

# Creative Thinking

[http://creativethinking.net/WP04\\_Exercises.htm](http://creativethinking.net/WP04_Exercises.htm)

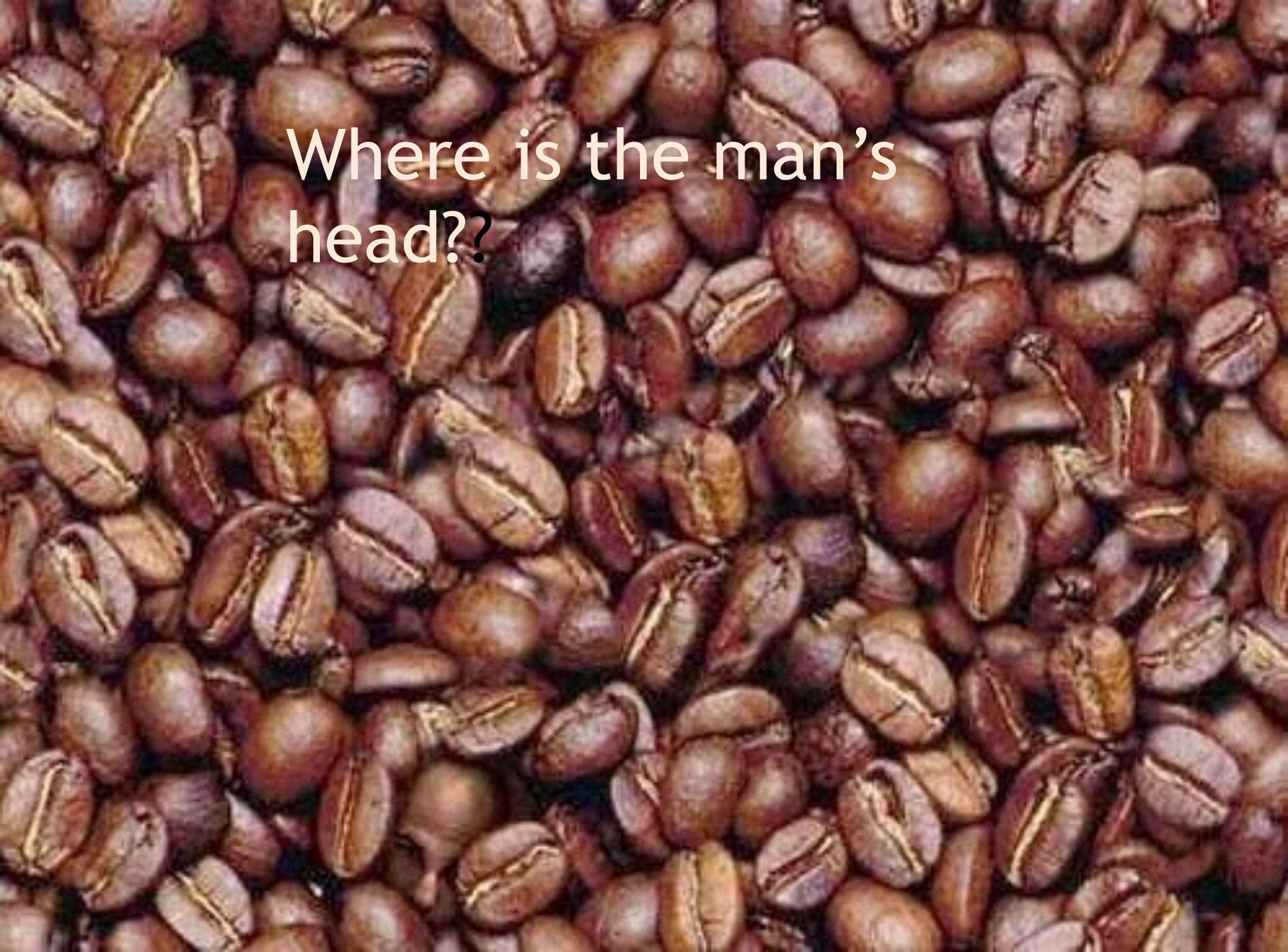
Cartoon © Fred Goetz Undercover



# Practical Thinking

1. A man went outside in the pouring rain with no protection, but not a hair o his head got wet. How come?
2. What is directly in the middle of Australia?
3. A soccer player kicks a ball. It goes 10 feet and comes back to him. How is this possible?
4. A cowboy rode to an inn on Friday. He stayed two nights and left on Friday. How can this be?



A close-up, high-resolution image of a large quantity of dark brown, roasted coffee beans. The beans are piled together, creating a complex, textured surface. The lighting highlights the natural creases and ridges on each bean. In the center of the image, a man's head is subtly camouflaged among the beans, appearing as a slightly darker, more rounded shape that blends with the surrounding coffee beans.

Where is the man's  
head??







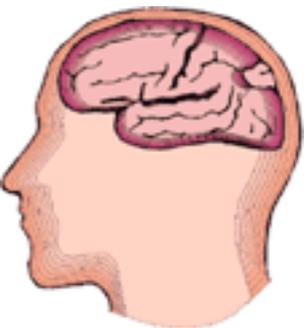








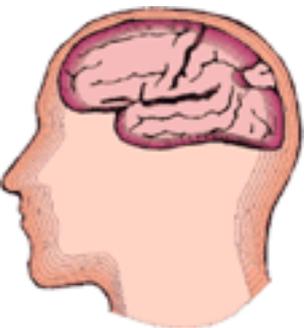
This is NOT a joke. If you were able to pass these 3 tests, you can cancel your annual visit to your neurologist. Your brain is great and you're far from having a close relationship with Alzheimers.



**Count every "F" in the following text:**

**FINISHED FILES ARE THE RE  
SULT OF YEARS OF SCIENTI  
FIC STUDY COMBINED WITH  
THE EXPERIENCE OF YEARS.....  
(SEE BELOW)**

**HOW MANY 'F'?**



**Count every "F" in the following text:**

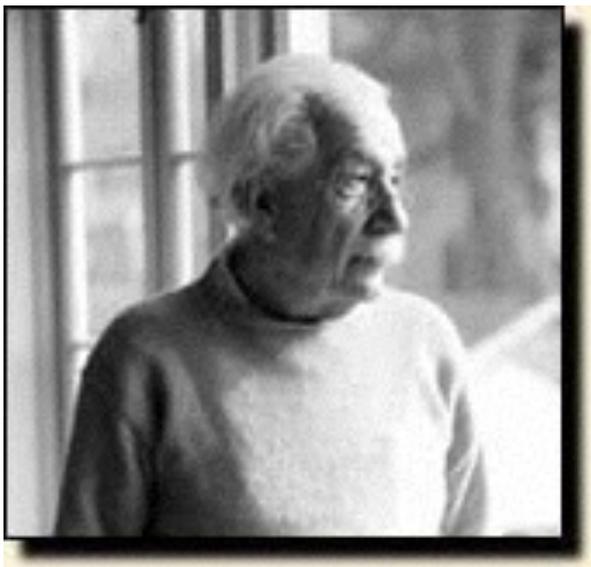
FINISHED FILES ARE THE RE  
SULT OF YEARS OF SCIENTI  
FIC STUDY COMBINED WITH  
THE EXPERIENCE OF YEARS.....  
(SEE BELOW)

HOW MANY 'F's?



FINISHED F ILES ARE THE RESULT  
OF YEARS OF SCIENTIF IC STUDY COMBINED  
WITH  
THE EXPERIENCE OF F YEARS.....

The brain cannot process "OF".



What do you see?



