

The background of the entire page is filled with various gears in different colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue) and sizes. Some gears are solid, while others are outlines. The overall theme is mechanical and intellectual.

Sharp

minds

GAMES

BRAIN TEASERS CHALLENGE

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE • DETECT THE PATTERNS
SOLVE THE RIDDLES

Your
Imprint
Here!



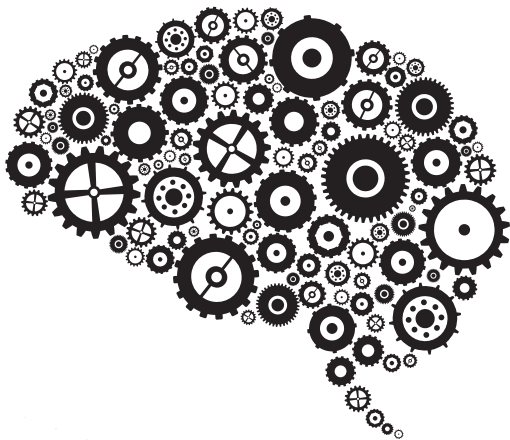
BRAIN TEASERS CHALLENGE

THE IMPORTANCE OF A SHARP MIND

There are countless sayings, adages and aphorisms involving the human brain. The mind is a terrible thing to waste, being the most prominent and poignant, speaks directly to the importance of keeping the brain active. But how, exactly, does one keep the brain active?

It's not as if there's a little barbell set out there for the brain. Your brain isn't doing sit-ups and squats. So, how do you train the brain? Knowledge is the answer, of course, but let's be honest: Reading books and doing math problems can be very tedious and boring. Most of us cannot wait until we're out of school; we're in no hurry to jump right back in. That's why brain games are always a great idea – those little fun-to-do mental exercises that keep your brain sharp and your senses alert.

Brain games can actually wake up parts of the brain that are typically dormant in day-to-day life.



The background features a pattern of grey gears of various sizes and a field of grey dots of varying diameters, scattered across the page. The gears are stylized with concentric circles and teeth.

THE BENEFITS OF SHARP MIND GAMES

One of the biggest things you learn by solving puzzles of all kinds is the ability to think outside of the box for a solution. This type of thinking literally hardwires the brain to solve tougher problems by examining more than what's typically confined in the narrow scope of problem-solving.

Being mentally sharp and actually exercising the brain helps in many areas. For starters, it helps neurons to fire faster, more frequently, and thus help you make quick work of everyday problems.

Staying sharp and training the brain also increases your overall intelligence. Ever wonder why those super-smart people are so brilliant? What's different about their brains from an average person's brain? It's the ability to absorb and understand knowledge. A trained brain retains knowledge and builds pathways for the recollection of answers.

You may never be trapped on the 85th floor with only 20 feet of rope, a tennis shoe and a pocket knife, but if you are, the sharp mind can craft an out-of-the-box way out of that situation, whereas the dull mind has very limited options.

HOW TO PLAY

This book contains a variety of riddles and puzzles designed to give your brain a well-rounded workout. Not only do they help keep your brain active, but they are also fun!

Riddles: If laughter is the best medicine, then riddles are a proverbial pharmacy. Riddles pack a double punch because their humor not only helps release stress, but they also help us improve our problem solving and critical thinking skills. Best of all the laughter makes it fun; motivating us to tackle the next problem.

Spot the Difference: These puzzles involve comparing a series of pictures in order to identify which one is different. Spot the difference puzzles can help improve your concentration by forcing you to focus on and remember small details.

Pattern Puzzles: To solve a pattern puzzle you must identify the patterns or rules that govern the series in order to determine which shape should come next. Pattern puzzles are great at forcing you to think outside the box while honing your critical thinking skills. Problems similar to these are used in IQ tests to measure intelligence.

RIDDLES

WHAT AM I?

1. I cannot speak before spoken to.
2. In the sun I am dripping wet, but in the cold I am dry.
3. I have a voracious appetite for books but don't know how to read.
4. I used to be tomorrow and will soon be yesterday.
5. I flutter but have no wings. I cry but have no voice. I bite but have no teeth.
6. You answer me even though I don't ask any questions.



See answer keys on pages 45-48.

RIDDLES

WHAT AM I?

7. I am yours but am most often used by other people.
8. I run but can't walk. I have a bed but can't sleep. I have a mouth but can't talk. I have a head but can't think.
9. I have hands but no arms. I have a face but no head.
10. I can go up and down without moving.
11. I am light as air, but you can't hold me for very long.
12. The more I dry, the wetter I become.
13. I lose my head in the morning but get it back at night.
14. The more you have of me, the less you are able to see.

See answer keys on pages 45-48.

RIDDLES

WHAT AM I?

15. I have a head but can't talk. I have a tail but can't wag it.
16. If you speak my name I disappear.
17. I spent years running around China but never moved.
18. I won't cry if you peel off my skin, but you will.
19. I have three feet but can't walk.
20. I have hundreds of ears but can't hear.
21. I can run but can't walk.
22. You can swallow me, but I can also swallow you.



See answer keys on pages 45-48.

RIDDLES

WHAT AM I?

23. I have many teeth but spit out everything I chew.
24. I have four legs, one head, and a foot.
25. I am heavy, but if you flip me backward I am not.
26. Depending on how you spell me I can be an odor, mail, or money.
27. I start as a place for beasts. Take away one sixth of me and I become a place for feasts.



28. I can be written upside down, backward, or forward, and you can still read me from left to right.

See answer keys on pages 45-48.

RIDDLES

OTHER

29. How many elephants did Moses take on the ark?
30. What starts and ends with the letter e, but only contains one letter? It is not the letter e.
31. Why do Americans eat more French fries than French people?

32. Where can you find forests that have no trees, cities that have no houses, and roads that have no cars?



33. What do poor people have and rich people need?
34. How can an empty bucket have something in it?

See answer keys on pages 45-48.

RIDDLES**OTHER**

35. What can you see once in a minute, two times in a moment, but you will never see it in a thousand years?
36. What do you lose once you share it?
37. A dog is on a five-foot chain and wants a bone that is six feet away from him. How does he reach it?
38. We are a family of five. One you will find in glass, the second in wind, the third in mud, the fourth in blood, and the fifth in bed.

39. If you are asked this question, you can never truthfully answer yes to it.



40. What two things can you be given that if one is taken away you have none?

See answer keys on pages 45-48.

RIDDLES

OTHER

41. What has four wheels and flies but can't move on its own?
42. In order to keep this, you must give it.
43. If on your way to the grocery store you meet three of your friends and each of your friends have two of their children with them, how many of you are going to the store?
44. What kills us all, but we always want more of it?
45. What stinks while alive, but smells good after it's dead?
46. What can you add to black to make it blacker?
47. What do blood, bombs, and chloroform all have in common?

See answer keys on pages 45-48.

