Are You Smart Enough to Work at Google?

## One – Outnumbered at the Googleplex (What it Takes to Get Hired at a Hyperselective Company)

* Google receives over 2 million applications a year and hires a few thousand
  + The odds of getting into Harvard are about 1 in 14
  + The odds of getting into Google are about 1 in 130
* **You are shrunk to the height of a nickel and thrown into a blender. Your mass is reduced so that your density is the same as usual. The blades start moving in sixty seconds. What do you do?**
  + “Throw the change in my pocket to jam the blades” -> The blades are sealed, if they weren’t your smoothie would leak into it
  + “Tear shirt into strips, tie to shoes and throw it over the top then climb out” -> Shoes to counterbalance your weight enough, you only have sixty seconds, what do you do when you’re at the top? Etc.
* Cliché behavioral questions:
  + “Tell me about a situation where you just couldn’t get along with a team member.”
  + “Describe a time when you had to deal with a rude customer.”
  + “What is your biggest failure in life?”
  + “Did you ever find yourself unable to meet a deadline? What did you do?”
  + “Describe the most diverse team you ever managed”
* Questions relating to business:
  + “How would you describe Whole Foods to a person visiting from another country?”
  + “Tell me how Target competes with Walmart, and how we should reposition our brand to gain market share.”
  + “How would you get more customers for Wachovia?”
  + “What challenges will Starbucks face in the next ten years?”
  + “How would you monetize Facebook?”
* There’s work sampling, where job candidates demonstrate what they can do instead of just talking about it (e.g. software developers write code)
* There are open-eneded mental challenges – which Google was well known for
  + Measure mental flexibility and even entrepreneurial potential
  + They try to measure **the ability to innovate**
  + Every company wants but few know how to measure it

### What Number Comes Next?

* What number comes next in this series?
  + Similar to psychological tests of creativity
  + Most candidates will try to make some sense of it when it’s quite senseless
  + Spell it out:
    - Ten
    - Nine
    - Sixty
    - Ninety
    - Seventy
    - Sixty-six
  + It is a list of the largest numbers that can be spelled with 3, then 4, then 5, then 6, etc. letters (e.g. between one, six, and ten, the last one is the largest)
  + So the next number needs to be the *largest* nine-letter number, excluding hyphens
  + Play with it and you will probably get **ninety-six**, at most companies, this is the valid answer
  + But at google a better answer is **one googol** (), but the best answer is **ten googol** (
* A **googleplex** is 10 to the power of a googol