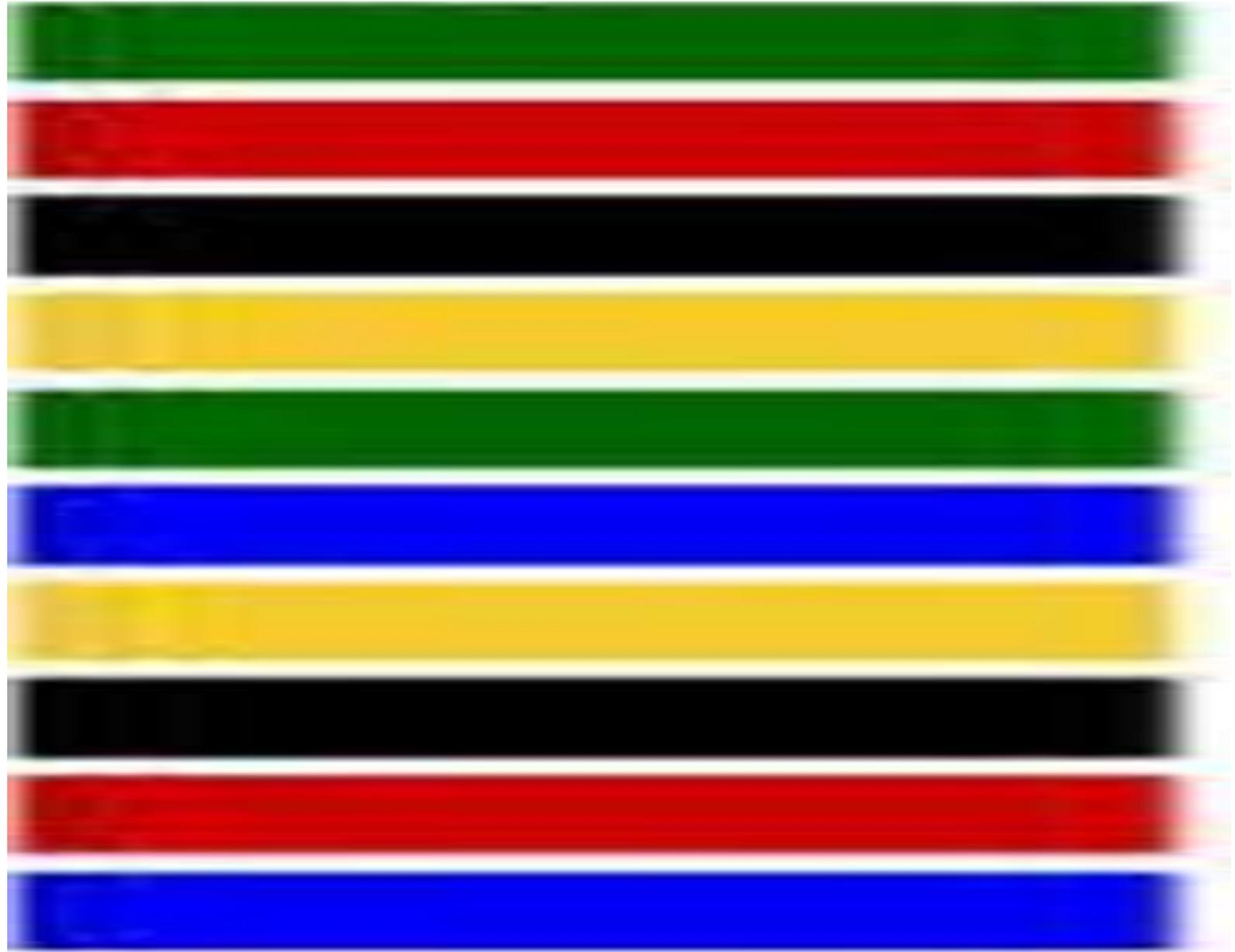
The question usually asked in connection with this design is whether you see either the vase or the two human profiles. A mentally flexible person will see both. For purposes of this mental exercise, however, try to see as many additional items in the picture as you can. Look at it from many different points of view and from as many angles as you wish. Then check the list below. Some of the items may seem far-fetched. But, remember, the idea is to use your imagination freely.

**Answers: 1. An anvil. 2. An overpass pillar on a highway. 3. Champagne glass. 4. Piano stool. 5. Tower with revolving restaurant. 6. Minute-timer. 7. Propeller. 8. Chess-game rook or castle. 9. Fruit holder. 10. Bird bath. 11. Chalice. 12. Rubber grommet. 13. Keyhole slot in door. 14. An extrusion die. 15. Two Pontiac automobiles about to crash head on. 16. A screw jack. 17. An arrowhead going into an object. 18. Two girls sitting back-to-back and holding parcels on their heads.**



**Figure 3.1**

Read aloud the following colors as fast as you can: - See more at: <http://creativethinking.net/articles/#sthash.ObUEBhAs.dpuf>

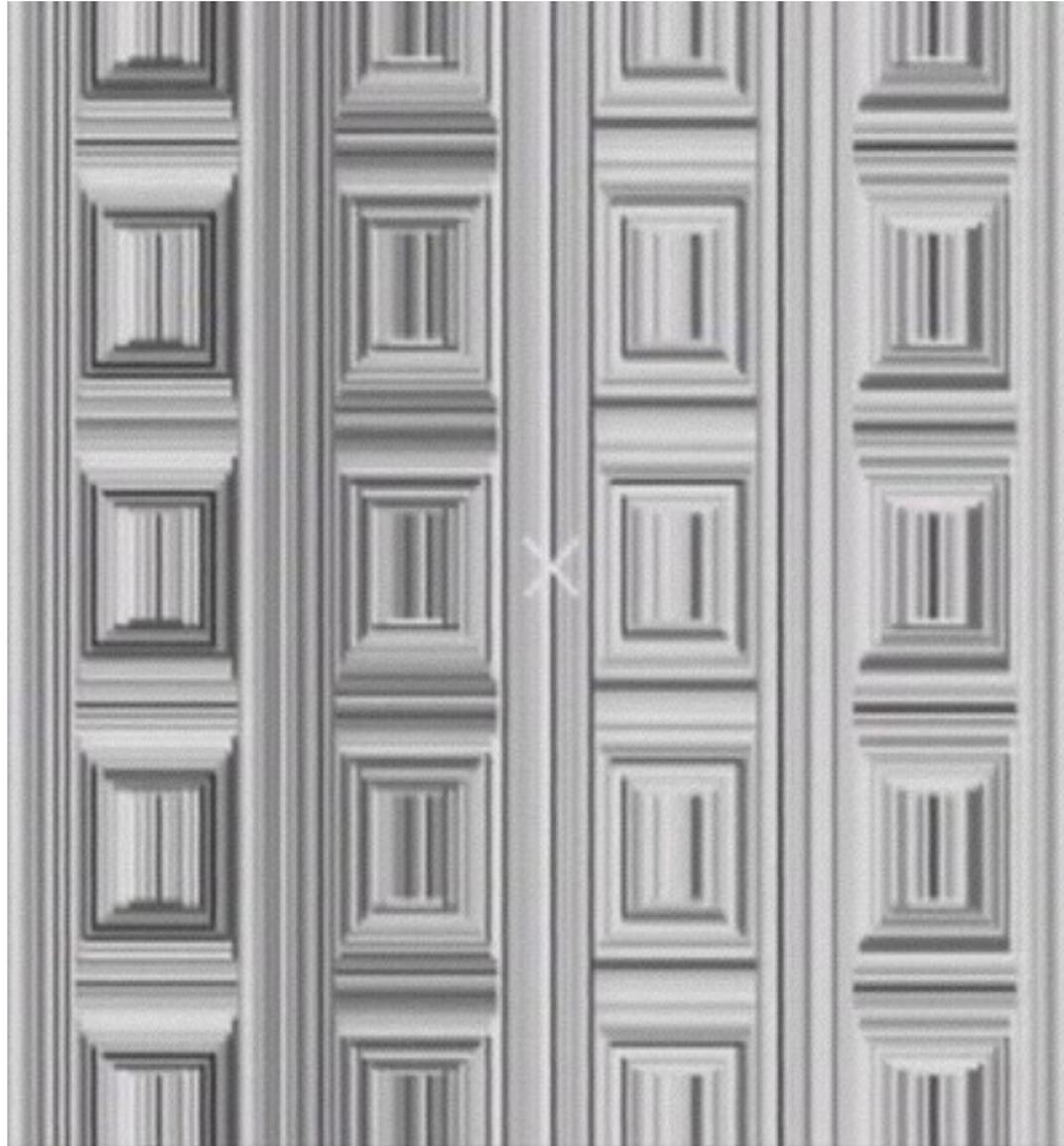


Now quickly read aloud the colors of the following words ... not the words themselves, but the colors in which the words are shown: - See more at: <http://creativethinking.net/articles/#sthash.ObUEBhAs.dpuf>

red blue orange purple  
orange blue green red  
blue purple green red  
orange blue red green  
purple orange red blue  
green red blue purple  
orange blue red green  
green purple orange red

Here is a classic door with rectangular frames.