RIDDLES**OTHER**

48. What can rest on fire without being burned, lie on water without sinking, and can fall on glass without breaking it?



49. How can a man legally marry ten women without being widowed or divorced?

50. Are there any words in the dictionary spelled incorrectly?

51. Pretend you are in a stone prison cell with no windows, no doors, and two pieces of string. How do you get out?

52. A man is trapped in a boat and the water in the river is steadily rising. The boat is five feet deep and the water is currently two feet from the top of the boat. How long will it take for the water to get to the top of the boat if the water is rising at a rate of 13 inches every 45 minutes?



See answer keys on pages 45-48.

RIDDLES

OTHER

53. How can a mother give birth to two babies at the same time and have them not be twins?
54. Why can't a person living in England be buried in France?
55. Which of these words doesn't belong? Ad, Bad, Sad, Wad, Cad, Lad, Dad
56. What is between heaven and earth?
57. Four months out of the year have 30 days and seven of the months have 31. How many months have 28 days?
58. What is full of holes but can still hold water?
59. How can a room be full of people but not have a single person in it?



See answer keys on pages 45-48.

RIDDLES**OTHER**

60. Mississippi has four s's. Can you spell that without any s's?
61. Who is your mother's brother's only brother-in-law?
62. What grows down as it grows up?
63. In the United States, you can't take a photo of a man with a gun. Why?



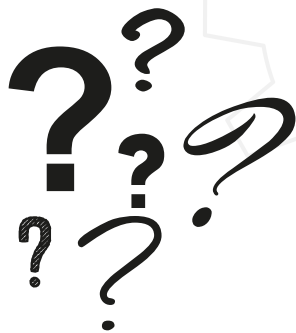
64. If a hole is 3 feet deep and 3 feet wide, how much dirt is in it?
65. No matter how much it rains, what doesn't get any wetter?
66. How can you drop an egg two stories down without breaking it?

See answer keys on pages 45-48.

RIDDLES

OTHER

67. What question can you ask over and over again and get a different answer each time?
68. Hazel's mom has three daughters. The eldest is named Hour and the youngest is named Second. What is the name of the middle daughter?



69. What is as big as an elephant but doesn't weigh anything?
70. What does a porcupine have that no other animal has?



71. You are locked in a room with your dog. The room has a couch, a folding chair, and an inflatable mattress. Where is the one place your dog can sit that you can't?

See answer keys on pages 45-48.

RIDDLES
OTHER

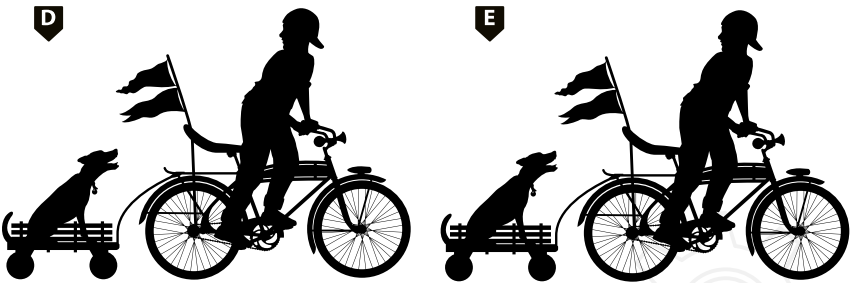
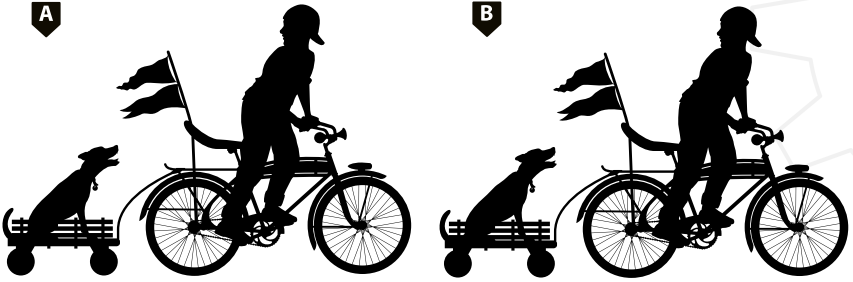
aeiou

72. What word contains all five vowels in alphabetical order?
73. What do the words month, orange, silver, and purple have in common?
74. This word is pronounced differently if the first letter is capitalized.
75. What do you call a legless cow?



See answer keys on pages 45-48.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



See answer keys on pages 45-48.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

