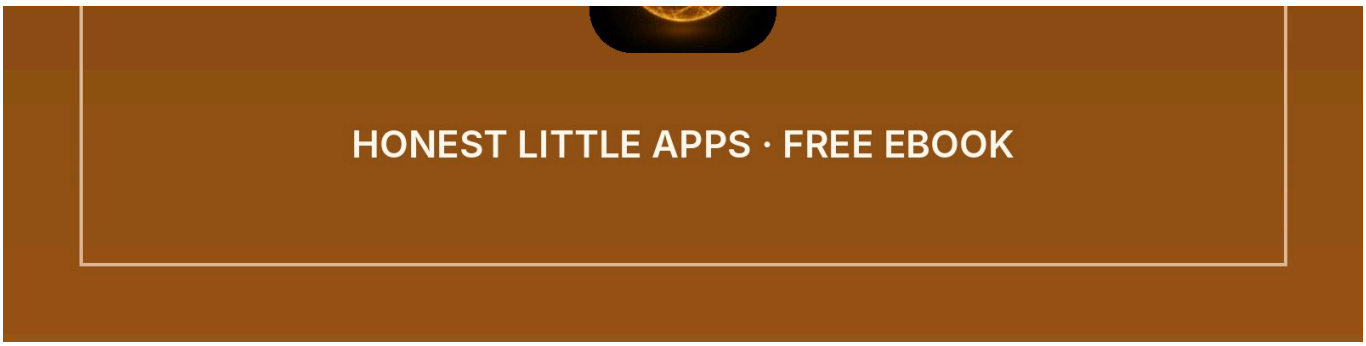
31 Brain Puzzles

Logic and number teasers, answers included





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Give each puzzle sixty seconds before you read the answer. Most of them have a trap; spotting it is the fun.

Day 1

A bat and a ball cost $1.10 together. The bat costs $1.00 more than the ball. How much is the ball?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: 5 cents. (Bat $1.05 + ball $0.05 = $1.10.)

Day 2

What comes next: 2, 6, 12, 20, 30, ?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: 42. The gaps go 4, 6, 8, 10, 12.

Day 3

If 5 machines make 5 widgets in 5 minutes, how long do 100 machines take to make 100 widgets?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: 5 minutes. Each machine makes one widget in 5 minutes.

Day 4

I'm an odd number. Take away one letter and I become even. What number am I?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: Seven. Remove the S and you get 'even'.

Day 5

A lily patch doubles every day and covers the lake on day 48. When did it cover half?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: Day 47.

Day 6

Which is heavier: a kilogram of feathers or a kilogram of steel?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: Neither. Both weigh one kilogram.

Day 7

Mary's father has five daughters: Nana, Nene, Nini, Nono. What's the fifth called?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: Mary.

Day 8

What comes next: 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, ?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: 13. Each number is the sum of the previous two (Fibonacci).

Day 9

How many times can you subtract 10 from 100?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: Once. After that you're subtracting from 90.

Day 10

A clock shows 3:15. What's the angle between the hands?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: 7.5°. The hour hand has moved a quarter of the way from 3 to 4.

Day 11

You're in a race and pass the person in 2nd place. What place are you in?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: 2nd.

Day 12

What 5-letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: Short, which becomes 'shorter'.

Day 13

Rearrange the letters of LISTEN to make another word.

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: SILENT (also ENLIST, TINSEL, INLETS).

Day 14

Next in the series: J, F, M, A, M, J, J, ?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: A, for August. They're the first letters of the months.

Day 15

A farmer has 17 sheep. All but 9 run away. How many are left?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: 9.

Day 16

What is half of 2 + 2?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: 3. Half of 2 is 1, then add 2 (order of operations).

Day 17

Three boxes are labelled Apples, Oranges and Mixed, and every label is wrong. You may pick one fruit from one box. Which box?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: Pick from 'Mixed'. It must hold only one kind, which tells you how to relabel all three.

Day 18

Next: 3, 9, 27, 81, ?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: 243. Multiply by 3 each time.

Day 19

A word with three double letters in a row?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: Bookkeeper (oo-kk-ee).

Day 20

If you have me, you want to share me. If you share me, you don't have me. What am I?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: A secret.

Day 21

Next: 1, 4, 9, 16, 25, ?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: 36. They're square numbers.

Day 22

How many months have 28 days?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: All twelve.

Day 23

Two fathers and two sons go fishing and catch three fish, one each. How?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: There are only three people: grandfather, father and son.

Day 24

Next: Z, X, V, T, R, ?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: P. Go backwards, skipping one letter each time.

Day 25

What can you hold in your right hand but never in your left?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: Your left hand (or left elbow).

Day 26

If today is Wednesday, what day is 100 days from now?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: Friday. 100 = 14 weeks + 2 days.

Day 27

A brick weighs 1 kg plus half a brick. How much does a brick weigh?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: 2 kg.

Day 28

What word is spelled wrong in every dictionary?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: "Wrong."

Day 29

Next: 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, ?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: 17. They're prime numbers.

Day 30

A doctor gives you 3 pills, one every half hour. How long until they're gone?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: 1 hour. Now, 30 minutes and 60 minutes.

Day 31

What has keys but can't open locks?

Give it 60 seconds before you look.

Answer: A piano (or a keyboard).

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