If you look at the **X** in the middle of the door and think circles instead of rectangles, circles will pop up out of nowhere.



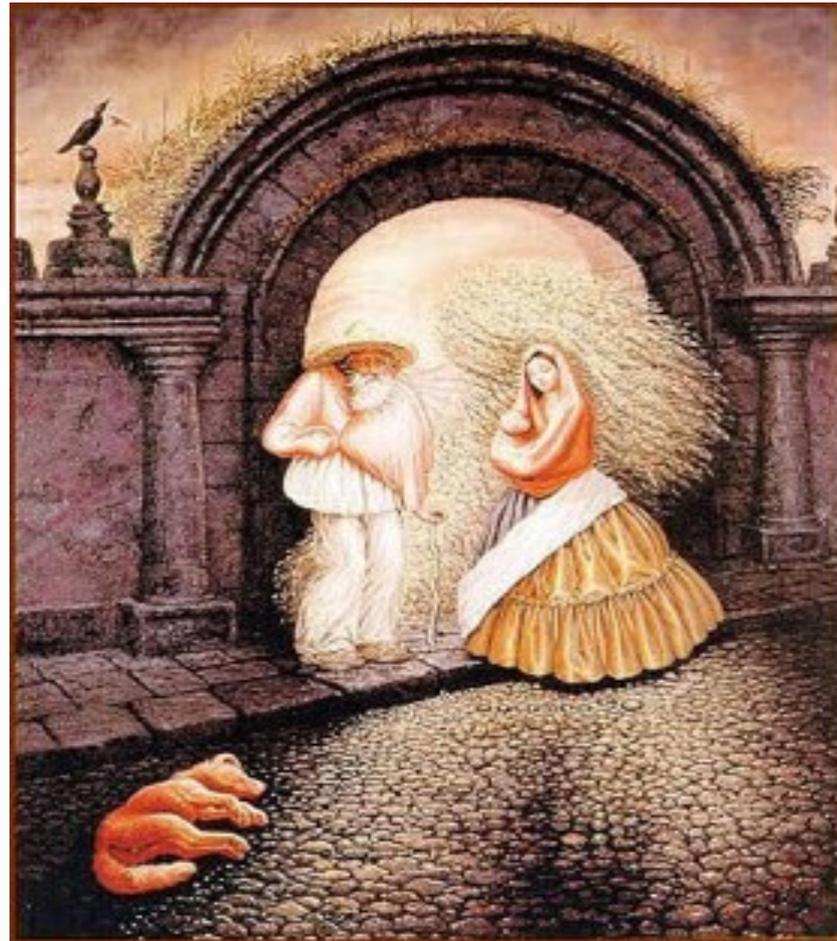
There are nine people in this picture. Inspect the picture and see how many can you find.

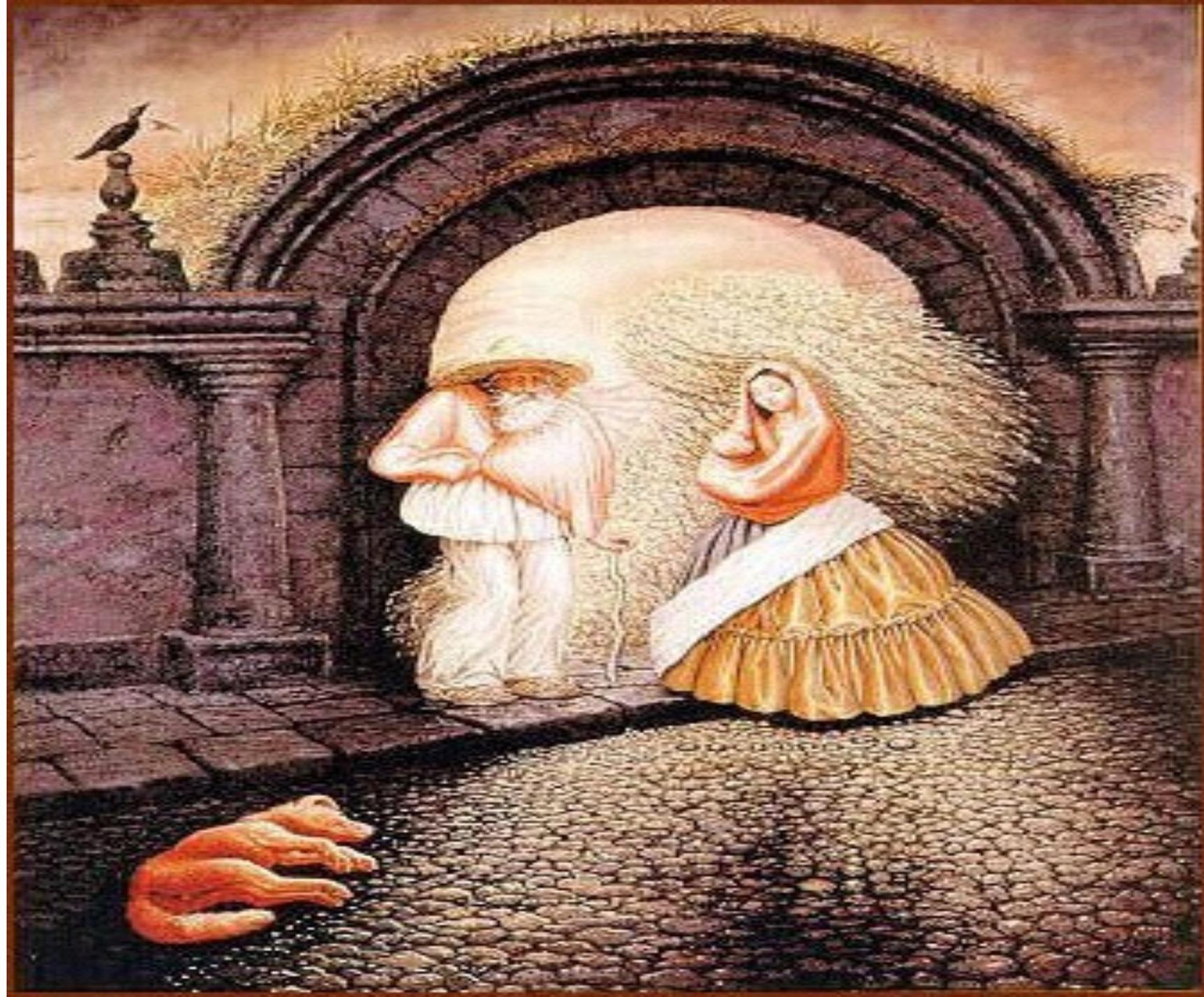
If you find 6, you have an ordinary power of observation.

