Basic Puzzles

The puzzles are marked with stars (★) that show the degree of difficulty of the given puzzle.

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Climbing Snail ★

A snail is at the bottom of a 20 meters deep pit. Every day the snail climbs 5 meters upwards, but at night, it slides 4 meters back downwards.

The Question: How many days does it take before the snail reaches the top of the pit?

The Answer: ***Click here!...***

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Segmented Numbers ☆

Of all the numbers whose literal representations in capital letters consists **only** of straight-line segments (for example, **FIVE**), only one number has a value equal to the number of segments used to write it.

The Question: Which number has this property**?**

The Answer: ***Click here!...***

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Day after Day ☆

The day after tomorrow is the third day after Wednesday.

The Question: Which day was the day before yesterday**?**

The Answer: ***Click here!...***

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Jolly Jungle ☆

The Question: How do you put an elephant in the fridge**?**

The Answer: ***Click here!...***

Another Question: How do you put a giraffe in the fridge**?**

Another Answer: ***Click here!...***

Yet Another Question: The lion king gives a party for all animals. Which animal is not at the party**?**

Yet Another Answer: ***Click here!...***

The Fourth Question: You must cross a river that is inhabited by crocodiles. You do not have a boat, there is nothing around that floats, and there is no bridge. How do you get to the other side?

The Fourth Answer: ***Click here!...***

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Hans & Gerri

Hans is standing behind Gerri and at the same time Gerri is standing behind Hans.

The Question: How is this possible?

The Answer: ***Click here!...***

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Tall Dutchmen

Rob is taller than Edwin is; Jurgen is shorter than Rob is.

Of only one of the following statements, we now certainly know it is correct:

A. Edwin is taller than Jurgen is
B. Jurgen is taller than Edwin is
C. It cannot be determined if Jurgen or Edwin is tallest.

The Question: Which of the statements is certainly correct?

The Answer: ***Click here!...***

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Abracadabra with Apples ☆

In Miss Miranda's class are eleven children. Miss Miranda has a bowl with eleven apples. Miss Miranda wants to divide the eleven apples among the children of her class, in such a way that each child in the end has an apple, but one apple still remains in the bowl.

The Question: Can you help Miss Miranda?

The Answer: ***Click here!...***

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Tour de France ☆

The Question: In the Tour de France, what is the position of a rider, after he passes the second placed rider?

The Answer: ***Click here!...***

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Chain Connection ☆☆

You have five pieces of chain, each

consisting of three links. You want to make one long chain of these five pieces. Breaking open a link costs 1 euro, and welding an open link costs 3 euros.

The Question: Is it possible to make one long chain of the five pieces, if you have just 15 euros?

The Answer: ***Click here!...***

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Poor & Rich

The poor have it,
the rich want it,
but if you eat it, you will die.

The Question: What is this?

The Answer: ***Click here!...***

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Twins Trouble

Julius and Vincent are brothers. "We are born within the same hour," says Julius, "on the same day of the same year." "But," says Vincent, "we are no twins!"

The Question: How is this possible?

The Answer: ***Click here!...***

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One, Two, Three

Using the digits 1 up to 9, three numbers (of three digits each) can be formed, such that the second number is twice the first number, and the third number is three times the first number.

The Question: Which are these three numbers?

The Answer: ***Click here!...***

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Ten Trees

Joyce has bought ten trees for her garden. She wants to plant these trees in five rows, with four trees in each row.

The Question: How must Joyce plant the trees?

The Answer: ***Click here!...***

Another Question: Joyce's neighbor George has bought nine trees for his garden. How can he plant these nine trees in ten rows, with three trees in each row?

Another Answer: ***Click here!...***

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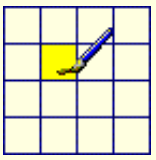
Colored Grid



Consider a grid of size 4 by 4 (i.e. sixteen squares), where all squares should get a color. The colored grid should meet the following conditions:

- 4 squares should be colored blue,
- 3 squares should be colored red,
- 3 squares should be colored white,
- 3 squares should be colored green,
- 3 squares should be colored yellow, and
- no color may appear more than once in any horizontal, vertical, or diagonal line.

The Question: How can the grid be colored**?**

A Hint : ***Click here!...***

The Answer: ***Click here!...***

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Consecutive Elements

The objects in this row have something in common:

One of the following three objects is the next element in the row.

The Question: Which one is the next element**?**

The Answer: ***Click here!...***

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Two Pots

On the right, you see a silver pot and a golden pot. One of these pots contains a treasure and the other one is empty. Assume that you can determine from the text prints which pot contains the treasure.

