

DANIEL LEVITIN BUSINESS 08.22.14 06:30 AM

HOW TO SOLVE GOOGLE'S CRAZY OPEN-ENDED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS



GETTY

ONE OF THE most important tools in critical thinking about numbers is to grant yourself permission to generate wrong answers to mathematical problems you encounter. Deliberately wrong answers!

Engineers and scientists do it all the time, so there's no reason we shouldn't all be let in on their little secret: the art of approximating, or the "back of the napkin" calculation. As the British writer Saki wrote, "a little bit of inaccuracy saves a great deal of explanation."

For over a decade, when Google conducted job interviews, they'd ask their applicants questions that have no answers. Google is a company whose very existence depends on innovation—on inventing things that are new and didn't

FREE ARTICLES

| Get unlimited access + a

Sign In or Register if