A



B



C



D

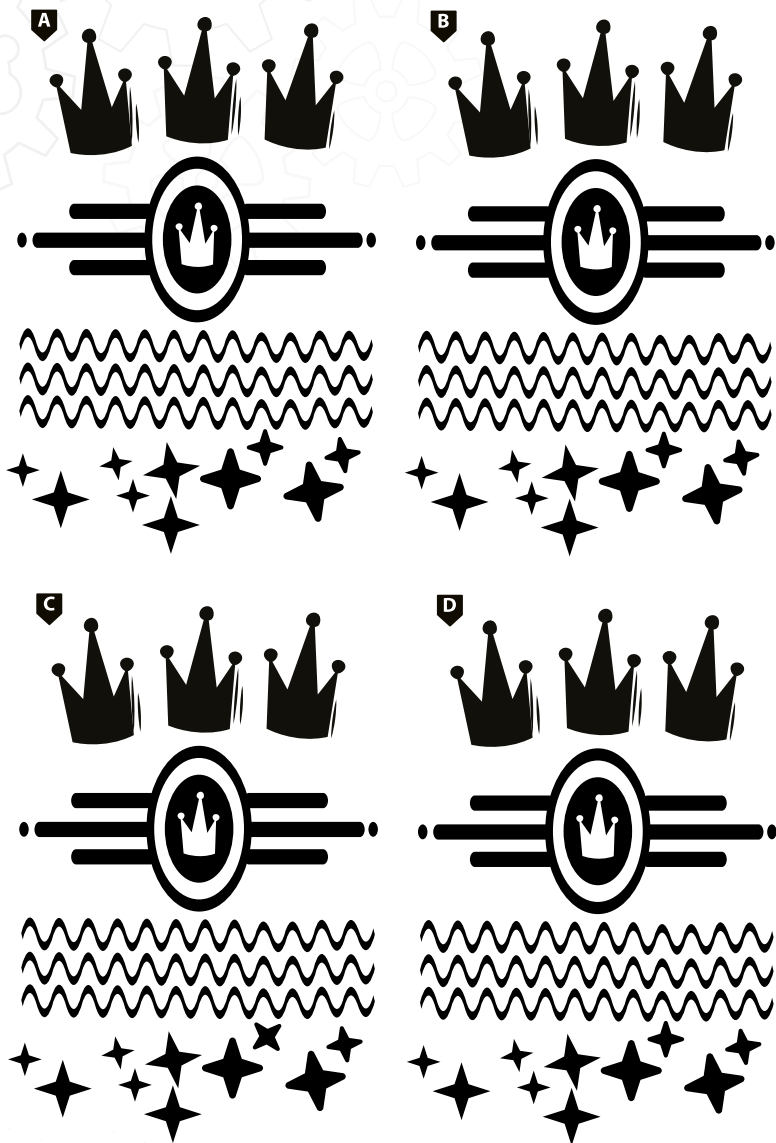


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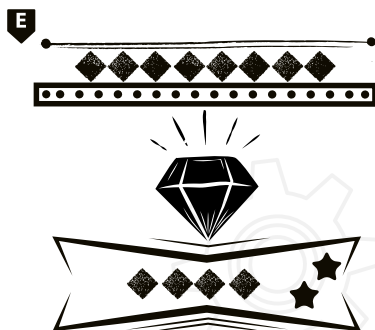
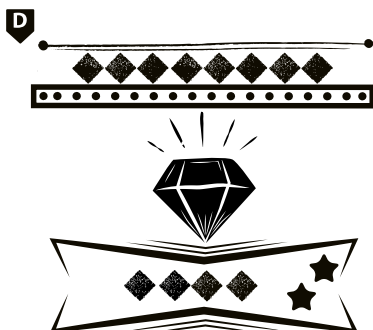
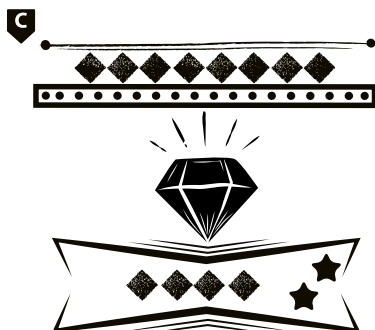
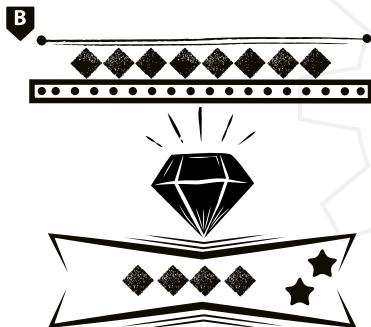
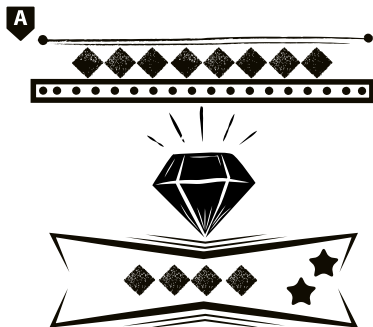
See answer keys on pages 45-48.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



See answer keys on pages 45-48.

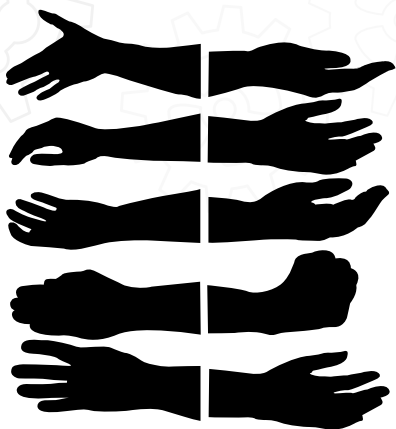
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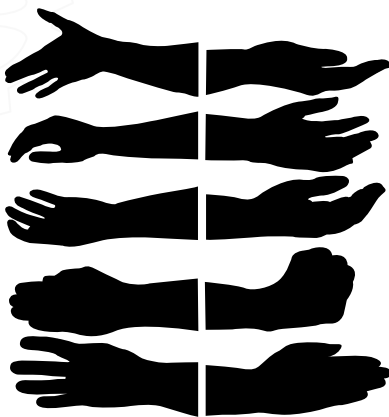
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SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

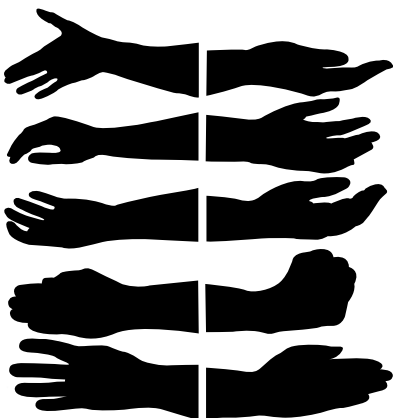
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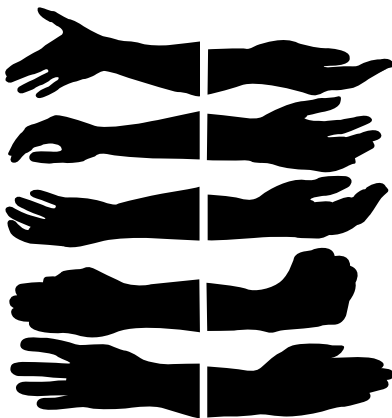
B



C



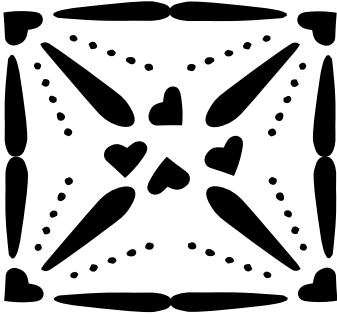
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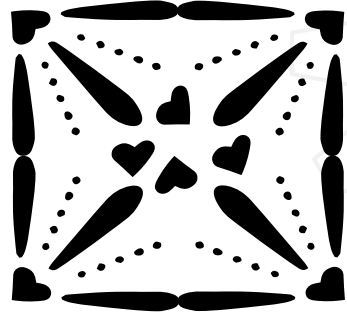
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SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