The text prints on the pots are the following:

The silver pot: "This pot is empty."

The golden pot: "Exactly one of these texts is true."

The Question: Which pot contains the treasure**?**

The Answer: ***Click here!...***

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Horse Trade

A man decides to buy a nice horse. He pays $60 for it, and he is very content with the strong animal. After a year, the value of the horse has increased to $70 and he decides to sell the horse. However, already a few days later he regrets his decision to sell the beautiful horse, and he buys it again. Unfortunately, he has to pay $80 to get it back, so he loses $10. After another year of owning the horse, he finally decides to sell the horse for $90.

The Question: What is the overall profit the man makes**?**

The Answer: ***Click here!...***

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Hotel Hocus NEW

Three salesmen went into a hotel to rent a room. The manager stated that he had only one room left, but all three could use it for $30.00 for the night. The three salesmen gave him $10.00 each and

went up to their room. Later, the manager decided that he had charged the salesmen too much so he called the bellhop over, gave him five one-dollar bills, and said: 'Take this $5.00 up to the salesmen and tell them I had charged them too much for the room'.

On the way up, the bellhop knew that he could not divide the five one-dollar bills equally, so he put two of the one-dollar bills in his pocket and returned one one-dollar bill to each of the salesmen.

This means that each salesman paid $9.00 for the room.

The bellhop kept $2.00.

Three times nine is 27 plus two is 29...

The Question: What happened to the extra dollar**?**

The Answer: ***Click here!...***

Another Question: "During our holidays," tells Anthony, "we arrived - two fathers and two sons - in the small village of Zeelst on a cold evening. There we looked for a place to sleep in the only hotel. Unfortunately there were only three beds free. Still, everyone slept alone in a bed."

How is this possible**?**

Another Answer: ***Click here!...***

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Birthday Cake

The birthday cake on the picture must be cut into eight equally sized pieces. However, you may make only three straight cuts.

The Question: How can the cake be cut into eight pieces with only three straight cuts**?**

The Answer: ***Click here!...***

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Silly Statements

Below are a number of statements:

1. Precisely one of these statements is untrue.
2. Precisely two of these statements are untrue.
3. Precisely three of these statements are untrue.
4. Precisely four of these statements are untrue.
5. Precisely five of these statements are untrue.
6. Precisely six of these statements are untrue.
7. Precisely seven of these statements are untrue.
8. Precisely eight of these statements are untrue.
9. Precisely nine of these statements are untrue.
10. Precisely ten of these statements are untrue.

The Question: Which of these statements is true**?**

The Answer: ***Click here!...***

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Easy Equation

Each of the digits 1 up to 6 must be used exactly once in a multiplication of the following form:

... × ... = ...

The Question: How should the six digits be placed**?**

The Answer: ***Click here!...***

Another Question: Can you make the following equation correct by using each of the digits 2 up to 5 exactly once**?**

... + ... = ...

Another Answer: ***Click here!...***

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Happy Birthday ☆☆

When Sandra had her birthday in the year 2000, she became 8 years old. However, she was born in the year 2008.

The Question: How can you explain this?

The Answer: ***Click here!...***

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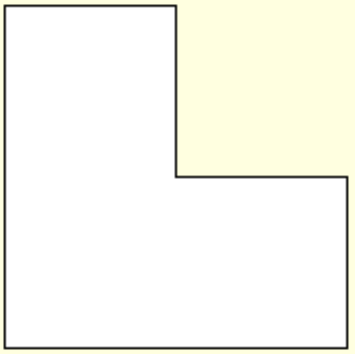
Splitting Shapes ☆☆



The shape shown on the right must be partitioned into four identical pieces.

The Question: How can this be done?

The Answer: ***Click here!...***

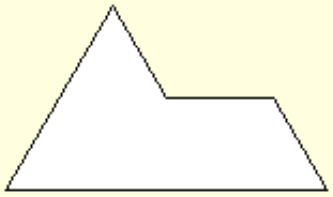
Another Question: The shape shown below must be partitioned into four identical pieces (pieces may be "upside down").

This can be done in *two* ways. Which are these two ways?

Another Answer: ***Click here!...***

Yet Another Question: The shape shown below must be partitioned into four

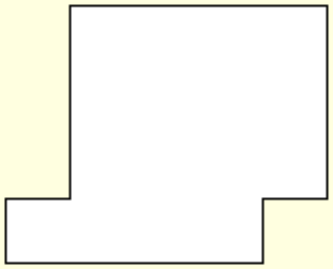
identical pieces (pieces may be "upside down").



