

# The Mystery of the Three Treasure Boxes

*Imagine you're a treasure hunter who has discovered three mysterious boxes left by a mischievous pirate! 🏴‍☠️ The pirate was known for playing tricks, and these boxes are no different.*

# The Challenge

## Box 1

Has *two gold coins* ★ ★ (we'll call this GG)

## Box 2

Has *two silver coins* 🏆 🏆 (we'll call this SS)

## Box 3

Has *one gold and one silver coin* ★ 🏆 (we'll call this GS)

But here's the tricky part! 🦊 Each box has a label on it saying **GG**, **SS**, or **GS**, but the sneaky pirate made sure that **ALL the labels are WRONG!**

You can only reach into **ONE box** and pull out **ONE coin**. After seeing what coin you picked, you must figure out what's inside all three boxes to claim the treasure!

Can you outsmart the pirate? 🤔



# Let's Think Like Detectives!

*Before we solve this mystery, let's put on our detective hats! 🕵️♀️*

## Step 1: What do we know for sure?

- *There are 3 boxes with different coin combinations*
- *Every single label is wrong (the pirate tricked us!)*
- *We can only peek into one box and grab one coin*

## Step 2: Let's think step by step:

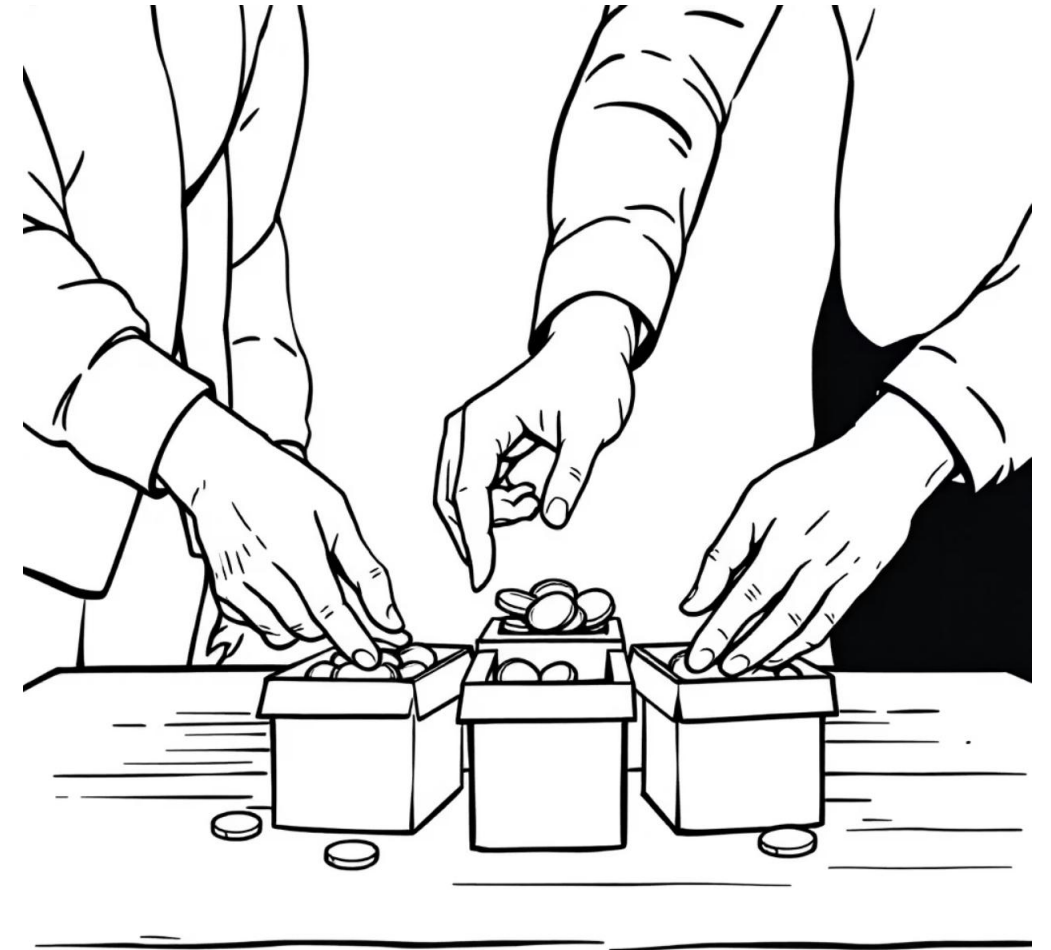
1. 🤔 *If I pick one coin, what does that tell me?*
2. 🎯 *Which box should I choose to get the most information?*
3. 🧩 *How can I use the fact that ALL labels are wrong?*