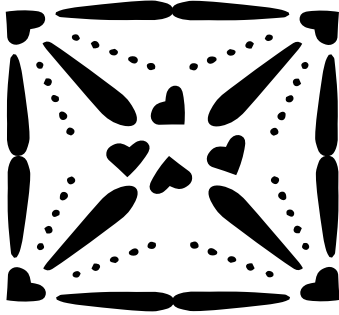
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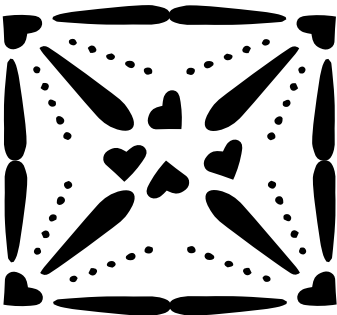
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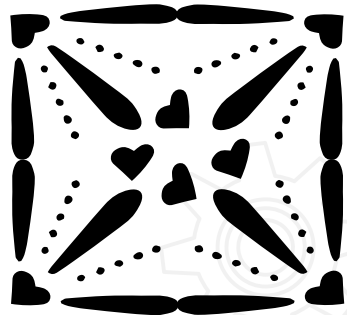
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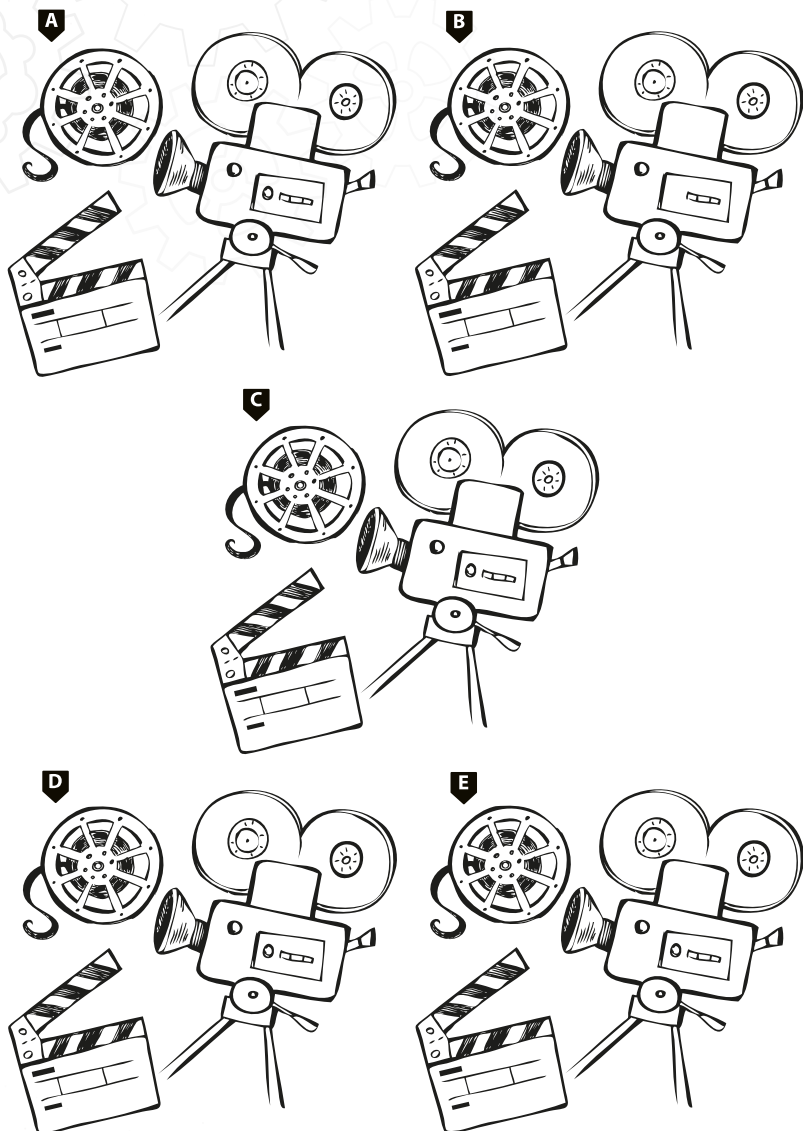


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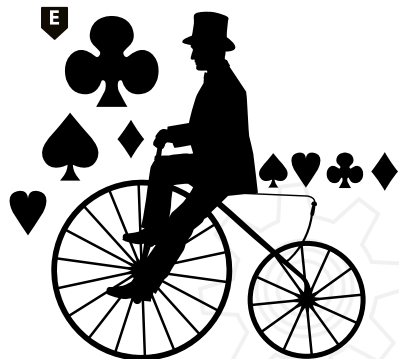
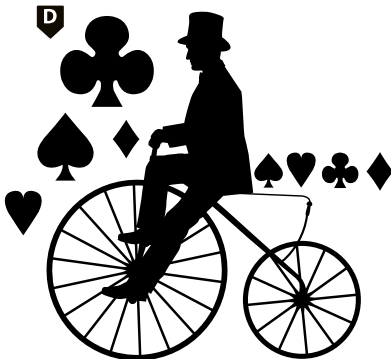
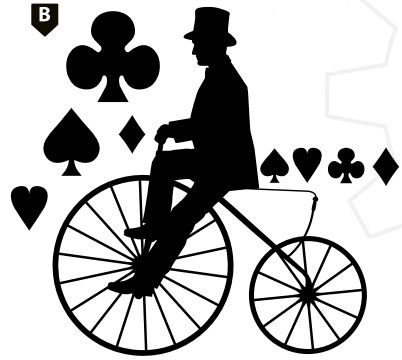
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SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



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SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



See answer keys on pages 45-48.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

A



B



C



D



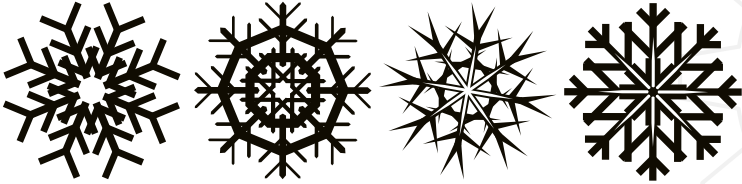
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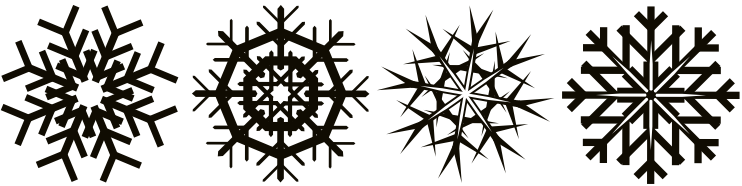
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SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

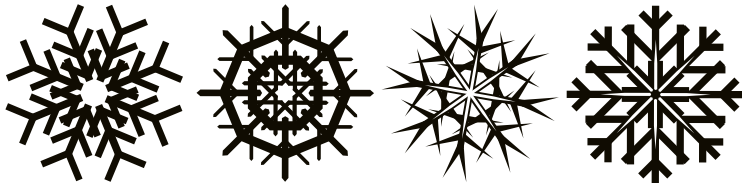
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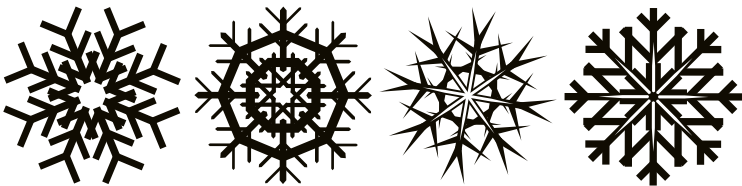
B



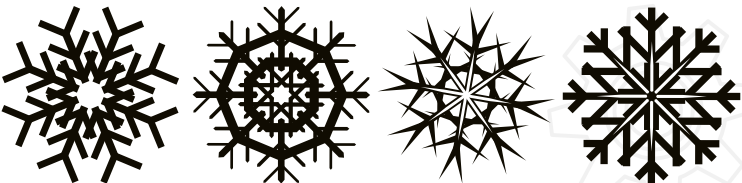
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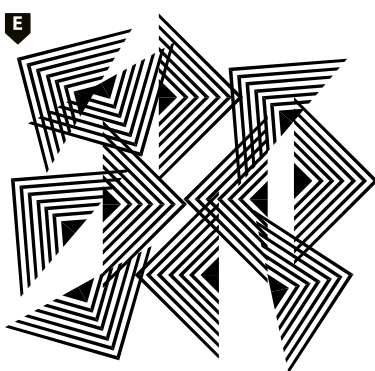
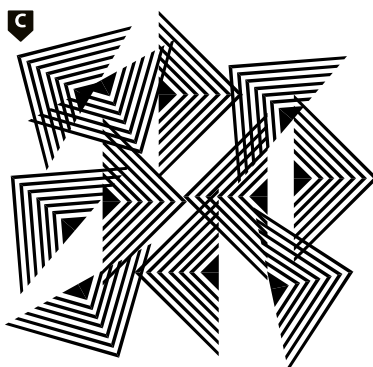
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SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