This can be done in *two* ways. Which are these two ways**?**

Yet Another Answer: ***Click here!...***

The Fourth Question: The shape shown below must be partitioned into three identical pieces.



How can this be done**?**

The Fourth Answer: ***Click here!...***

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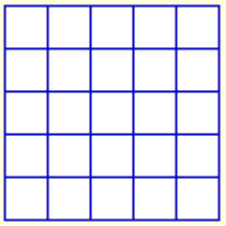
Smaller Squares



On the right, you see a square of 5 by 5 smaller squares. The purpose is to divide the square along the lines in four pieces, in such a way that you can make two smaller squares with these four pieces, *without needing to rotate the pieces*.

The Question: How should this be done**?**

The Answer: ***Click here!...***

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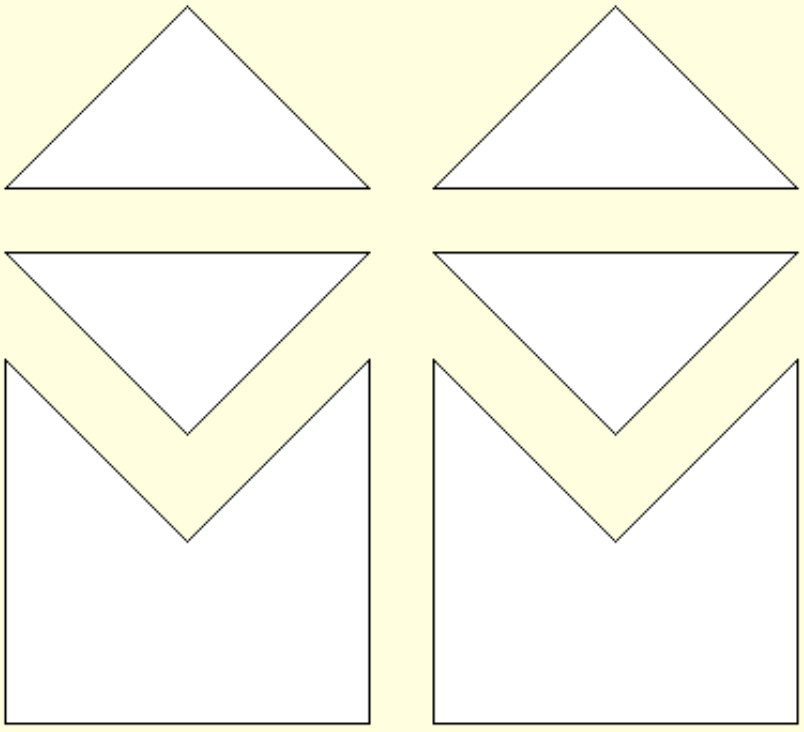
Plus Puzzle ☆☆☆

The six puzzle pieces shown below can be combined into a symmetrical plus sign.



The Question: How can this be done?

The Answer: ***Click here!...***

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Strange Sequence ☆☆☆

Here is a sequence of numbers:

1 11 21 1211 111221

It seems to be a strange sequence, but there is a system behind it...

The Question: What is the next term in this sequence?

The Answer: ***Click here!...***

Another Question: Here is another sequence of numbers:

1 11 21 1211 1231 131221

What is the next term in this sequence?

Another Answer: ***Click here!...***

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Ten Sentences ☆☆

Given the following sentences:

The number of times the digit 0 appears in this puzzle is _____.
The number of times the digit 1 appears in this puzzle is _____.
The number of times the digit 2 appears in this puzzle is _____.
The number of times the digit 3 appears in this puzzle is _____.
The number of times the digit 4 appears in this puzzle is _____.
The number of times the digit 5 appears in this puzzle is _____.
The number of times the digit 6 appears in this puzzle is _____.
The number of times the digit 7 appears in this puzzle is _____.
The number of times the digit 8 appears in this puzzle is _____.
The number of times the digit 9 appears in this puzzle is _____.

Complete these sentences with *digits* until they are all true.

The Question: Which *two* solutions are possible?

The Answer: ***Click here!...***

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Unusual Paragraph ☆☆

This is a most unusual paragraph. How quickly can you find out what is so unusual about it? It looks so ordinary that you would think that nothing is wrong with it at all, and, in fact, nothing is. But it is unusual. Why? If you study it and

think about it, you may find out, but I am not going to assist you in any way. You must do it without any hints or coaching. No doubt, if you work at it for a bit, it will dawn on you. Who knows? Go to work and try your skill. Good luck!

The Question: What is unusual about the above paragraph**?**

The Answer: ***Click here!...***

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