# Try It Yourself First!

*Before looking at the answer, grab some coins at home and three small boxes or cups. Set up the puzzle and see if you can figure it out! You can even ask your family to help set it up.*

*What If Analysis:*

- 1. What if you pick one from GG?*
- 2. What if you pick one from SS?*
- 3. What if you pick one from GS?*



# 🤔 What If Analysis - Picking from "GS"

Let's delve into the crucial "What If" scenarios when you decide to pick a coin from the box labeled "GS".



## Scenario A: You pick a Gold Coin

- **Box labeled "GS"**: Since the label is wrong, and you picked Gold, this box **must** contain GG (two gold coins). It cannot be SS.
- **Box labeled "GG"**: Cannot be GG (label is wrong). Since "GS" box is GG, the "GG" labeled box **must** contain SS.
- **Box labeled "SS"**: Cannot be SS (label is wrong). By elimination, this box **must** contain GS.

Mystery Solved! The boxes are GG, SS, GS respectively.



## Scenario B: You pick a Silver Coin

- **Box labeled "GS"**: Since the label is wrong, and you picked Silver, this box **must** contain SS (two silver coins). It cannot be GG.
- **Box labeled "GG"**: Cannot be GG (label is wrong). Since "GS" box is SS, the "GG" labeled box **must** contain GS.
- **Box labeled "SS"**: Cannot be SS (label is wrong). By elimination, this box **must** contain GG.

Mystery Solved! The boxes are SS, GS, GG respectively.

As you can see, picking from the "GS" labeled box gives you enough information to solve the puzzle in both outcomes!



# 🤔 What If Analysis - Picking from "GG"

*Now, let's explore the situation if you decide to pick a coin from the box labeled "GG".*

🎯 What if you pick from the box labeled "GG"?

*Since all labels are wrong, this box **cannot** contain GG. It must contain either:*

- 🍇 🍇 (SS) - Two silver coins
- ⭐ 🍇 (GS) - One gold, one silver

*If you draw one coin:*

- 🍇 Draw SILVER → Could be SS or GS... you don't know which! 🤔
- ⭐ Draw GOLD → Must be GS, so you can figure out the rest! ✅

*Result: ⚠️ RISKY! Only works if you're lucky and draw gold!*

*This analysis shows that picking from the "GG" box isn't always the best strategy, as it might not give you enough information to solve the puzzle in one go.*

# 🤔 What If Analysis - Picking from "SS"

*Let's continue our detective work and examine what happens if we choose to pick from the box labeled "SS".*

🎯 What if you pick from the box labeled "SS"?

*Since all labels are wrong, this box **cannot** contain SS. It must contain either:*

- 🌟 🌟 (GG) - Two gold coins
- 🌟 🥈 (GS) - One gold, one silver

*If you draw one coin:*

- 🌟 Draw GOLD → Could be GG or GS... you don't know which! 🤔
- 🥈 Draw SILVER → Must be GS, so you can figure out the rest! ✅

*Result: ⚠️ RISKY! Only works if you're lucky and draw silver!*

*As you can see, picking from the "SS" box, similar to "GG", doesn't guarantee a solution unless you get lucky with the coin you draw.*

# 🤔 What If Analysis - Picking from "GS"

*Let's be super smart detectives and think about what happens if we pick from each box. This will help us understand why one choice is better than the others!*

## 🎯 What if you pick from the box labeled "GS"?

*Since all labels are wrong, this box **cannot** contain GS. It must contain either:*

- 🌟🌟 (GG) - Two gold coins
- 🏆🏆 (SS) - Two silver coins

*If you draw one coin:*

- 🌟 Draw GOLD → Box has GG, so you know everything!
- 🏆 Draw SILVER → Box has SS, so you know everything!