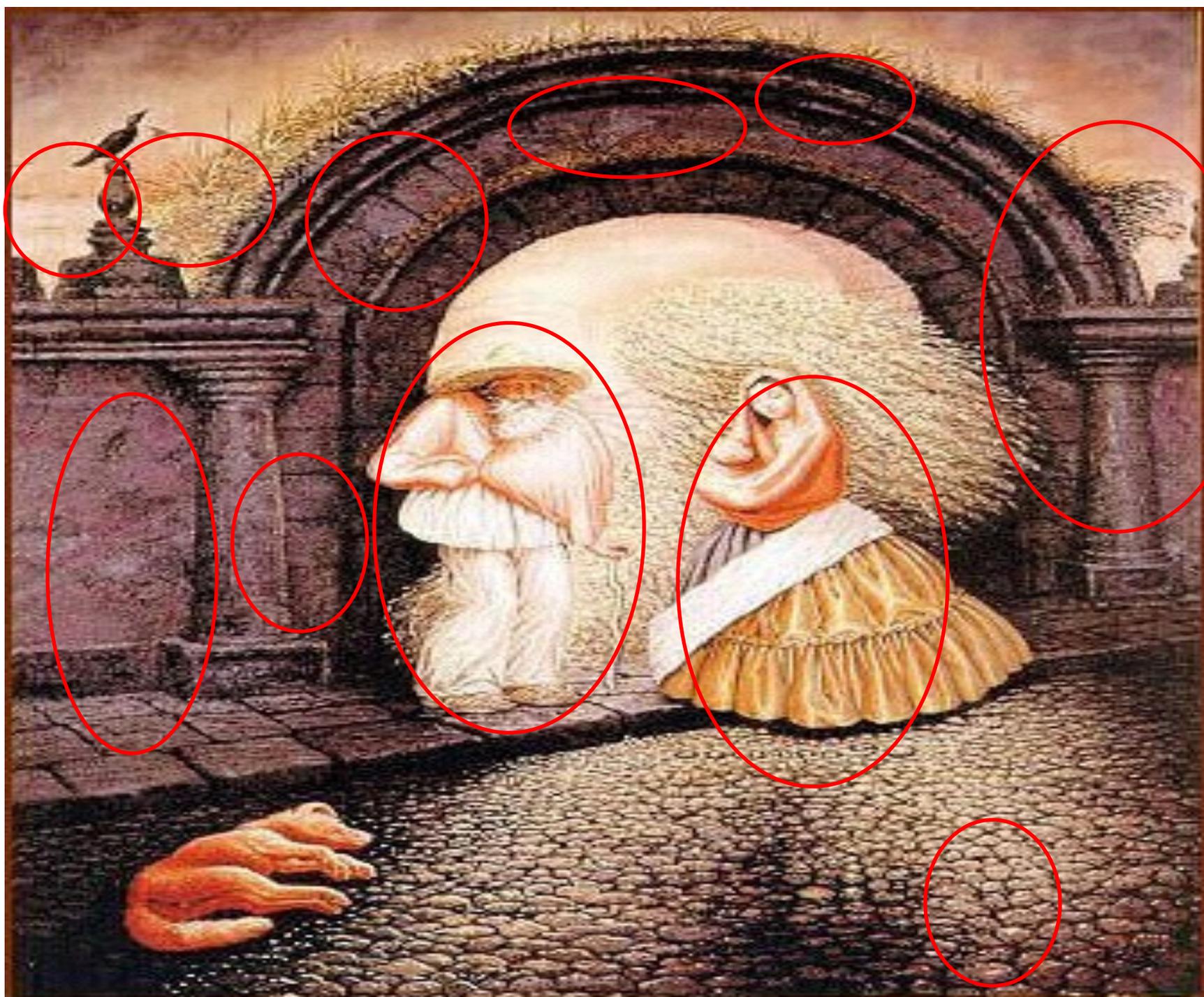
Find 7, you have an above average power of observation.

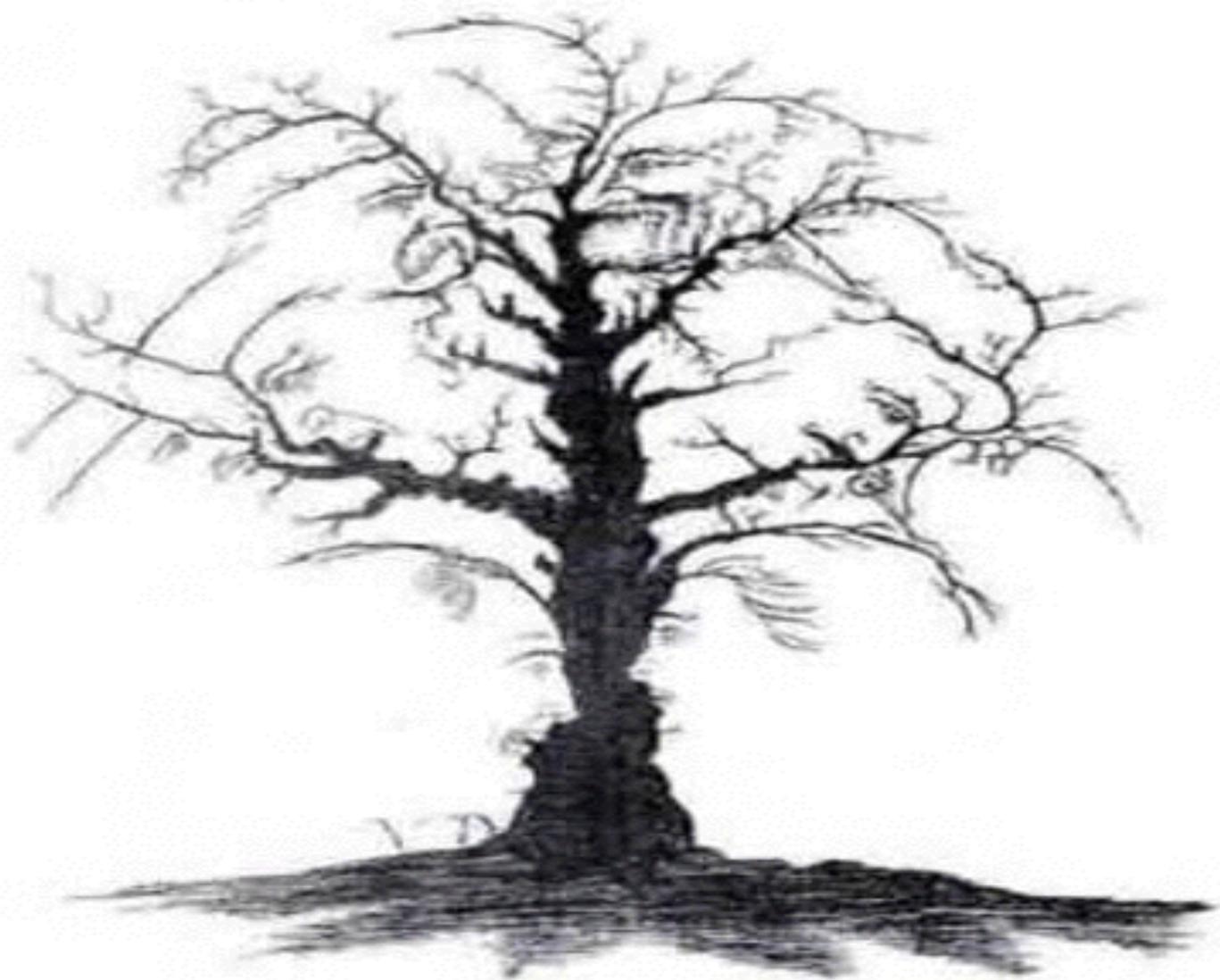
Find 8, you are very observant. Congratulate yourself.

Find 9, you are extremely observant. You are very intuitive and creative.





