# Thistle's Tricky Brain Teasers!

# The Answers!

1. You are a cyclist in a cross-country race. Just before the crossing finish line you overtake the person in second place! What place did you finish in?
   **Answer**: Second Place. If you pass the person in second, you take second place, and they become third.

2. In a year there are 12 months. 7 months have 31 days. How many months have 28 days?
   **Answer**: They all do.

3. You are on the bank of a river. You have to get a fox, a hen, and corn to the other side of the river. If left alone, the fox will eat the hen, and the hen will eat the corn if left alone. The boat is only big enough to take you and one other to the other side.

   How do you get all 3 across intact?

   **Answer**: First take the hen across. Leave the hen.
   Go back and get the fox. Take the fox to the other side. Leave the fox there, but take the hen with you back to get the corn. Leave the hen and take the corn to the other side.
   Drop the corn off with the fox, then go back to get the hen. Bring the hen to the other side.
   All 3 make it fully intact!

4. Please add the following numbers in your head.
   Start with 1000.
   Add 40
   Add 1000
   Add 30
   Add 1000

Add 20
Add 1000
Add 10
Write down your answer.
**Answer:** Many will get 5000. But the actual answer is 4100!

5. What are the next 3 letters in the following sequence?
J, F, M, A, M, J, J, A, __, __, __
**Answer:** S, O, N
The sequence is first letter of the months of the year.
September, October and November are the next in the sequence.

6. You are in a room that has 3 switches and a closed door. The switches control 3 light bulbs on the other side of the door. Once you open the door, you may never touch the switches again.

How can you definitively tell which switch is connected to each of the light bulbs?
**Answer:** Turn on the first 2 switches. Leave them on for 5 minutes. Once 5 minutes has passed, turn off the second switch, leaving one switch on. Now go through the door. The light that is still on is connected to the first switch; whichever of the other two is warm to the touch is connected to the second switch. The bulb that is cold is connected to the switch that was never turned on!!

7. Jimmy's mother had 4 children. She named the first Monday. Named the second Tuesday. The third is named Wednesday. What is the name of the fourth child?
**Answer:** Jimmy. "JIMMY'S MOTHER had 4 children"!

8. Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain in the world?
**Answer:** Mt. Everest. It was still the highest in the world - it

just hadn't been discovered yet!

**9.** Which is heavier? A pound of feathers or a pound of rocks?
**Answer:** Neither. Both weigh a pound!

**10.** Which came first, the chicken or the egg?
**Answer:** The egg. Dinosaurs laid eggs far before there were chickens!

**11.** Your sock drawer contains 24 white socks and 30 black socks. The lights in your room are off, so you cannot see the colour of the socks. How many socks must you grab to ensure to have at least one matching pair?
**Answer:** Three. In the worst case, the first two socks you take out will consist of one black sock and one white sock. The next sock you take out is guaranteed to match one or the other.

**12.** You are in a cookie factory, and need to make a huge batch of chocolate chip cookies. The recipe calls for exactly 4 cups of sugar. Problem is that you have two buckets. One is 5 cups, the other is 3 cups. Using these buckets, can you measure exactly 4 cups of sugar? How?
**Answer:** This is possible, and there are 2 ways to do it:
Solution 1: Fill the 3 cup bucket, pour it into the 5 cup bucket. Fill the 3 cup bucket again, and pour it into the 5 cup bucket until the 5 cup bucket is full. That will leave exactly 1 cup of sugar in the 3 cup bucket. Dump out the 5 cup bucket, and dump the 1 cup from the 3 cup bucket into the empty 5 cup bucket. This leaves 1 cup in the 5 cup bucket. Now fill the 3 cup again and add it to the 5 cup bucket. Now you have exactly 4 cups of sugar in the 5 cup bucket!
Solution 2: Fill the 5 cup bucket. Pour it into the 3 cup bucket. This leaves 2 cups in the 5 cup bucket. Dump out the 3 cup bucket. Now pour the 2 cups from the 5 cup into the 3 cup. Refill the 5 cup. Now pour the 5 cup into the 3 cup until the 3 cup is full. That will leave exactly 4 cups in the 5 cup bucket!