*Result: ✅ PERFECT! You can solve the whole puzzle!*

*Choosing the "GS" labeled box guarantees a definitive outcome, allowing you to deduce the contents of all boxes.*







 The Amazing Solution!

 The Secret Strategy: Pick from the "GS" box!

## Step 1: Always pick from the box labeled "GS"

*Why? Because we know ALL labels are wrong! So the box labeled "GS" **cannot** actually have one gold and one silver coin inside.*

*That means it must have either:*

-   Two gold coins, OR
-   Two silver coins



## Step 2: Look at your coin and solve the mystery!

🌟 If you picked a GOLD coin:

- 🎉 AHA! The "GS" box actually has ★ ★ (two gold coins)
- 😬 The "GG" box can't have gold coins (wrong label!), and we know where the gold coins are, so it must have 🎖 🎖 (two silver coins)
- 🎯 That means the "SS" box must have ★ 🎖 (one gold, one silver)

🎖 If you picked a SILVER coin:

- 🎉 WOW! The "GS" box actually has 🎖 🎖 (two silver coins)
- 😬 The "SS" box can't have silver coins (wrong label!), and we know where the silver coins are, so it must have ★ ★ (two gold coins)
- 🎯 That leaves the "GG" box with ★ 🎖 (one gold, one silver)

### 🧠 Why This Works Like Magic!

The secret is that the "GS" box can only have one of TWO things inside (not three like the others). When you pick one coin, you immediately know which of those two it is! Then, because all labels are wrong, you can figure out everything else! 🤖