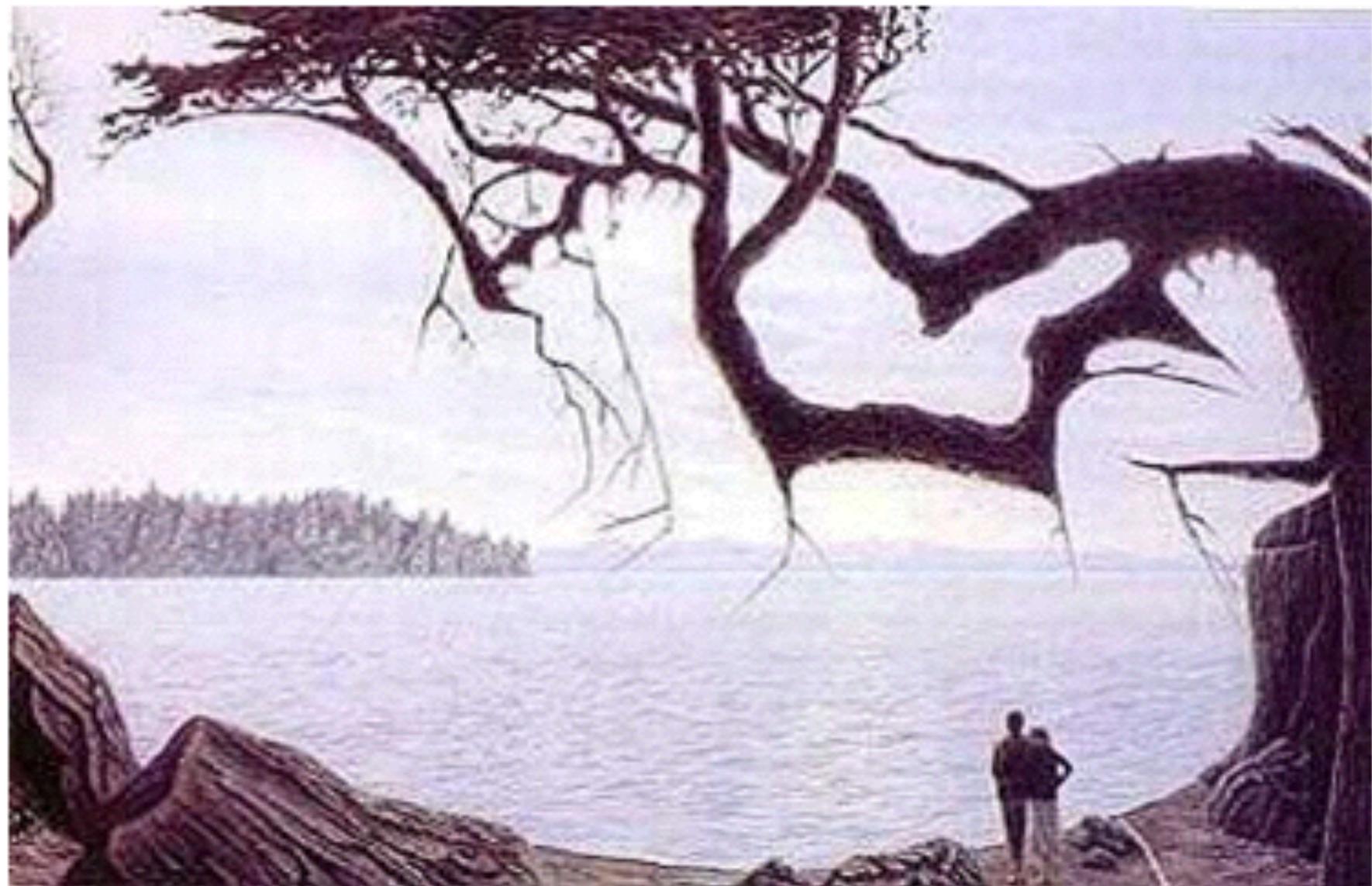




**CAN YOU SEE 10 FACES IN THIS TREE?**



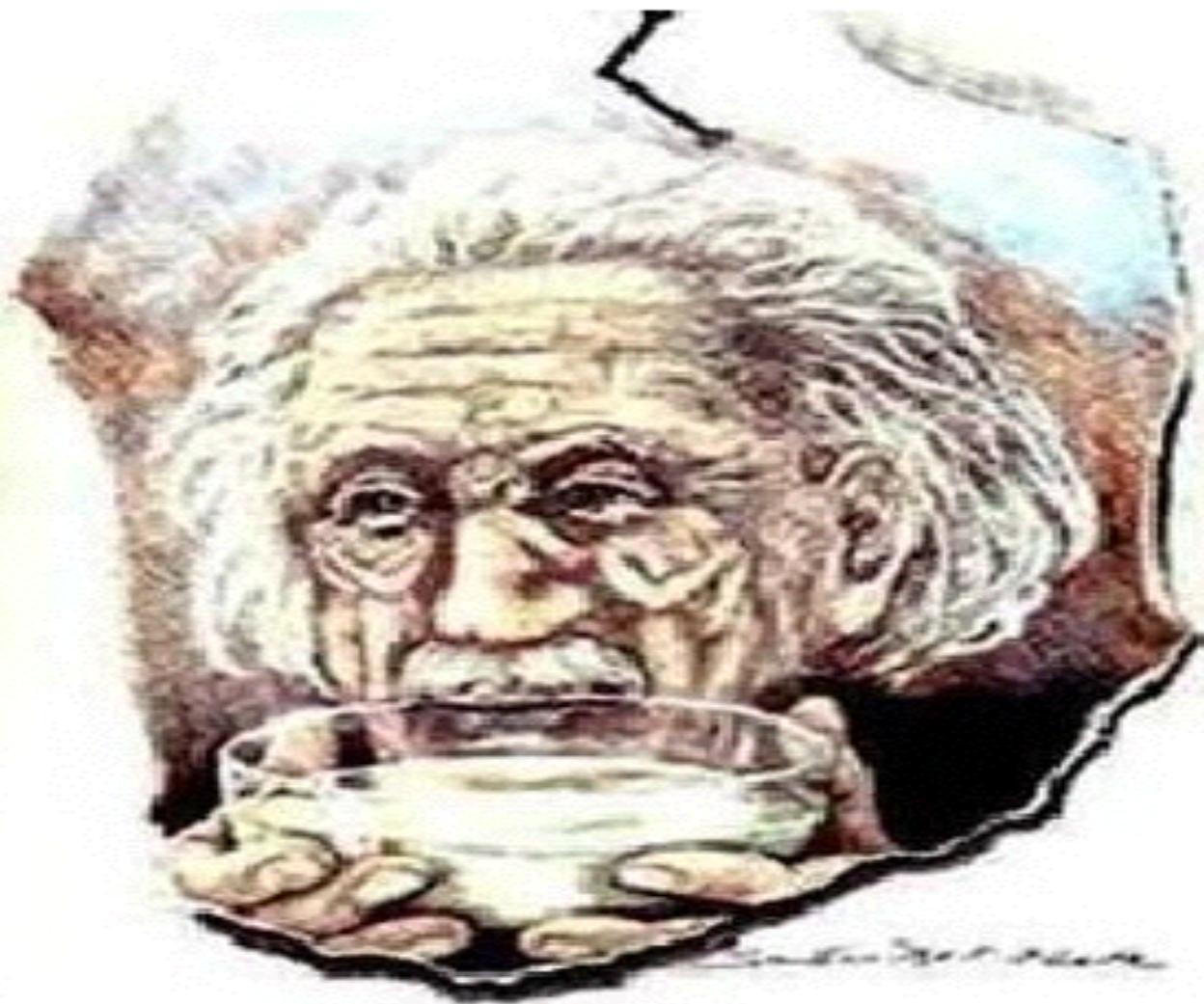
**THERE'S A FACE IN HERE. CAN YOU SEE IT?**



**CAN YOU SEE THE BABY?**



**CAN YOU SEE THE KISSING COUPLE?**



**CAN YOU SEE THE THREE WOMEN?**

Only one of these objects appears in both drawings.  
Can you find it? If you can find it within one minute,  
consider yourself highly observant.



Only one of these objects appears in both drawings.  
Can you find it? If you can find it within one minute,  
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Below are four simple questions. Try to answer all of them before looking at the answers.

#1: How do you put a giraffe into a fridge?

#2: How do you put an elephant into a fridge?

#3: The King of the Jungle is holding a meeting for all of the animals. One of them is not there. Which one?

#4: You are standing on the bank of an alligator infested river and have to get to the other side. What do you do?

A survey by Accenture found that approximately 90% of managers are likely to incorrectly answer all of the questions. Many school children under the age of six will actually get these questions right. What does this say about management thinking?

And now for the answers to the four question:

#1: Open the fridge, put the giraffe inside, and then close the fridge.

#2: Open the fridge, remove the giraffe, put the elephant inside, and close the fridge.

#3: The elephant. The elephant is in the fridge.

#4: You swim across the river because all the alligators are attending the meeting.

This is what the questions are trying to find out:

#1 checks to see if you try to make simple things complicated and make assumptions about problem boundaries. Nobody actually said that the fridge was not big enough to put a giraffe inside!

#2 tests your ability to consider previous actions. Who says that they are four separate questions?

#3 simply tests your memory.

#4 checks to see how quickly you learn. After all, you must have answered question 4 correctly if you are a successful Senior

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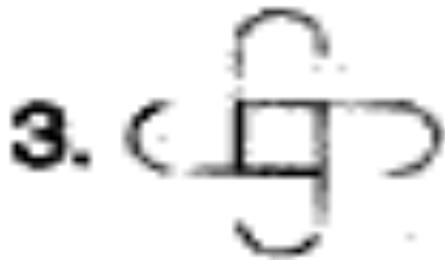
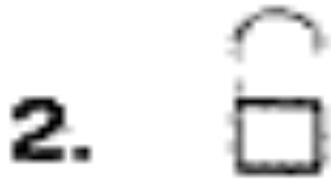
CARTOONS

TARNOWSKI

Choose a partner. Designate a timer. One of the partners draws and the other times. Exactly copy this design.



