

## Lateral Thinking

### 1 A man in a lift

A man lives on the tenth floor of a building. Every day he takes the elevator to go down to the ground floor to go to work or to go shopping. When he returns he takes the elevator to the seventh floor and walks up the stairs to reach his apartment on the tenth floor. He hates walking so why does he do it?

### 2 A man walks into a bar

A man walks into a bar and asks the barman for a glass of water. The barman pulls out a gun and points it at the man. The man says thank you and leaves. Why?

### 3 Dead man in a field

A man is lying dead in a field. Next to him there is an unopened package. There aren't any animals in the field. How did he die?

### 4 Anthony and Cleopatra

Anthony and Cleopatra are lying dead on the floor of a villa in Egypt. Nearby is a broken bowl. There is no mark on either of their bodies and they were not poisoned. How did they die?

### 5 A carrot, some coal and a scarf

Five pieces of coal, a carrot and a scarf are lying on the lawn. Nobody put them on the lawn but there is a perfectly logical reason why they are there. What is it?

### 6 Two sons

A woman had two sons who were born on the same hour of the same day of the same year. But they were not twins. How could this be possible?

### 7 A woman pushing a car

A woman was pushing her car. She stopped pushing when she reached a hotel and then realised she was bankrupt. Why?

### 8 Heaven

A man died and went to Heaven. He saw thousands of people there all naked and young. He saw a couple and he immediately recognised them as Adam and Eve. How did he know?

### 9 Friday

A man rode into town on Friday. He stayed for three nights and then left on Friday. Explain.

### 10 Manhole covers

Why is it better to have round manhole covers than square ones?

### 11 Sudden realisation

A man was walking downstairs in a building when the lights went out. Suddenly he realised that his wife had just died. How?

### 12 The blind beggar

A blind beggar had a brother who died. What relation was the blind beggar to the brother who died? (Brother is not the answer).

### 13 Another dead body

The dead body of a man was found in the middle of a burnt forest. He was wearing only swimming trunks, a snorkel and diving mask. What had happened?

### 14 Mystery suicide

One stormy night, a person switches on the TV and watches the news. The person leaves the room in a rush, runs up the stairs and turns on the light. Then the person commits suicide. Why?

**Answers**

1. The man in the Elevator -The man is a dwarf.
2. The Man in the Bar-The man had hiccups.
3. The man had jumped out of a plane and his parachute had failed to open.
4. Anthony and Cleopatra-Anthony and Cleopatra were goldfish.
5. The Coal, Carrot and Scarf-A snowman.
6. Two Sons-Triplets.
7. Push that Car-Monopoly.
8. Heaven-No navels.
9. Friday-The horse's name was Friday
10. Manhole Covers-A round cover can't fall down the hole.
11. The Realization-His wife was on a life support machine.
12. The Blind Beggar-The blind beggar was his sister.
13. Swimmer in the Forest-The man had been taken from a lake by a fire brigade helicopter
14. The person was a lighthouse keeper who forgot to turn on the light. On the news there was a terrible shipwreck which was the lighthouse keeper's fault.