



Lateral Thinking





What is Lateral Thinking?

- The thinking process which involves deliberate search for alternatives
- Lateral thinking seeks the solution to problems through unorthodox methods which are generally ignored by logical thinking

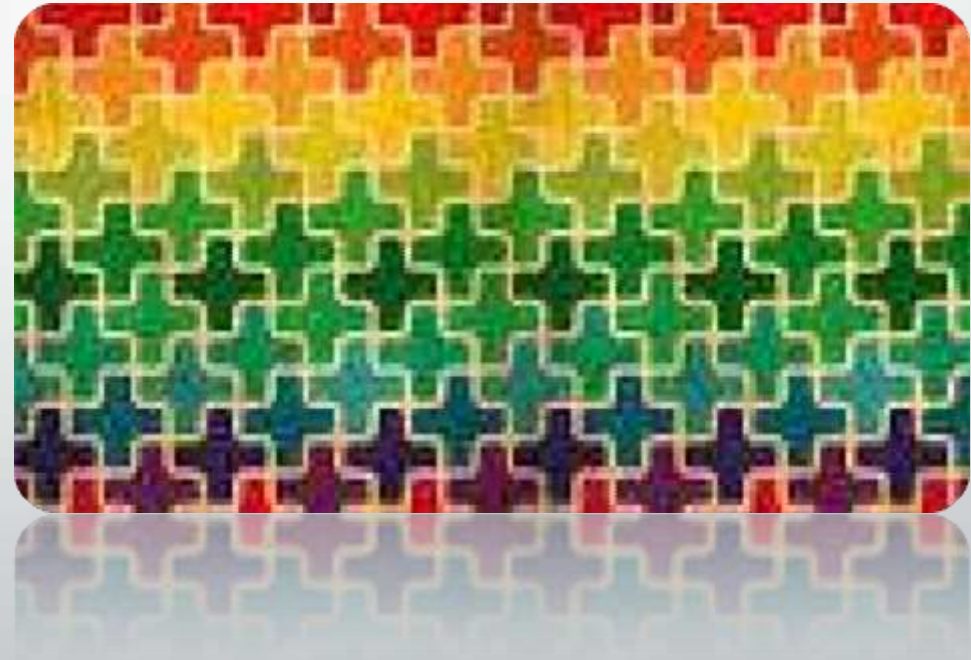


How is it different?

- Our mind is an efficient self organizing information system. It uses patterns to be efficient. The normal way of thinking is therefore called vertical or logical thinking as it follows a series of definite patterns or logics to carry out an execution. Lateral Thinking doesn't follow these pre-sorted patterns.

Disadvantages of Patterns

- Expectancy
- Familiarity
- Lack of choice
- Blocked by openness
- Assumptions





Birth of the concept (Lateral Thinking)

- Edward De Bono invented the word in 1967
- He was a PhD in Psychology and served in higher academic positions in Cambridge, Oxford and Harvard University.

“The 6 Thinking Hats”

- THINKING HAT- What thinking is needed? What have we done so far? What do we do next?
- FEELINGS HAT- What do I feel about this? How do I react to this? Analyzing motions and Intuition.
- CREATIVE HAT- New ideas. What is the way to work a problem out? Different approaches.
- INFORMATION HAT- What is the truth or facts? What information do we have?
- BENEFITS HAT- What are the good points? Why is this worth doing? What positive features can be noted?
- JUDGEMENT HAT- What is wrong with this? Will it work? What are the weaknesses?



How does Lateral Thinking work?

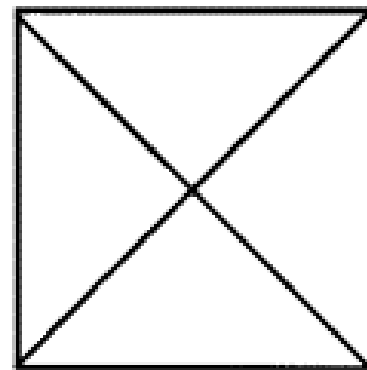
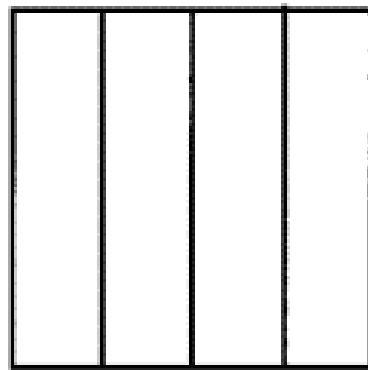
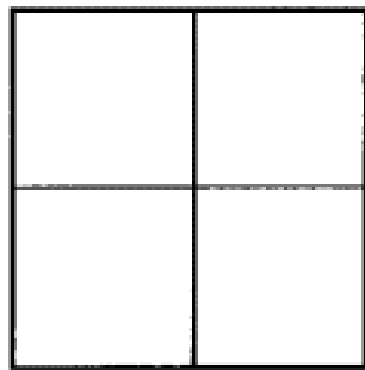
- “You cannot dig a different hole by digging the same hole deeper”
- It is for changing the given perceptions and concepts.
- It is the technique of problem solving by approaching problems indirectly at diverse angles instead of concentrating at one particular approach.