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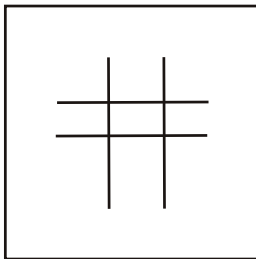
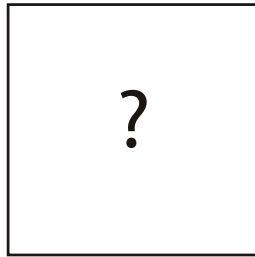
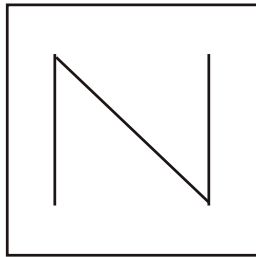
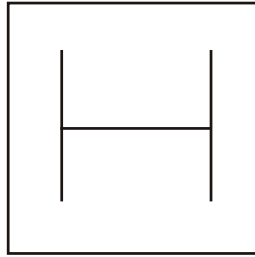
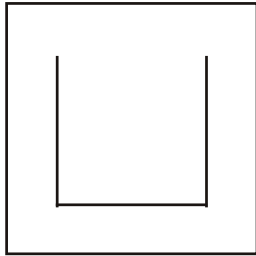
SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



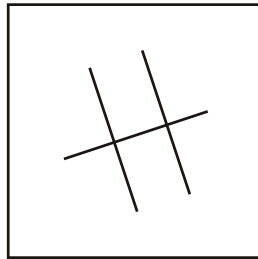
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DETECT THE PATTERN

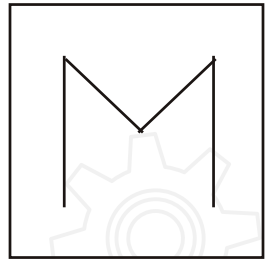
Which shape should come next in the pattern?



A



B

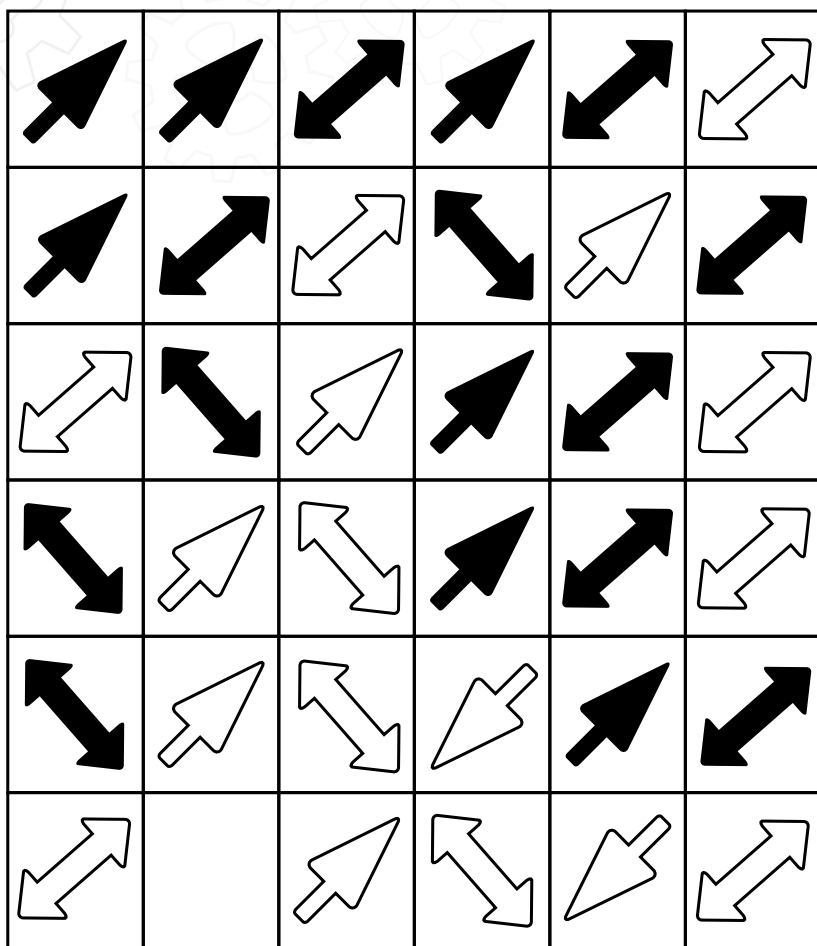


C

See answer keys on pages 45-48.

DETECT THE PATTERN

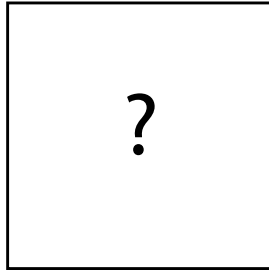
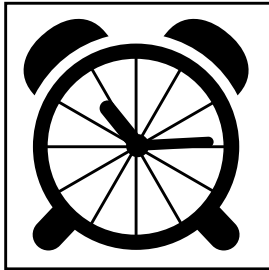
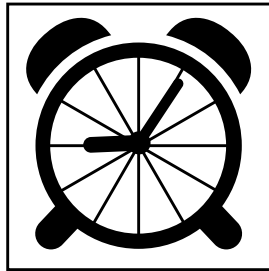
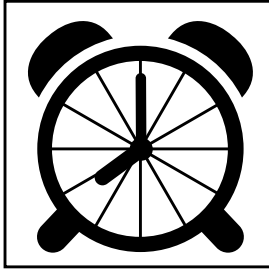
According to the pattern, which kind of arrow should go in the empty space?



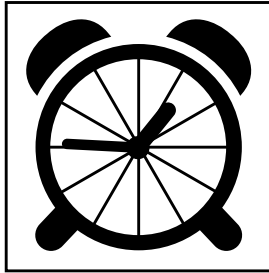
See answer keys on pages 45-48.

DETECT THE PATTERN

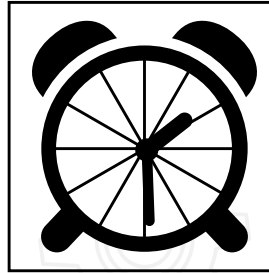
According to the pattern, what is the missing time?



A



B

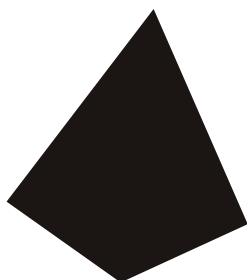
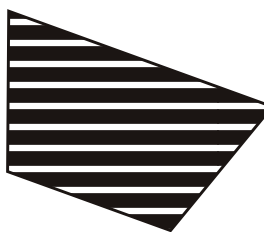
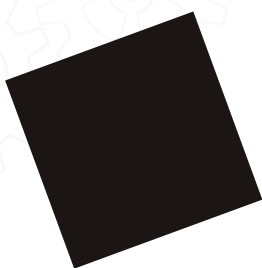


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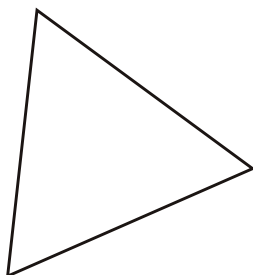
See answer keys on pages 45-48.

