

# Mental Exercise

By David Beagan

## Family Reunion

There is a family reunion in which the following are in attendance: a father, a mother, a son, a daughter, an uncle, an aunt, a brother, a sister, a cousin, a nephew, and a niece. But just four people are there. How could this be so?

## What Is It?

I went into the forest and I got it. When I got it I looked for it, but couldn't find it, so I brought it home in my hand. What is it?

## Mystery Word

What is it that when you take away the whole you still have some left?

(Hint, think of a single word)

## Conundrum

A man and wife go to a favorite restaurant to get dinner. Upon returning home from the restaurant, they are more hungry than before going to the restaurant. Yet they are happy with their decision to get dinner there. How could that be?

## Wacky Elevator

A vandal rewires an elevator in an eight floor office building so that some of the buttons on the control panel don't go to the correct floor. The elevator has buttons for the basement through the seventh floor. Starting with the elevator on the basement level, pushing a button to go to a floor does not necessarily get one there. Three of the buttons and the basement button work correctly. Two buttons take the elevator to a floor with a number twice that of the floor to which it should go. Two buttons take it to a floor with a number half that of the floor to which it should. The first floor button, one level above the basement, doesn't work correctly. Every floor is accessible by pushing just one button. How is the elevator wired? That is, what is the result of pushing each of the seven buttons?

## Light Smokes

There are ten packs of cigarettes and each packet contains ten cigarettes. Assume that the packaging for the packets is weightless and that each cigarette weighs ten grams. One pack has cigarettes which all weigh only nine grams. What is the minimum number of times you must weigh to find out which packet is the one with the lesser weight cigarettes? You are weighing with an accurate scale with a digital readout, not a balance.

## To the Letter

How is the letter g like 12:00 noon?

## Object of Vocation

Match each person on the left to the object that they work with.

mason		hats
cooper		maps
glazier		coins
modiste		steel
cobbler		shoes
milliner		arrows
fletcher		stamps
topologist	?	bricks
prosthetist		barrels
boilermaker		clothing
philatelist		crosswords
numismatist		tightropes
funambulist		artistic glass
cartographer		artificial limbs
cruciverbalist		geometric figures

## Statement that Pays

Imagine there are 3 coins on the table. Gold, silver and copper. If you say a truthful sentence, you will get one coin. If you say a false sentence, you get nothing. Which sentence can guarantee gaining the gold coin?

## Answers to Mental Exercise on Page 14

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