The design can be copied easily and accurately in less than 15 seconds. One step-by-step approach is as follows:



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**“Thinking outside of the box didn’t work.  
Thinking inside of the box didn’t work.  
Maybe it’s a defective box!”**

This activity is designed to increase your flexibility and your ability to overcome the restrictions of habit. The name of what color is concealed in each sentence?

Newspaper editors decided to go on strike. (Red)

The cab lacked proper brakes to stop at the intersection. (Black)

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Newspaper **edit**ors decided to go on strike. (Red)

The cab **lack**ed proper brakes to stop at the intersection. (Black)

1. A big, old, hungry dog appeared at our door every morning.

2. The cop persuaded him not to create a disturbance.

The Brazilian student Paulo lives around the corner from us.

You shouldn't let an upstart like him bother you.

5. He let out a big yell, owing to the injuries he received when he fell.

6. La Jolla vendors decided to cut their prices in half.

7. Long rayon fabrics were loaded on the truck.

8. The Austrian physicist Wolfgang Pauli lacked the requisite documents to enter the U.S.

9. You shouldn't sell this fossil very cheaply because it is a rare specimen.

10. The new law hit everybody's pocketbook pretty hard.

Would it be easier with the colors  
given?

White

copper

Silver

gold

Lilac

Gray

Lavender

Yellow

Tan

olive

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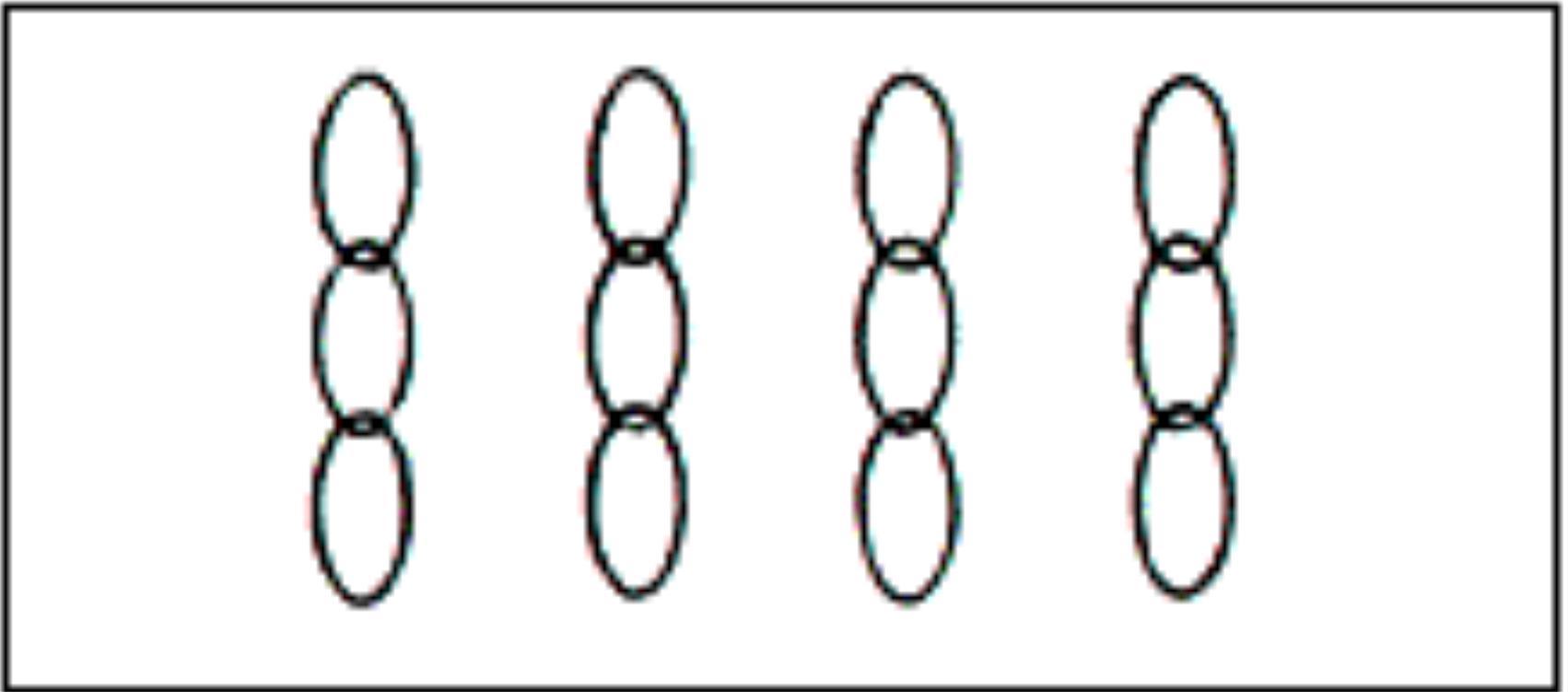
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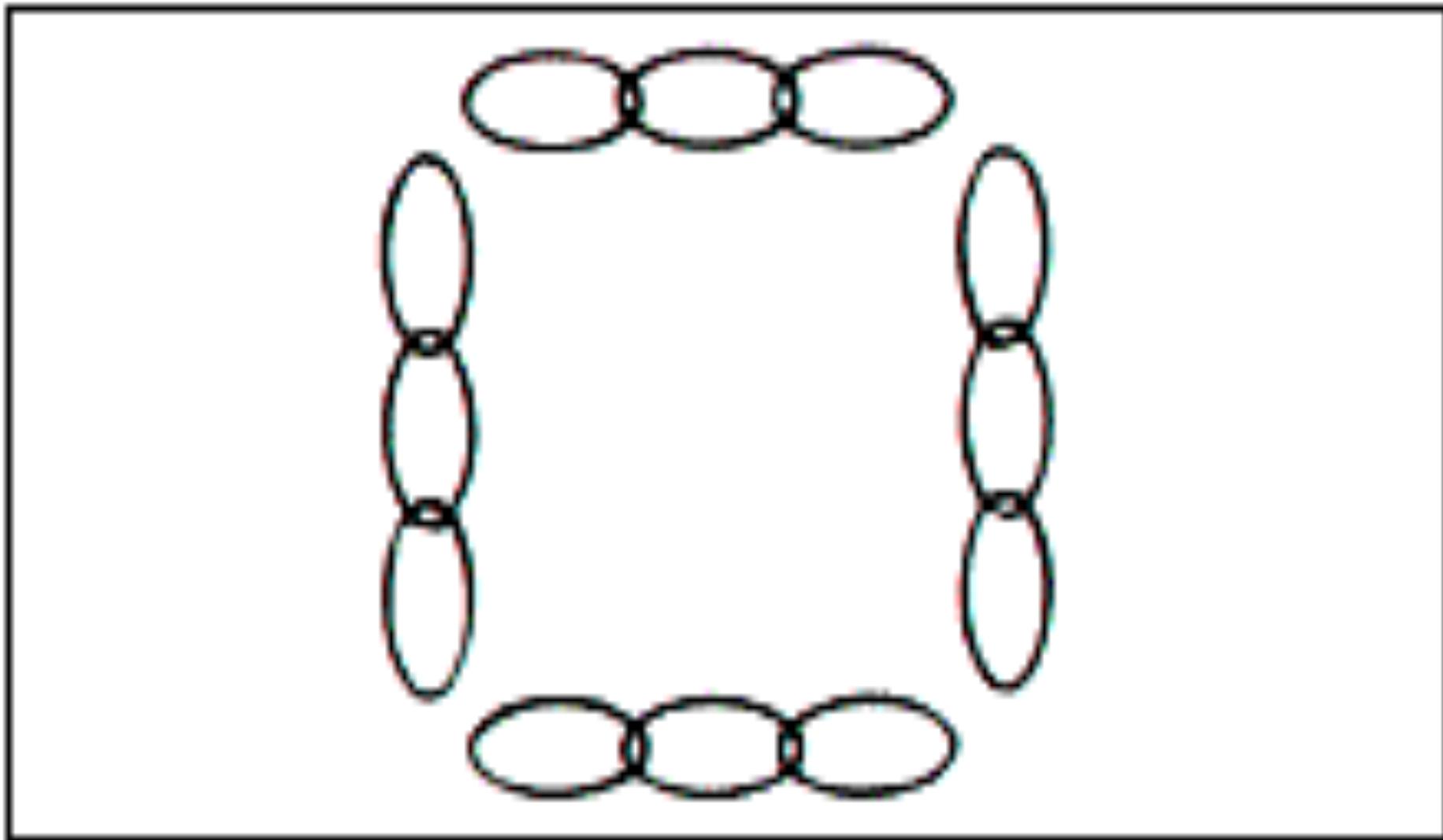
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With some problems, a creative solution can only occur after the elements or parts of the problem have been reorganized into a different pattern. This requires that you juggle the parts in your mind's eye. With this in mind, see if you can solve this problem: A businessman brought back from Europe four pieces of chain in solid gold, each consisting of three links