DETECT THE PATTERN

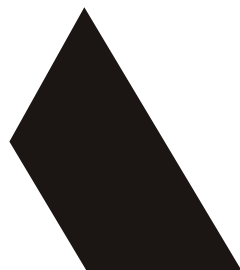
Which shape should
come next in the pattern?



A



B

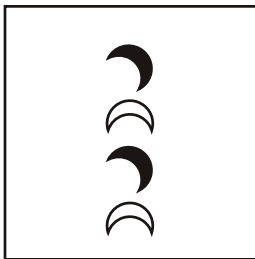
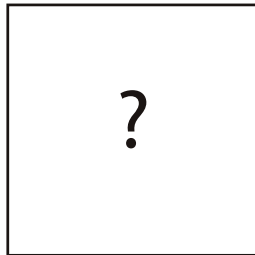
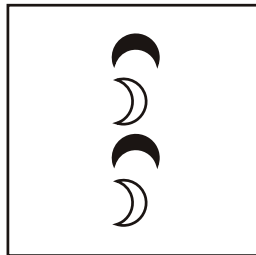
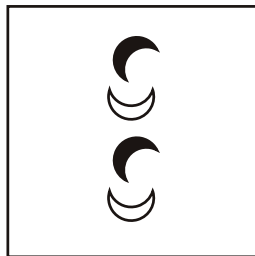
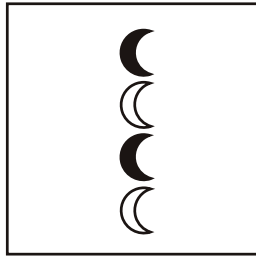


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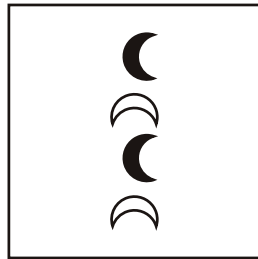
See answer keys on pages 45-48.

DETECT THE PATTERN

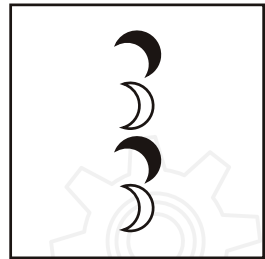
What set of shapes should come next in the pattern?



A



B



C

See answer keys on pages 45-48.

DETECT THE PATTERN

Which set of numbers
should come next?

$1=3$

$4=4$

$8=5$

$12=6$

?

$17=7$

$13=8$

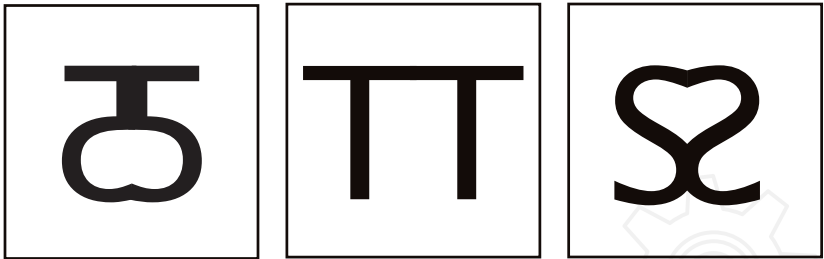
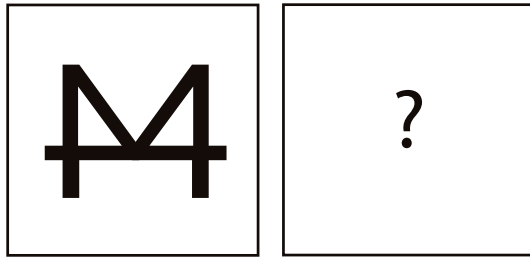
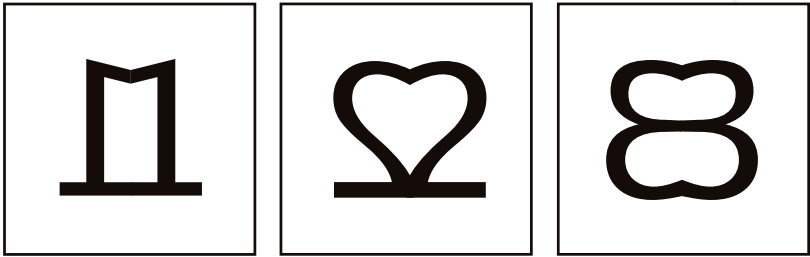
$14=7$

A**B****C**

See answer keys on pages 45-48.

DETECT THE PATTERN

Which shape should come next in the pattern?



A

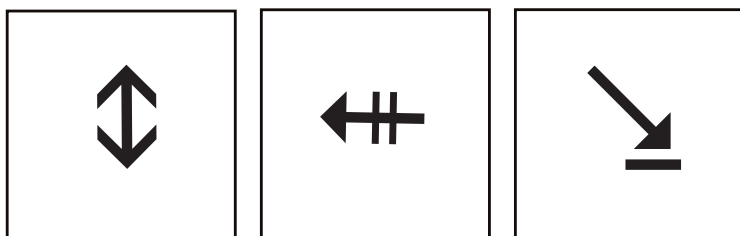
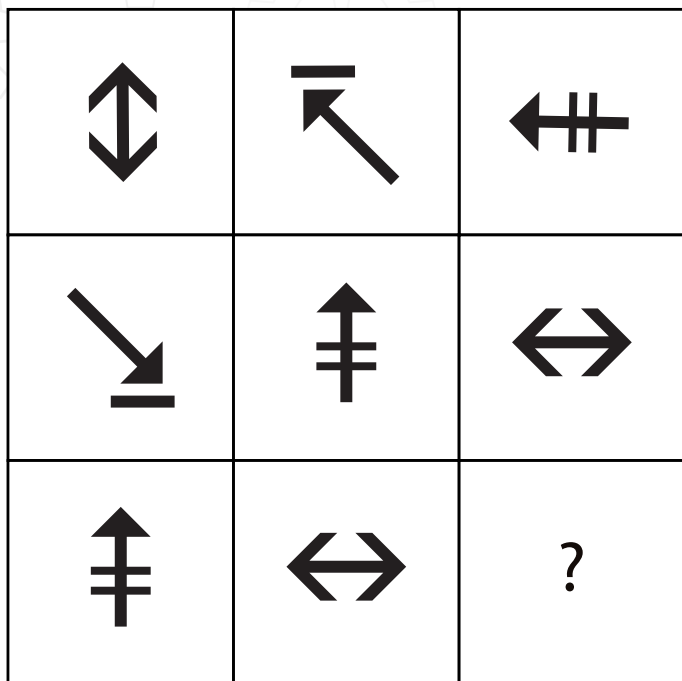
B

C

See answer keys on pages 45-48.

DETECT THE PATTERN

Which shape should come next in the pattern?



