

Thinking Skill Session – 3 Lateral Thinking



Guess the answers:

1. A girl who was just learning to drive went down a one-way street in the wrong direction, but didn't break the law.

How come?



ANS: She was walking.



Guess the answers:

2. How can you throw a ball as hard as you can and have it come back to you, even if it doesn't hit anything, there is nothing attached to it, and no one else catches or throws it?



ANS: Throw the ball straight up in the air.



Guess the answers:

3. Two students are sitting on opposite sides of the same desk. There is nothing in between them but the desk.

Why can't they see each other?



ANS: The two students have their backs to each other.



Guess the answers:

4. There are only two T's in Timothy Tuttle.

True or false?



ANS: True. There are only two T's (upper case). There are also three t's (lower case).



Guess the answers:

5. How much dirt is in a round hole that is 9 feet deep with a diameter of 3 feet?

(Hint: You don't have to do any math to get the answer. Just use your head!)



ANS: None. You make a hole by digging out the dirt, so the hole is empty.



Guess the answers:

6. Once a dog named Nelly lived on a farm. There were three other dogs on the farm. Their names were Blackie, Whitey, and Brownie.

What do you think the fourth dog's name was?



ANS: Nelly. (If there are only four dogs on the farm, the fourth one must be Nelly!)



Guess the answers:

7. All of Jenny's pets are dogs except one. All of her pets are cats except one.

How many cats and dogs does Jenny have?



ANS: Jenny has one cat and one dog.



Guess the answers:

8. One day, two mothers and two daughters went shopping for shoes. Their shopping spree was successful — each bought a pair of shoes, and all together, they had three pairs.

How is this possible?



ANS: Only three people went shopping: a grandmother, a mother, and a daughter — but remember that the mother was the grandmother's daughter!



Guess the answers:

9. A window cleaner is cleaning the windows on the 25th floor of a skyscraper, when he slips and falls. He is not wearing a safety harness and nothing slows his fall, yet he suffered no injuries.

Explain.



ANS: He was cleaning the inside of the windows.



Guess the answers:

10. Name three consecutive days in English without using the words Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday?



ANS: Yesterday, today, and tomorrow.



Break out of your pattern

PUZZLE 1

What is unusual about the following words?

- BOUGH
- COUGH
- DOUGH
- ROUGH
- THROUGH



ANS: They all end in O-U-G-H, but none of them rhyme



Break out of your pattern

PUZZLE 2

Which of these two sentences is correct.

- 'The yolk of the egg are white.'

Or

- “The yolk of the egg is white.”?



ANS: Neither. The yolk of the egg is yellow.



Break out of your pattern

PUZZLE 3

- There is a word in the English language in which the first two letters signify a male, the first three signify a female, the first four signify a great man, and the whole word, a great woman. What is the word?



ANS: Heroine: HE, HER, HERO, HEROINE



Break out of your pattern

PUZZLE 4

Which one of the words displayed below does not belong to the others, and why?

- FATHER
- AUNT
- SISTER
- COUSIN
- MOTHER
- UNCLE



ANS: Cousin does not belong, since all the others refer to a specific sex.



Break out of your pattern

PUZZLE 5

Name one eight letter word that has kst in the middle, in the beginning, and at the end.



- ANS: The eight letter word is INKSTAND. In is at the beginning, kst is in the middle, and is at the end.



Break out of your pattern

PUZZLE 6

A cowboy rode into town on Friday, spent one night there, and left on Friday. How do you account for this?



ANS: His horse was named Friday.



Break out of your pattern

PUZZLE 7

This is a most unusual paragraph. How quickly can you find out what is so unusual about it? It looks so ordinary you'd think nothing is wrong with it - and in fact, nothing is wrong with it. It is unusual though. Why? Study it, think about it, and you may find out. Try to do it without coaching. If you work at it for a bit it will dawn on you. So jump to it and try your skill at figuring it out. Good luck - don't blow your cool!



ANS: The letter e (the most common letter in our language), does not appear in the paragraph.



Guess the answers:

PUZZLE 8

A man in a restaurant complained to the waiter that there was a fly in his cup of coffee. The waiter took the cup away and promised to bring a fresh cup of coffee. He returned a few moments later. The man tasted the coffee and complained that this was his original cup of coffee with the fly removed. He was correct, but how did he know?



ANS: He had sweetened the original cup of coffee with sugar. He therefore knew when he tasted the coffee that it was the same cup.



Guess the answers:

PUZZLE 9

A black man dressed all in black, wearing a black mask, stands at a crossroads in a totally black-painted town. All of the streetlights in town are broken. There is no moon. A black-painted car without headlights drives straight toward him, but turns in time and doesn't hit him. How did the driver know to swerve?



ANS: It was day time



Guess the answers: Puzzle 10

Many years ago in a small Indian village, a farmer had the misfortune of owing a large sum of money to a village moneylender. The moneylender, who was old and ugly, fancied the farmer's beautiful daughter. So he proposed a bargain. He said he would forgo the farmer's debt if he could marry his daughter. Both the farmer and his daughter were horrified by the proposal. So the cunning money-lender suggested that they let providence decide the matter. He told them that he would put a black pebble and a white pebble into an empty money bag. Then the girl would have to pick one pebble from the bag.

- If she picked the black pebble, she would become his wife and her father's debt would be forgiven.
- If she picked the white pebble she need not marry him and her father's debt would still be forgiven.
- If she refused to pick a pebble, her father would be thrown into jail.

They were standing on a pebble strewn path in the farmer's field. As they talked, the moneylender picked up two pebbles., the sharp-eyed girl noticed that he had picked up two black pebbles and put them into the bag. He then asked the girl to pick a pebble from the bag.

- Now, imagine that you were standing in the field. What would you have done if you were the girl?



ANS: She chooses and clumsily drops the pebble. She says luckily they can just look at the one left in the sack to see which one she picked.



Thank You...

