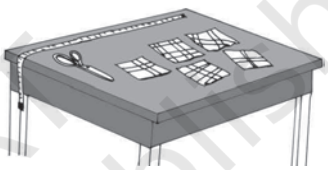
BRAIN-TEASERS

1. From a basket of mangoes when counted in twos there was one extra, counted in threes there were two extra, counted in fours there were three extra, counted in fives there were four extra, counted in sixes there were five extra. But counted in sevens there were no extra. Atleast how many mangoes were there in the basket?
2. A boy was asked to find the LCM of 3, 5, 12 and another number. But while calculating, he wrote 21 instead of 12 and yet came with the correct answer. What could be the fourth number?
3. There were five pieces of cloth of lengths 15 m, 21 m, 36 m, 42 m, 48 m. But all of them could be measured in whole units of a measuring rod. What could be the largest length of the rod?



4. There are three cans. One of them holds exactly 10 litres of milk and is full. The other two cans can hold 7 litres and 3 litres respectively. There is no graduation mark on the cans. A customer asks for 5 litres of milk. How would you give him the amount he ask? He would not be satisfied by eye estimates.
5. Which two digit numbers when added to 27 get reversed?
6. Cement mortar was being prepared by mixing cement to sand in the ratio of 1:6 by volume. In a cement mortar of 42 units of volume, how much more cement needs to be added to enrich the mortar to the ratio 2:9?
7. In a solution of common salt in water, the ratio of salt to water was 30:70 as per weight. If we evaporate 100 grams of water from one kilogram of this solution, what will be the ratio of the salt to water by weight?
8. Half a swarm of bees went to collect honey from a mustard field. Three fourth of the rest went to a rose garden. The rest ten were still undecided. How many bees were there in all?

9. Fifteen children are sitting in a circle. They are asked to pass a handkerchief to the child next to the child immediately after them.

   The game stops once the handkerchief returns to the child it started from. This

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can be written as follows : 1→3→5→7→9→11→13→15→2→4→6→8 → 10→12 →14→1. Here, we see that every child gets the handkerchief.

(i) What would happen if the handkerchief were passed to the left leaving two children in between? Would every child get the handkerchief?

(ii) What if we leave three children in between? What do you see?

In which cases every child gets the handkerchief and in which cases not?

Try the same game with 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 children. What do you see?

10. Take two numbers 9 and 16. Divide 9 by 16 to get the remainder. What is the remainder when 2 × 9 is divided by 16, 3 × 9 divided by 16, 4 × 9 divided by 16, 5 × 9 divided by 16... 15 × 9 divided by 16. List the remainders. Take the numbers 12 and 14. List the remainders of 12, 12 × 2, 12 × 3, 12 × 4, 12 × 5, 12 × 6, 12 × 7, 12 × 8, 12 × 9, 12 × 10, 12 × 11, 12 × 12, 12 × 13 when divided by 14. Do you see any difference between above two cases?

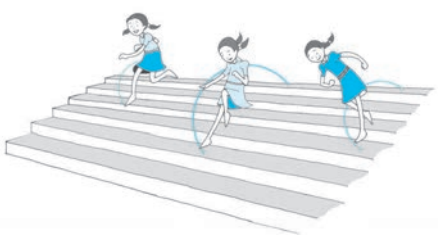
11. You have been given two cans with capacities 9 and 5 litres respectively. There is no graduation marks on the cans nor is eye estimation possible. How can you collect 3 litres of water from a tap? (You are allowed to pour out water from the can). If the cans had capacities 8 and 6 litres respectively, could you collect 5 litres?

12. The area of the east wall of an auditorium is 108 sq m, the area of the north wall is 135 sq m and the area of the floor is 180 sq m. Find the height of the auditorium.

13. If we subtract 4 from the digit at the units place of a two digit number and add 4 to the digit at the tens place then the resulting number is doubled. Find the number.

14. Two boatmen start simultaneously from the opposite shores of a river and they cross each other after 45 minutes of their starting from the respective shores. They rowed till they reached the opposite shore and returned immediately after reaching the shores. When will they cross each other again?

15. Three girls are climbing down a staircase. One girl climbs down two steps at one go. The second girl three steps at one go and the third climbs down four steps. They started together from the beginning of the staircase



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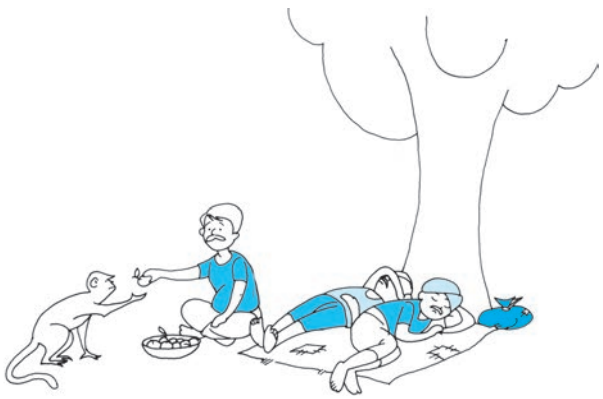
leaving their foot marks. They all came down in complete steps and had their foot marks together at the bottom of the staircase. In how many steps would there be only one pair of foot mark?

