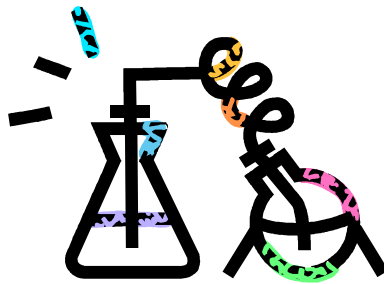
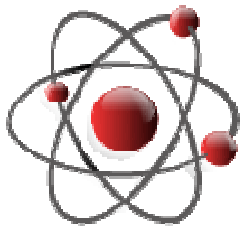


# Science & Technology BrainTeasers

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# Science

## Stabbed – no weapon

In a windowless cabin, locked from the inside, a woman with a stab wound is found dead, but there is no weapon. What happened?

- Potential Answers
  - She was stabbed outside the cabin and locked herself in to escape.
  - The stab wound was old and healed; she died of some other cause.
- Faulty Assumption
  - Assuming that it takes a knife to make a stab wound.
- Correct Answer
  - It was wintertime. She stabbed herself with an icicle that was hanging from the cabin roof. Then the icicle melted.



## Hanged – puddle of water

In an empty room, a man hanged himself by attaching a rope to a ceiling hook that was beyond his reach. Beneath the man was a puddle of water. How did he reach the hook?

- Potential Answers
  - He threw the rope over the hook and pulled himself up.
  - The puddle of water was urine released after death.
- Faulty Assumption
  - Assuming he required a permanent object to stand on to reach the hook.
- Correct Answer
  - He reached the hook by standing on a block of ice that melted.



## Birds in space

Why can't birds travel in rocket ships through outer space?

- Potential Answers
  - They can't fly in zero gravity.
  - They become disoriented without a magnetic field.
- Faulty Assumption
  - None really. The answer requires knowledge of bird biology.
- Correct Answer
  - Birds need gravity to swallow water.



## Tallest mountain

Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the tallest mountain on earth?

- Potential Answer
  - Any mountain named.
- Faulty Assumption
  - Assuming a mountain must be measured to be tall.
- Correct Answer
  - Mt. Everest has always been the tallest mountain.



# Technology

## Train smoke

A high-speed electric train is heading north at 100 mph. The wind is blowing south at 50 mph. What is the speed of the smoke from the engine?

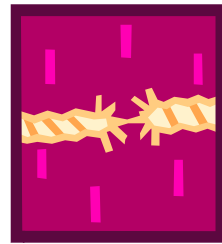
- Potential Answers
  - Any number given.
- Faulty Assumption
  - Assuming there is a mathematical answer.
- Correct Answer
  - Electric trains don't make smoke.



## Ropes from ceiling

Two ropes hang from a ceiling. Holding one rope in your hand, the other is just beyond your reach. Using a knife, how would you join the ropes together?

- Potential Answers
  - Unravel a rope and cut strands to make a longer rope to tie together.
  - Swing on one rope like Tarzan to reach the other rope.
- Faulty Assumption
  - Assuming the only possible use for a knife is to cut the rope.
- Correct Answer
  - Tie the knife to one rope, then swing it to the other like a pendulum.



## Weighing coins

You have 7 coins that appear identical, but one weighs more than the others. With a balance scale, how could you find the heavier coin in two weighings?

- Faulty Assumption
  - None really. But a specific weighing sequence is required.
- Correct Answer
  - Place 3 coins on each side of the scale. If balanced, the unweighed coin is heavier.
  - If one side is heavier, take those 3 coins and weigh 1 coin on each side of the scale.
  - If balanced, the unweighed coin is heavier. If unbalanced, the heavier coin is evident.



## Box weighs less

What could you put in a cardboard box to make it weigh less?

- Potential Answers
  - A helium balloon (assuming the box has a top).
  - A lighter-than-air gas (assuming the box can be made airtight).
- Faulty Assumption
  - Assuming you must put an object into the box.
- Correct Answer
  - Put a hole in the side of the box, reducing its weight. Or put a hole in the bottom of the box causing its contents to pour out.