You just outsmarted a pirate with LOGIC! 🏴‍☠️ ✨



# What You Learn From This Puzzle

*This awesome puzzle teaches you to be a:*



Logic Detective

*Using clues to solve mysteries*



What If Analysis

*Seeing how different pieces fit together*



Smart Strategist

*Making the best choice to get the most information*



Critical Thinker

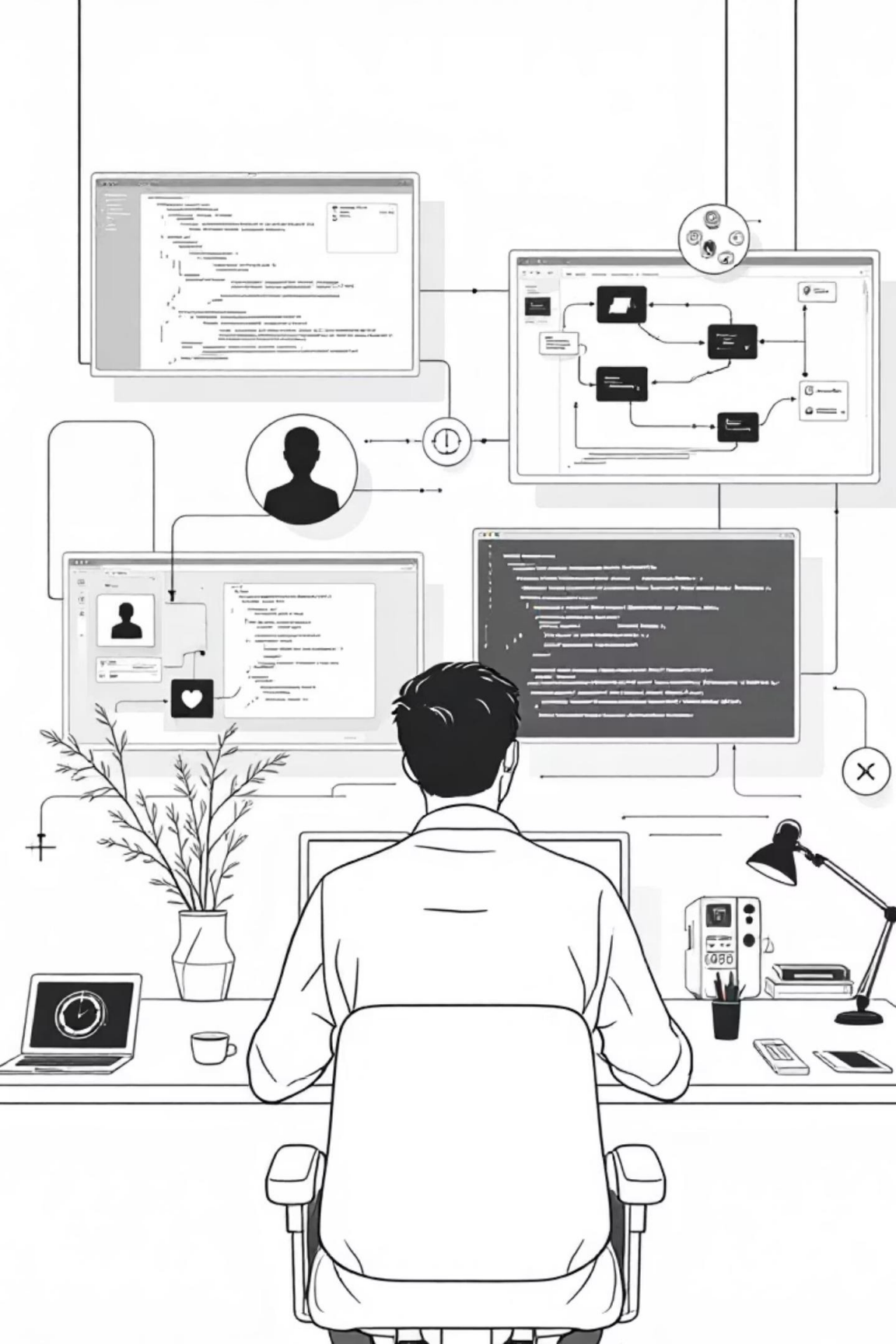
*Understanding how rules and constraints work together*



# Let's Code This Puzzle!

*Here's how we can write a simple interactive program to solve our puzzle:*

```
1  # 🎁 Three Boxes Coin Puzzle Solver
2
3  print("💎 The Mystery of the Three Treasure Boxes 💎")
4  print("Boxes and (wrong) labels: [GG], [SS], [GS]")
5  print("Rule: All labels are wrong. You may draw ONE coin from ONE box.")
6  print("Smart move: draw from the box labeled 'GS'.")
7
8  coin = input("What coin did you draw from the 'GS' labeled box? (G for gold, S for silver): ")
9  print("-----")
10 if coin == "G":
11     print("You drew GOLD from the 'GS' labeled box.")
12     print("So, that box must actually be: GG")
13     print("Then the box labeled 'SS' must be: GS")
14     print("And the box labeled 'GG' must be: SS")
15 elif coin == "S":
16     print("You drew SILVER from the 'GS' labeled box.")
17     print("So, that box must actually be: SS")
18     print("Then the box labeled 'GG' must be: GS")
19     print("And the box labeled 'SS' must be: GG")
20 else:
21     print("⚠️ Please enter only 'G' or 'S'.")
22
23 print("-----")
```



# Connection to Real Programming

*This puzzle is like many programming problems where you:*

—

Have constraints (rules you must follow)




Get partial information (like our one coin)




Use logic to deduce the complete answer

✓

Test your solution to make sure it works

 **Difficulty Level:**  
Intermediate

 **Topics:** Logic, Deduction,  
Problem Solving, Constraints

 **Perfect for:** Ages 8 and up!