Are there any steps on which there would be no foot marks.

16. A group of soldiers was asked to fall in line making rows of three. It was found that there was one soldier extra. Then they were asked to stand in rows of five. It was found there were left 2 soldiers. They were asked to stand in rows of seven. Then there were three soldiers who could not be adjusted. At least how many soldiers were there in the group?
17. Get 100 using four 9's and some of the symbols like +, –, ×, ¸ etc.
18. How many digits would be in the product $2 \times 2 \times 2 \ldots\ldots \times 2$ (30 times)?
19. A man would be 5 minutes late to reach his destination if he rides his bike at 30 km. per hour. But he would be 10 minutes early if he rides at the speed of 40 km per hour. What is the distance of his destination from where he starts?
20. The ratio of speeds of two vehicles is 2:3. If the first vehicle covers 50 km in 3 hours, what distance would the second vehicle covers in 2 hours?
21. The ratio of income to expenditure of Mr. Natarajan is 7:5. If he saves ₹ 2000 a month, what could be his income?
22. The ratio of the length to breadth of a lawn is 3:5. It costs ₹ 3200 to fence it at the rate of ₹ 2 a metre. What would be the cost of developing the lawn at the rate of ₹10 per square metre.
23. If one counts one for the thumb, two for the index finger, three for the middle finger, four for the ring finger, five for the little finger and continues counting backwards, six for the ring finger, seven for the middle finger, eight for the index finger, 9 for the thumb, ten for the index finger, eleven for the middle finger, twelve for the ring finger, thirteen for the little finger, fourteen for the ring finger and so on. Which finger will be counted as one thousand?
24. Three friends plucked some mangoes from a mango grove and collected them together in a pile and took nap after that. After some time, one of the friends woke up and divided the mangoes into three equal numbers. There was one



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mango extra. He gave it to a monkey nearby, took one part for himself and slept again. Next the second friend got up unaware of what has happened, divided the rest of the mangoes into three equal shares. There was an extra mango. He gave it to the monkey, took one share for himself and slept again. Next the third friend got up not knowing what happened and divided the mangoes into three equal shares. There was an extra mango. He gave it to the monkey, took one share for himself and went to sleep again. After some time, all of them got up together to find 30 mangoes. How many mangoes did the friends pluck initially?

25. **The peculiar number**

    There is a number which is very peculiar. This number is three times the sum of its digits. Can you find the number?

26. Ten saplings are to be planted in straight lines in such way that each line has exactly four of them.

27. What will be the next number in the sequence?

    (a) 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, ...

    (b) 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, ...

    (c) 2, 6, 12, 20, 30, ...

    (d) 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, ...

    (e) 1, 3, 6, 10, 15, ...

28. Observe the pattern in the following statement:

    $31 \times 39 = 13 \times 93$

    The two numbers on each side are co-prime and are obtained by **reversing the digits** of respective numbers. Try to write some more pairs of such numbers.

ANSWERS

1. 119
2. 28
3. 3 m
4. The man takes an empty vessel other than these.

   With the help of 3 litres can he takes out 9 litres of milk from the 10 litres can and pours it in the extra can. So, 1 litre milk remains in the 10 litres can. With the help of 7 litres can he takes out 7 litres of milk from the extra can and pours it in the 10 litres can. The 10 litres can now has 1 + 7 = 8 litres of milk.

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With the help of 3 litres can he takes out 3 litres milk from the 10 litres can. The 10 litres can now has 8 – 3 = 5 litres of milk, which he gives to the customer.

5. 14, 25, 36, 47, 58, 69
6. 2 units
7. 1 : 2
8. 80
9. (i) No, all children would not get it.

   (ii) All would get it.
10. 9, 2, 11, 4, 13, 6, 15, 8, 1, 10, 3, 12, 5, 14, 7.

    12, 10, 8, 6, 4, 2, 0, 12, 10, 8, 6, 4.
11. Fill the 9 litres can. Remove 5 litres from it using the 5 litres can. Empty the 5 litres can. Pour 4 litres remaining in the 9 litres can to the 5 litres can.

    Fill the 9 litres can again. Fill the remaining 5 litres can from the water in it. This leaves 8 litres in the 9 litres can. Empty the 5 litres can. Fill it from the 9 litres can. You now have 3 litres left in the 9 litres can.
12. Height = 9m
13. 36
14. 90 minutes
15. Steps with one pair of foot marks – 2, 3, 9, 10

    Steps with no foot marks – 1, 5, 7, 11
16. 52
17. $99 + \frac{9}{9}$
18. 10
19. 30 km
20. 50 km
21. ₹ 7000 per month

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22. ₹ 15,00,000
23. Index finger
24. 106 mangoes
25. 27
26. One arrangement could be
27. (a) 25 (b) 27 (c) 42 (d) 21 (e) 21
28. One such pair is $13 \times 62 = 31 \times 26$.

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