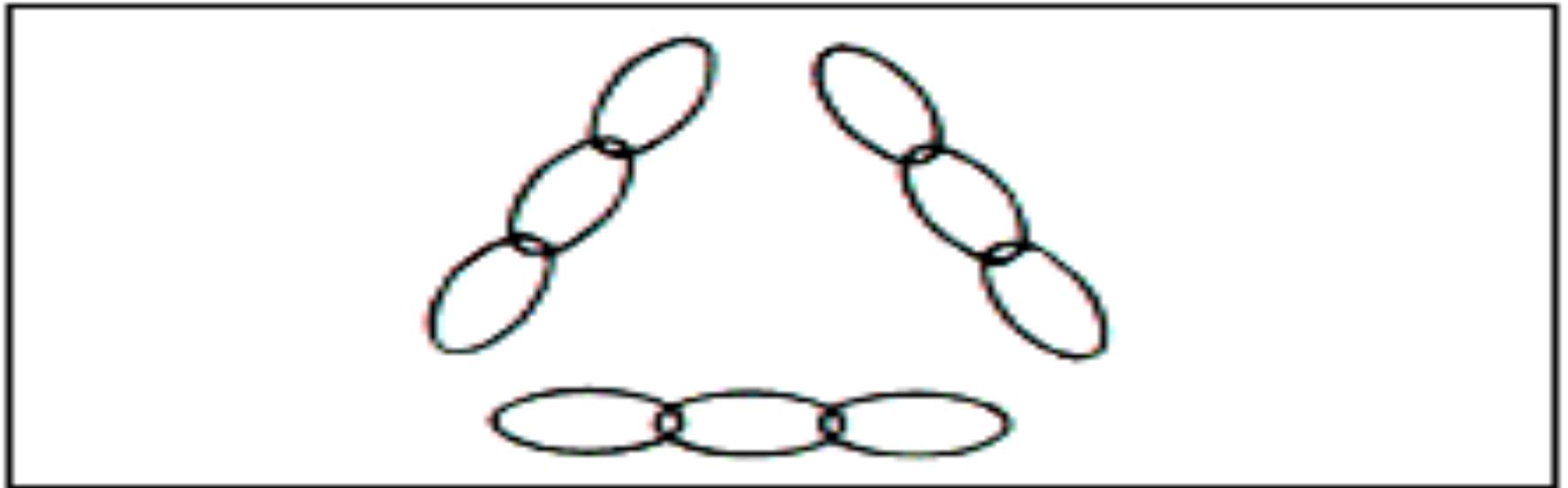


He wanted to keep them as an investment, but his wife felt that—joined together—the pieces would make a lovely necklace. She went to a jeweler and said, "I want you to connect these pieces to make a necklace. How much will it cost?" The jeweler laid the individual pieces of chain out in this pattern:



He told the lady, "I charge \$2.50 to break a link and \$2.50 to melt it together again. Since you have four corners, it will cost you \$20." The lady said, "That's too much. Actually you can do it for \$15." The problem, then, is to construct a necklace, breaking and joining only three links. How would you do it?

As long as you think of the segments of chain as four sides of a square or as segments of a circle, you can't solve this problem. The moment you shift your focus and regard one of those segments—not as an immutable structure—but as a stockpile of individual links, you've made the necessary breakthrough. At the woman's suggestion, the jeweler placed three segments in a triangular pattern, took apart the remaining segment, and used those three links to close the three corners of the necklace.



A man lives on the twelfth floor of an apartment building. Every morning he takes the elevator down to the lobby and leaves the building. In the evening, he gets into the elevator, and, if there is someone else in the elevator -- or if it was raining that day -- he goes back to his floor directly.

Otherwise, he goes to the tenth floor and walks ~~up~~ two flights of

The man is a dwarf. He can't reach the upper elevator buttons, but he can ask people to push them for him. He can also push them with his umbrella.





"Make up your mind! First, you tell me to color within the lines...then you tell me to think outside the box."

In the middle of the  
ocean is a yacht.

Several corpses are  
floating in the water  
nearby

**WHY?**

## Alternate Solution #1

A group of people were on an ocean voyage in a yacht. One day, they decided to go swimming -- they put on their swimsuits and dove off the side. They discovered belatedly that they have forgotten to put a ladder down the side of the yacht and were unable to climb back in, so they drowned.

## Alternate Solution #2

The same situation, but they set out a ladder that was just barely long enough. When they dove into the water, the boat, without their weight, rose slightly in the water, putting the ladder just out of reach.

A man is lying dead in a room. There is a large pile of gold and jewels on the floor, a chandelier attached to the ceiling, and a large open window.



**“You see them float by now and again when somebody down there is thinking too far out of the box.”**

The room is the ballroom of an ocean liner which sank some time ago. The man ran out of air while diving in the wreck.

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#2

A farmer  
had nine  
sheep, and  
all but  
seven died.  
How many  
did he have



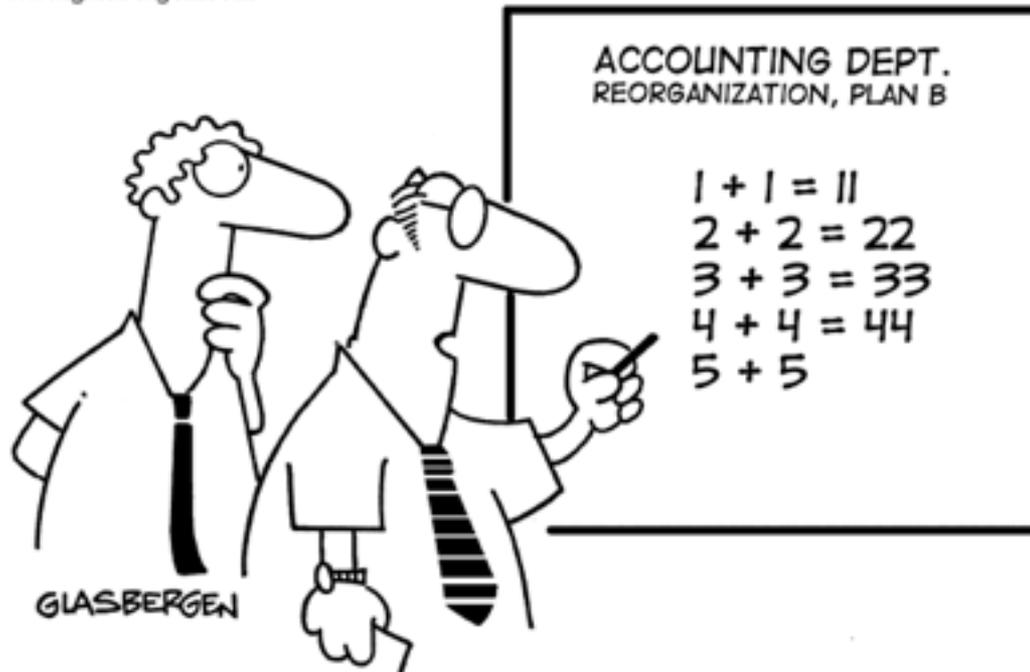
**seve**

I have two U.S. coins that add up to fifty-five cents. One is not a nickel. What coins are they?

A nickel and a half  
dollar. Only one is not a  
n'



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**“For years, we’ve been playing by old rules and the results have been dismal. It’s time for a bold new direction!”**

You are a bus driver. At the first stop of the day, eight people get on board. At the second stop, four get off, and eleven get on. At the third stop, two get off, and six get on. At the fourth stop, thirteen get off, and one gets on. At the fifth stop, five get off, and three get on. At the sixth stop, three get off, and two get on. What color are the bus driver's eyes?

