

Social BrainTeasers

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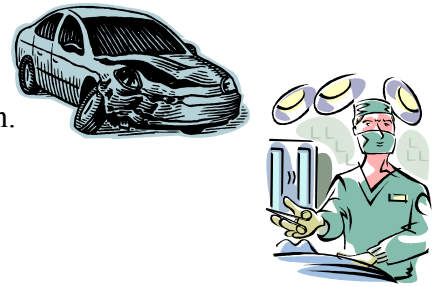


Gender

Father/son accident – surgeon

A father has a car accident which injures his son. At the hospital the surgeon says, “I can’t operate on him, he’s my son!” How is this possible?

- Potential Answers
 - The father wasn’t hurt and is the surgeon.
 - The son’s parents are a gay couple, one of whom is the surgeon.
- Faulty Assumption
 - Assuming that the surgeon is a man.
- Correct Answer
 - The surgeon is the son’s mother.



Plumber/Electrician – father of son

A plumber is the father of an electrician’s son. How is this possible?

- Potential Answers
 - The plumber was the sperm donor for the electrician’s wife.
 - The electrician is the son’s stepfather.
- Faulty Assumption
 - Assuming that the electrician is a man.
- Correct Answer
 - The electrician is the son’s mother.



Buddy married – name of daughter

Bob was surprised to learn that an old buddy had gotten married. Bob didn’t know who the spouse was, but when told that they named their daughter after her mother, Bob said the daughter’s name was “Judy.” How did he know?

- Potential Answers
 - His buddy had always liked the name “Judy.”
 - The “mother” was his buddy’s mother, Judy.
- Faulty Assumption
 - Assuming that Bob’s buddy was a man.
- Correct Answer
 - Bob’s old buddy was Judy, and her daughter was named after her.

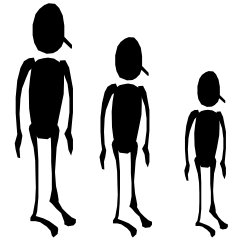


Relationships

Son's father

If Fred's son is my son's father, what is Fred to me?

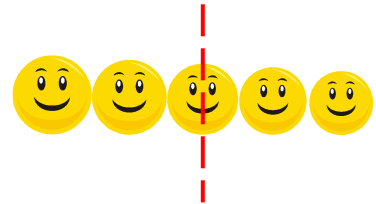
- Faulty Assumption
None really. But relationship BrainTeasers like this one can befuddle the mind as it bounces back and forth with who's who.
- Tips to Solve
Imagine stick figures for the people involved and assign identities to each. For example, imagine Fred and his son. Then figure out the remaining relationship/s.
- Correct Answer
"My son's father" is the same as "me." Therefore, Fred is my father.



Half are boys

In a family, half of the 5 children are boys. How is this possible?

- Potential Answer
– One child is a hermaphrodite (has sex organs of both genders).
- Faulty Assumption
Assuming that the other half are girls.
- Correct Answer
All of the children are boys, so half of them would still be boys.



Man married women

A Utah man married 16 different women but broke no laws. Why not?

- Potential Answers
– He divorced each wife or they died of natural causes.
– He was a Mormon who practiced polygamy (which is illegal).
- Faulty Assumption
Assuming that it was the man himself who was getting married.
- Correct Answer
The man was a minister who performed marriage ceremonies.



Sons & sisters

A couple has 5 sons. Each son has one sister. How many children are there?

- *Incorrect* Answer
– Ten children.
- Faulty Assumption
Assuming that each son had a separate sister.
- Correct Answer
Six children. Each son had the same sister.



Personification

Personification is the tendency to give human qualities to non-human animals or things. In the following BrainTeasers, this works in reverse as we assume that named characters are human beings.

Female in puddle of water/glass

Sally was found dead in a puddle of water and glass. How did she die?

- Potential Answers
 - She drowned.
 - She got cut and bled to death.
- Faulty Assumption
 - Assuming that Sally was a human being.
- Correct Answer
 - Sally was a goldfish whose fishbowl broke.



Male loses leg – walks

Tom lost a leg in an accident but was able to walk without crutches or any other device. How was this possible?

- Potential Answers
 - He hopped on one leg.
 - He had an assistant who helped him.
- Faulty Assumption
 - Assuming that Tom was a human being.
- Correct Answer
 - Tom was a dog who walked on his three remaining legs.



Life & Death

Plane crashes on border

When a plane crashes on an international border, where are the survivors buried?

- Potential Answers
 - On the side of the border each is from.
 - In the country of their nationality.
- Faulty Assumption
 - Assuming that “survivors” would be buried.
- Correct Answer
 - Survivors are alive, so they wouldn’t be buried.



Man can't marry widow's sister

Why can't a Catholic man marry his widow's sister?

- Potential Answers
 - It's against his religion.
 - The sister was already married.
- Faulty Assumption
 - Assuming that his “widow” was the one who died.
- Correct Answer
 - He's dead. His widow survives him.



Man gives gift – receiver doesn't know

A man gives a friend a gift. The friend uses the gift, but doesn't know he received it. How is this possible?

- Potential Answers
 - The friend didn't know it was a gift.
 - The gift was a medical device for a comatose friend.
- Faulty Assumption
 - Assuming that “uses the gift” means the friend was alive.
- Correct Answer
 - The gift was a coffin “used” by a deceased friend.

