

BRAINTEASERS

Clear, logical thinking is the key to solving these baffling brainteasers. They have been designed to confuse, confound, and mislead, so you'll have to concentrate hard and use sound reasoning to arrive at your answers. Turn to page 187 to see if you are right.



Carnival money

Three boys arrive at a carnival on Sunday morning. The man in the ticket booth tells them that the entrance fee is \$10 each—so the boys pay \$30 and enter the carnival. However, the man in the ticket booth realizes that tickets cost less on Sundays, so the boys should have paid only \$25. The man asks his assistant to go find the boys and give them \$5 back. The assistant can't figure out how to split \$5 between three people, so he keeps \$2 for himself and gives the boys \$1 each. This means that the boys have now paid \$9 each for their tickets—a total of \$27—and the assistant has kept \$2, making \$29 . . . What happened to the other \$1?



The frustrated farmer

A farmer is trying to use a small boat to row a fox, a chicken, and a bag of corn across a river. However, he can take only one thing at a time in the boat. If he leaves the fox with the chicken, the fox will eat the chicken. If he leaves the chicken with the corn, the chicken will eat the corn. How can the farmer get across the river without anything eating anything else?

It might help if you make paper cutouts of the characters to help you visualize the solution.

Find the treat

Janet wants a cookie, but first she needs to find the cookie jar in the cupboard. None of the jars has labels, only numbers. She gets only one guess. If she's wrong, she'll end up with something much less tasty than a cookie. To help her choose, she is given the following clues:



- The lentils are not on the bottom row and not in the middle.
- The beans are not on the top row and are not next to the rice, which is directly under the flour.
- The pepper is not on the right-hand side and has a number that is two more than the flour and four more than the lentils.

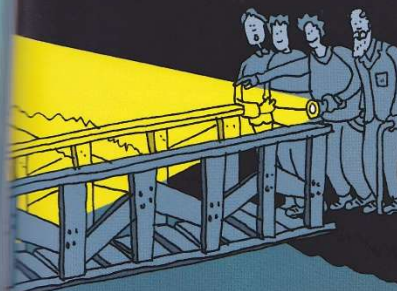
Which jar should she choose?

Two at a time

A group of four men—made up of two brothers plus their father and grandfather—is walking to a train station in the dark and come to an old narrow bridge that leads to the station. The bridge can support only two people at a time, and they have only one flashlight between them, so after one pair has crossed, one of the men needs to bring the flashlight back for the next pair. The four men take different times to cross the bridge.

- Brother 1 takes one minute.
- Brother 2 takes two minutes.
- The father takes five minutes.
- The grandfather takes ten minutes.

Each pair can walk across the bridge only as fast as the slowest man, and the next train arrives at the station in 17 minutes. How can all the men cross the bridge to the station on time?



The right door

A prisoner is given a chance to win his freedom: In his cell are two doors—behind one is a hungry lion and behind the other is the exit to the prison. In front of each door stands a guard—one guard always speaks the truth, the other only lies. The prisoner is allowed to ask one of the guards only one question. So what question should he ask to gain his freedom?



Who passed the package?

Rob has just won a game of pass the package. It started with nine children sitting in a circle. A package was given to the first player, who then passed it to the left to player number two and they continued in this way until the package reached the seventh player. This person then unwrapped a layer of paper and was eliminated from the game. The person to their left then became player number one and the game continued until there was only one person left to claim the prize. If Rob won the game, who started it?

