection, up to 6 cm tall, sometimes slightly swollen clavate, surface granular, sometimes with a short narrow stalk beneath; in clusters, mainly on fallen Beech ***Xylaria polymorpha*** (Dead Man's Fingers)
3. Only on fallen Beech; each round ball up to 1 cm across, cocoa-brown at first then black, surface covered in fine raised pimples; forming large colonies ***Hypoxylon fragiforme*** (Beech Woodwart)
- 3*. Only on dead Hazel, either attached or fallen; as above but smaller and less regularly round in shape ***Hypoxylon fuscum*** (Hazel Woodwart)