The image shows the interior of a school bus, viewed from the back of the vehicle looking forward. The bus has a green upper body and a white lower body. The interior is filled with rows of brown, padded seats. A central aisle runs down the middle of the bus. Large windows are visible on both sides, providing a view of the outside world. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

Whatever color yours are. You're the bus driver



*"I expect you all to be independent, innovative, critical thinkers who will do exactly as I say!"*

It is greater than God and more evil than  
the devil

The rich need it  
The poor have it  
If you eat it, you will die  
Who am I ?

nothing

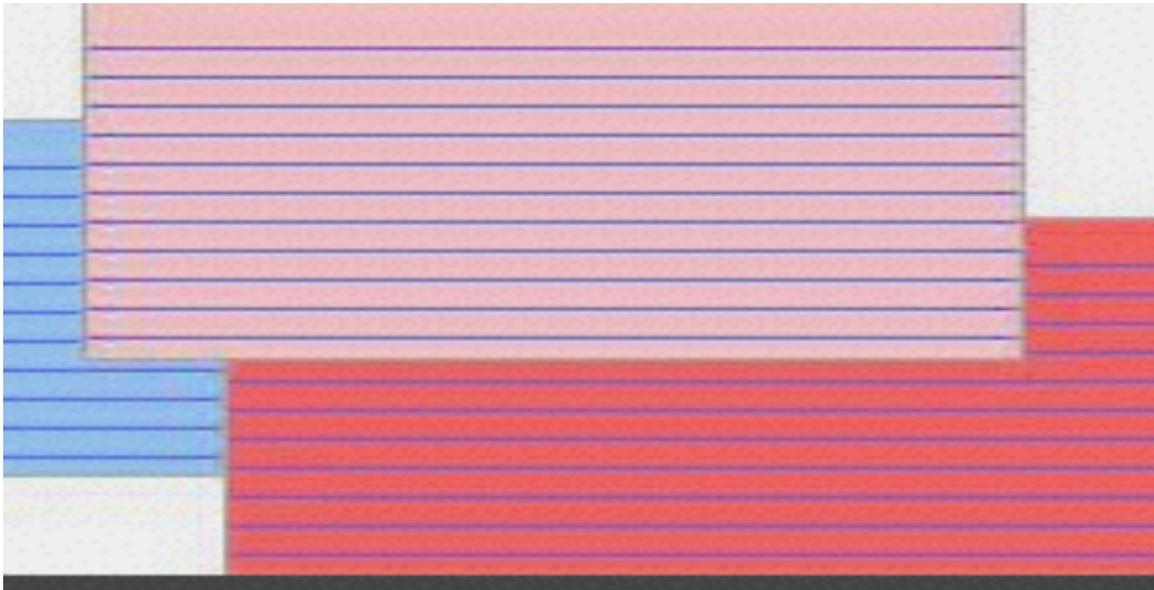




**"OK guys - if your team were an animal, what kind of animal would it be?"**



# Person Through Card



**Instruction to group:** You have five minutes to devise a way of cutting the sheet of paper so that it creates a ring - **without any breaks or joins** - large enough to fit over both people, and then to step through the ring (in your pair/ three/as a group).

## how to put your entire body through a business card

This is a very impressive trick; especially because the solution is for real; it's not a trick in the usual sense.

Ideally use a craft knife and a cutting mat or board and a suitable ruler or straight edge. A simpler quicker variation of the trick is possible with scissors and a larger piece of paper, such as a compliment slip, instead of a business card.

See also the '[Sheet of Paper Step-Through Game](#)' which uses this exercise as a group activity (meeting icebreakers, teambuilding, problem-solving, togetherness, kids' scissor-skills, etc).

Here are the instructions.



Fold the business card in half, and cut it through both sides of the card, as shown in the diagram, in the following sequence:

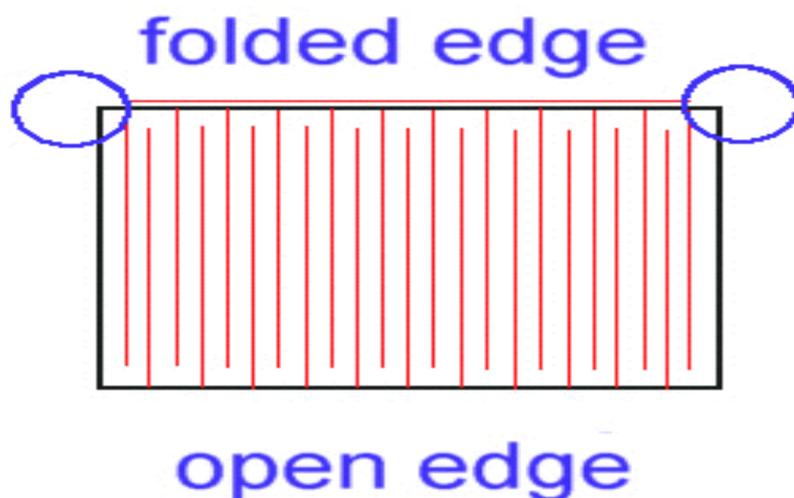
Cut 10-12 slits, from the folded edge up to about 3mm of the open edge, each slit about 5mm apart.

Cut a slit between each of the above slits, from the open edge up to about 3mm of the folded edge.

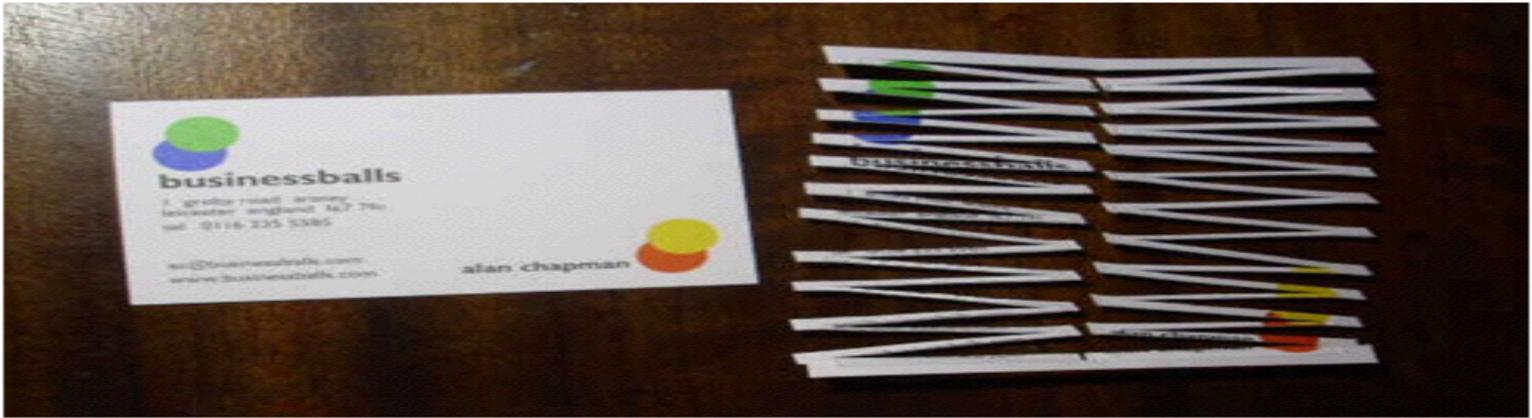
Open the card and cut the folded edge, but not the ends marked with blue circles.

You should then be able, gently, to open the card into a ring, which unless you are a very large person, you should be able to put your entire body through.

Here's one I



n  
5  
f  
:



a  
it  
:



e  
g

Look at the first sketch and imagine that you are the person shown standing in the room. You have been given the task of tying together the ends of the two strings suspended from the ceiling. The strings are located so that you cannot reach one string with your outstretched hand while holding the second in your other hand. The room is totally bare, and you have only the resources you would normally have in your pocket or handbag. How do you solve this problem?





Most people will see the difficulty as a shortness of reach. That is, they state the problem to themselves as: "How can I get to the second string?" The consequence of this perspective is that all effort goes into vain efforts to find a means of making one of the strings longer. But the "givens" of this problem make such a solution impossible.

If, however, you define the problem as "How can the string and I get together?", another sort of solution may occur to you. The solution requires that you see the difficulty in terms of getting the second string to come to you. If you tie a small object-say, a key or a ring-to the end of one string and set it swinging like a pendulum, you can grab it while still holding the end of the second





That's all!



**That's All.**