A

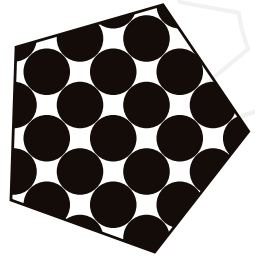
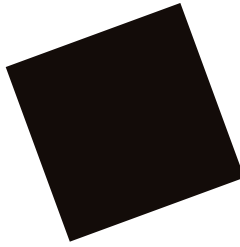
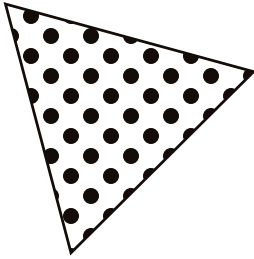
B

C

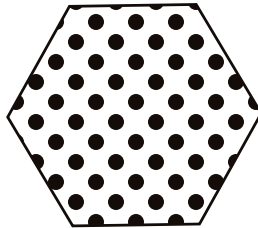
See answer keys on pages 45-48.

DETECT THE PATTERN

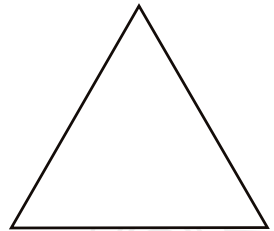
Which shape should come next in the pattern?



A



B

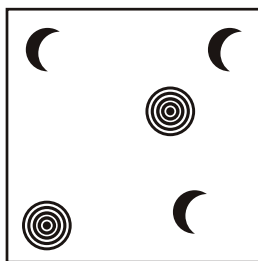
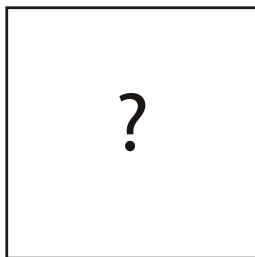
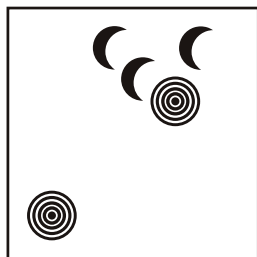
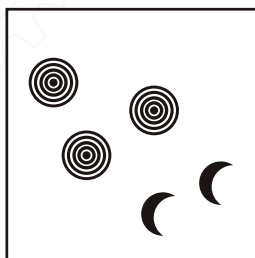
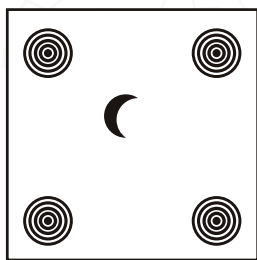


C

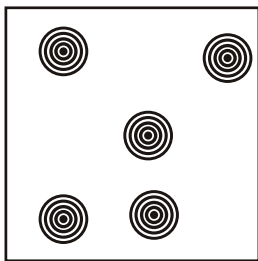
See answer keys on pages 45-48.

DETECT THE PATTERN

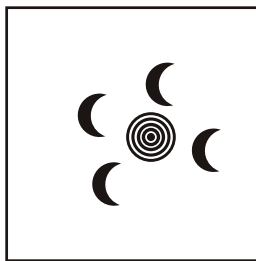
Which set of shapes should come next in the pattern?



A



B

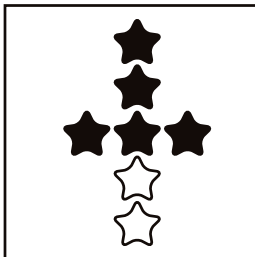
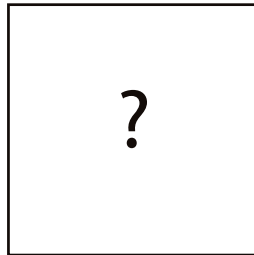
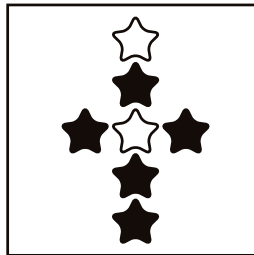
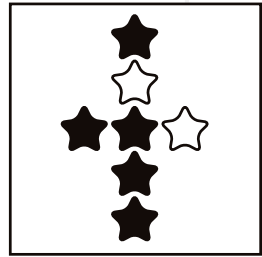
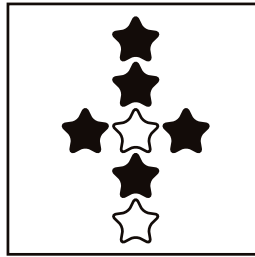
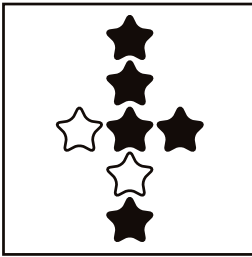


C

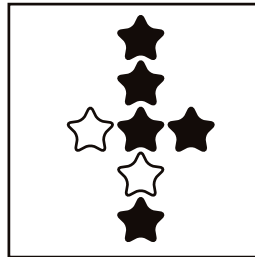
See answer keys on pages 45-48.

DETECT THE PATTERN

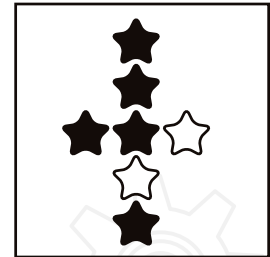
Which set of shapes should come next in the pattern?



A



B

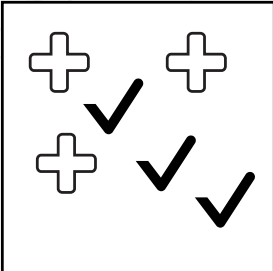
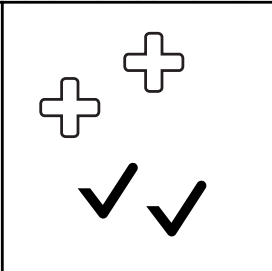
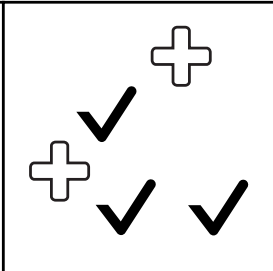
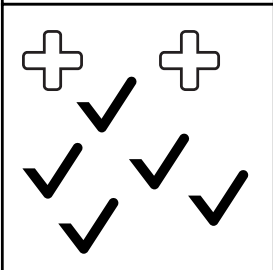
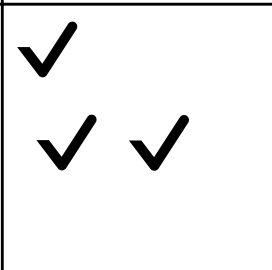
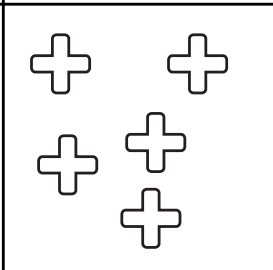
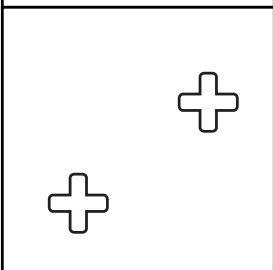
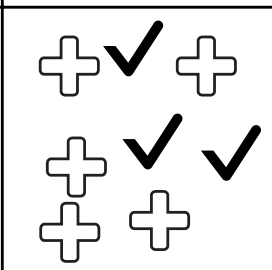
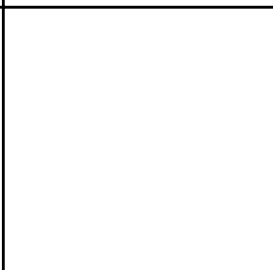


C

See answer keys on pages 45-48.