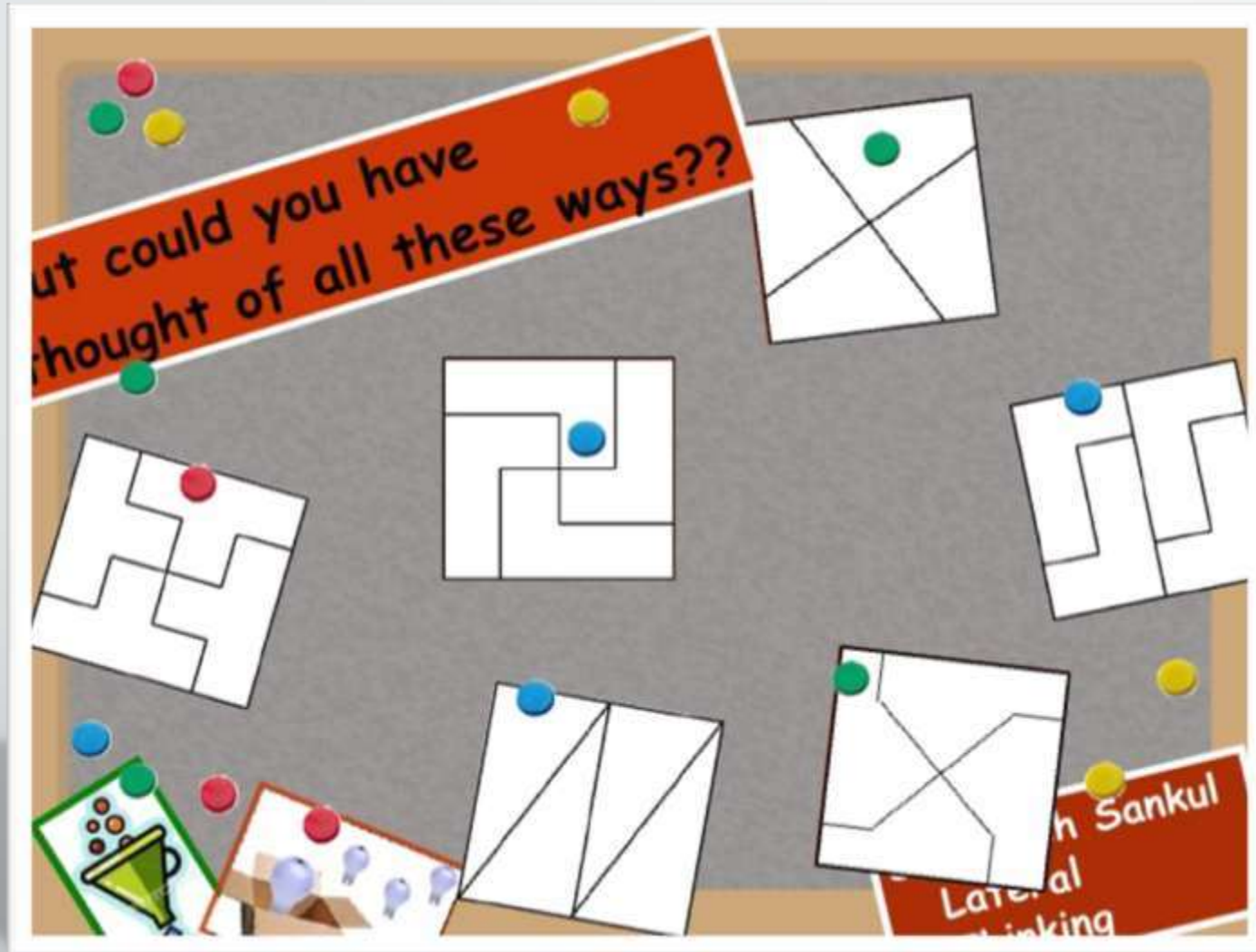
Example of Lateral Thinking

- Take a square. And try dividing it into equal four parts.

Maybe you got this....



But did you think of these ways?

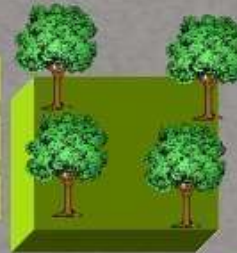


Another example of Lateral Thinking

- Plant four plants in such a way that they are equidistant from each other.

Try....

May be a square ??
But then what about diagonals



May be a circle



Try as hard as you can ... †
the solution is almost impossible

but noooooo

Unless

Unless.....

You think Laterally and break the assumption of planting all trees on the same level



Difference in height....

Teaser No. 1

- There are six eggs in a basket. Six people take one egg each. How can it be that one egg is still in the basket?

The Answer is...

The last person takes
the basket along with
the last egg.



Teaser no. 2

- Acting on an anonymous phone call, the police raid a house to arrest a suspected murderer. They don't know what he looks like, but they know his name is JOHN. Inside they find a carpenter, a lorry driver, a car mechanic and a fireman playing cards. They immediately arrest the fireman without any interrogation. How did they know that they've got their man?

The Answer is...

- He was the only man. All the others were women.



CONCLUSION

- Thus, it can be concluded that the whole purpose of lateral thinking is to allow us to cut across patterns and to find new ideas. As with all creativity, the ideas must be valuable and logical in hindsight.



