Solve or Resolve?

Cambridge English C1 Advanced Key Word Transformation MADE EASY

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C1 Advanced learn how to do **Key Word Transformation** exercises

Solve - verb	Resolve - verb
To find an answer to a problem. We usually solve something using logic.We use solve for maths problems, riddles, etc.	**To solve or end a problem or difficulty. Resolve typically concerns emotional problems, and it's usually used for interpersonal conflicts, disputes or disagreements.**
• Just calm down - shouting won't solve anything!	• Have you resolved the problem of transport yet?
• This strategy could cause more problems than it solves.	• The dispute over the song rights proved impossible to resolve.
• The police are still no nearer to solving the crime.	• A mediator has been called in to resolve the crisis.
• No one has solved the problem of what to do with radioactive waste.	• They had an awful row several years ago, but now they've resolved their differences.
• Scientists have been trying to solve this puzzle for years.	

When to use solve and resolve

The verb to resolve has a number of meanings, one of which is to deal with conclusively – that is, to settle something, effectively to finish it in an acceptable way. This meaning of resolve is close to the meaning of solve, but with the difference that solve is used to find the correct answer to a problem; resolve is used more generally to conclude a problem.