DETECT THE PATTERN

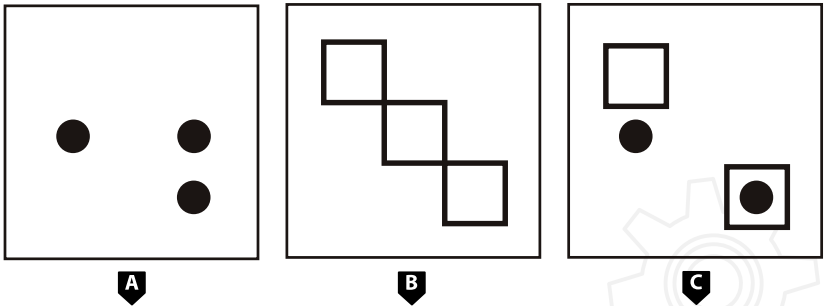
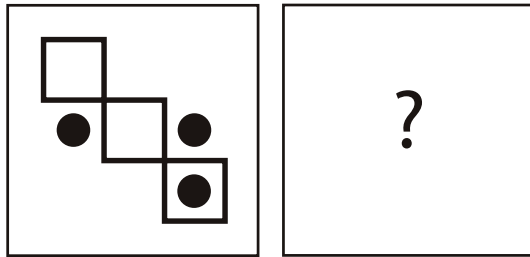
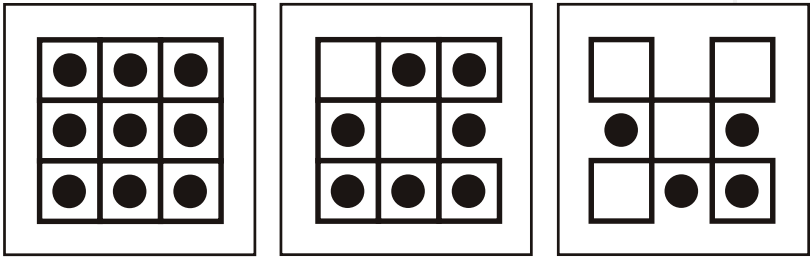
How many checkmarks and pluses should there be in the empty square?

See answer keys on pages 45-48.

DETECT THE PATTERN

Which set of shapes should come next in the pattern?



See answer keys on pages 45-48.

DETECT THE PATTERN

Which number should
come next?

11

69

88

?

101

127

93

A**B****C**

See answer keys on pages 45-48.

ANSWER KEYS

RIDDLES

1. An echo
2. Snow
3. A bookworm
4. Today
5. Wind
6. A doorbell
7. Your name
8. A river
9. A clock
10. Stairs
11. A breath
12. A towel
13. A pillow
14. Darkness
15. A penny
16. Silence
17. The Great Wall of China
18. An onion
19. A yardstick
20. A cornfield
21. A nose
22. Water
23. A saw
24. A bed
25. Ton
26. Scent, Sent, Cent
27. Stable and Table
28. NOON
29. None. Noah took the animals on the ark.
30. An envelope
31. Because eating other people is gross.
32. A map
33. Nothing
34. If the bucket has a hole.
35. The letter m
36. A secret
37. He walks—the chain wasn't attached to anything.
38. The five vowels.
39. Are you sleeping?
40. Choices
41. A dumpster
42. Your word
43. One
44. Time
45. A pig.
46. -er
47. The only vowel they contain is "o."
48. The sun
49. If he is a Justice of the Peace.
50. Yes, "incorrectly"
51. Stop pretending.
52. Never. If the water is rising, the boat will too.
53. If they are triplets.
54. Because you shouldn't bury people who are living.
55. Wad; it doesn't rhyme with the others.
56. "and"
57. All of them.
58. A sponge
59. All the people are married.
60. T-H-A-T
61. Your father.
62. A goose
63. Because you take photos with a camera, not a gun.
64. None, a hole isn't full of dirt.
65. Water
66. Drop it from a three-story building.
67. What time is it?
68. Hazel
69. Its shadow.
70. Baby porcupines
71. On your lap.
72. Facetious.
73. There isn't any word in the English language that exactly rhymes with any of these words.
74. Polish and polish
75. Ground beef

ANSWER KEYS

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Bike and Dog: C

Buildings: B

Couple: A

Crowns: C

Diamonds: E

Hands: A

Hearts: E

Movie: B

Bike: C

Shoes: B

Snowflake: C

Sunburst: E

Thunder: D

Triangles: D

D



ANSWER KEYS

DETECT THE PATTERN

Three Lines, pg. 31

Answer: B

Why? All the shapes have only three lines.

Large Arrow Grid, pg. 32

Answer: The black double-sided arrow pointing to the left.

Why? The black double-sided arrow pointing to the left is always to the left of the white single-sided arrow pointing to the right.

Clock, pg. 33

Answer: C

Why? Each time the hands of the clock move, they move forward one additional line. The first time they move forward one line, then two, then three.

Four Sides, pg. 34

Answer: C

Why? All the shapes have four sides.

Moons, pg. 35

Answer: A

Why? The black moons are rotated 45 degrees in each box and the white moons are rotated 90 degrees.

Number Names, pg. 36

Answer: B

Why? On all of them, the second number is the number of letters in the name of the first number.

Numbers, pg. 37

Answer: A

Why? The shapes are all the mirrored reflections of the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Series, pg. 38

Answer: C

Why? Each column and row in the matrix has the same set of three shapes.

Shapes, pg. 39

Answer: A

Why? All the shapes have an increasing number of sides: 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.

Spirals, pg. 40

Answer: C

Why? The number of spirals goes down by one and the number of moons goes up by one.

ANSWER KEYS

DETECT THE PATTERN

Star Crossed, pg. 41

Answer: B

Why? The two different sets of shapes move 180 in every other square.

Sum, pg. 42

Answer: 0 pluses / 5 checkmarks

Why: In each column and row the sum of checkmarks is 8 and the sum of pluses is 7.

Take Away, pg. 43

Answer: A

Why: In each box an ascending factor of three objects (either a line or dot) is taken away: 3, 6, 9, 12.

Upside Down, pg. 44

Answer: A

Why: Each of the numbers appears the same whether they are right side up or upside down.

Other Great Sharp Minds Games

**CROSS
WORD**
CHALLENGE

SUDOKU
CHALLENGE

**YOUR
ACTIVE MIND**
CHALLENGE

**WORD
SEARCH**
CHALLENGE



*Learning never exhausts
the mind.*

—LEONARDO DA VINCI