13. You have a 3 gallon jug and a 5 gallon jug. You need to measure out exactly 7 gallons of water. How can you do it?

    **Answer:** Fill the 5 gallon jug, pour it into the 3 gallon jug until the 3 gallon is full, leaving 2 gallons in the 5 gallon jug. Now pour the 3 gallon jug out. Pour the remaining 2 gallons from the 5 gallon into the empty 3 gallon jug. Now fill the 5 gallon from the faucet. You now have exactly 7 gallons.

14. A man is on a game show. He is presented with two doors, one on the left, and one on the right. Behind one is 2 million dollars, and behind the other is a donkey. Choose the correct door to win the prize. There are also two men in front of the doors, and they know which door leads to the millions. One wears a black hat; the other wears a white hat.

    The host explains that one of the men is a liar, and will always lie, and the other man will always tell the truth - but you don't know which is which.

    You can ask only one of the men one question. What is the question, and which man do you ask to ensure you win the money?

    **Answer:** You ask either man the following question: "If I asked the other guy which door has the money, what would he say?", then choose the opposite door.

    Work it out: If you ask the question to the liar, he will lie about the 'correct' answer, so you must choose the opposite door. If you ask the truth teller, he will tell the truth about the lie, so you can choose the opposite door as well.

15. Three men are captured by cannibals in the jungle. The men are given one chance to escape with their lives. The men are lined up and bound to stakes such that one man can see the backs of the other two, the middle man can see the back of the front

man, and the front man can't see anybody. The men are shown five hats, three of which are black and two of which are white. Then the men are blindfolded, and one of the five hats is placed on each man's head. The remaining two hats are hidden away. The blindfolds are removed. The men are told that if just one of the men can guess what hat he's wearing, they may all go free. Time passes. Finally, the front man, who can't see anyone, correctly guesses the colour of his hat. What colour was it, and how did he guess correctly?

**Answer:** The back man can see the hats worn by the two men in front of him. So, if both of those hats were white, he would know that the hat he wore was black. But, since he doesn't answer, he must see at least one black hat ahead of him.

After it becomes apparent to the middle man that the back man can't figure out what he's wearing, he knows that there is at least one black hat worn by himself and the front man. Knowing this, if the middle man saw a white hat in front of him, he'd know that his own hat was black, and could answer the question correctly. But, since he doesn't answer, he must see a black hat on the front man.

After it becomes apparent to the front man that neither of the men behind him can answer the question, he realizes the middle man saw a black hat in front of him. So he says, correctly, "My hat is black."

16. What can run but never walks, has a mouth but never speaks, has a head but never weeps, and has a bed but never sleeps?
**Answer:** A river!

17. What is full of holes but can still hold water?
**Answer:** A sponge.

18. If you are in a dark room with a candle, a wood stove and a gas

lamp. You only have one match. What do you light first?
**Answer:** The match

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19. All of my flowers except two are roses. All of my flowers except two are tulips. All of my flowers except two are daisies. How many flowers do I have, and what are they?
**Answer:** Three - one rose, one tulip and one daisy.

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20. A father is four times as old as his son. In twenty years, he'll be twice as old. How old are they now?
**Answer:** The father is 40. The son is 10.

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21. What question can you never answer "yes" to without lying?
**Answer:** "Are you asleep?"

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22. How far can a dog run into the woods?
**Answer:** Half way. After that he is running out of the woods.

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23. How can you throw a ball as hard as you can and have it come back to you, even if it doesn't hit anything, there is nothing attached to it, and no one else catches or throws it?
**Answer:** Throw the ball straight up in the air.

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24. What goes up and down but never moves?
**Answer:** A Hill!

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25. What is square, sits in a corner, but goes all around the world?
**Answer:** A stamp.

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26. What is light as a feather, but even the strongest man cannot hold it more than a few minutes?
**Answer:** His breath.

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27. What occurs once in every minute, twice in every moment, yet never in a thousand years?
**Answer:** The letter "m".

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28. Two fathers and two sons went fishing. Each of them caught a

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fish and put it in the bucket. When they went home there were only three fish in the bucket. How is this possible?

**Answer:** There were only three people, a grandfather, a father and a son. The grandfather is a father to the father and the father is a father to the son. So that makes two fathers. The father is the son of the grandfather and the son is the son of the father. So that makes two sons.

29. What is so fragile that when you say something it breaks?
**Answer:** Silence

30. What has hands but cannot wave?
**Answer:** A Clock.