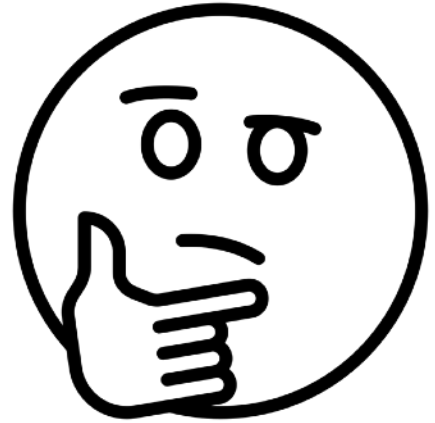


## TEN LATERAL THINKING PUZZLES

Following the Romeo & Juliet activity, here are then more lateral thinking puzzles for your students.

In each case, all words and phrases that are beyond B1 level are shown **in bold**.



### ONE.

A house has four walls.  
Each wall faces south.  
A bear approaches the house.  
What colour is the bear?

- Answer: If all four walls face south, the house must be at the North Pole. That means that the bear is a polar bear. It is white.

### TWO.

*I really hope no one has any problems with this one!*

A boy and his father are injured in a terrible accident. They are both taken to hospital and the boy needs emergency **surgery**. The **surgeon** enters the room, looks at the boy and says, "I can't operate on this boy. He is my son".

- Answer: The surgeon is the boy's mother.

### THREE.

An old man lives on the twelfth floor of an apartment building. Every morning, he takes the elevator to the ground floor and goes for a walk. When he returns, he takes the elevator to the tenth floor and walks up two **flights of stairs** to his apartment. Why does he do that?

- Answer: the old man is very short. In the elevator, he can only reach the button for the tenth floor.

## FOUR.

A **cowboy** rides into town on Friday. He stays for three days and three nights and then leaves on Friday. Can you explain?

- Answer: The cowboy's horse is called Friday.



## FIVE.

*Direct this one to a specific student in your class. Let's call her Maribel.*

Maribel – you are driving a bus. The bus is empty when you start your route. At the first stop, three people get on. At the second stop, two people get off and four people get on. At the third stop, one person gets off and two people get on. What colour are the bus driver's eyes?

**Answer:** Maribel is the bus driver. What colour are her eyes?



## SIX.

A man **hijacked a plane** before it took off. He demanded 100,000 euros and **three parachutes** in exchange for **the safe release** of all the passengers on board, as well as **the cabin crew**. His demands were met. The man then told the pilots (the pilot and copilot) to fly the plane to a new destination. During the flight, the man asked the pilots to fly at **a low altitude**. Then he put on one of the parachutes, took the bag of money, and jumped from the plane. He left the other two parachutes on board. Why did he ask for three parachutes if he only used one?

- Answer: The man was worried that they would give him a faulty parachute. However, by asking for three parachutes, they would think that the pilot and copilot would be jumping with him. That way all three parachutes would be checked and in perfect working order.

**Note:** For this one, you can use the phrases **in bold** for a story pathway. For information about this technique, see post 5.3 in the Story Course.



## SEVEN.

A man is pushing a car.  
He arrives at a hotel.  
He shouts, "I'm **bankrupt**".  
Can you explain?



- Answer: He is playing Monopoly, the board game.

## EIGHT.

Three people enter a room, but only two walk out.  
The room is now empty.  
Where is the third person?

- Answer: The third person has **a mobility disability** and uses a wheelchair. So the third person didn't walk out.

## NINE.

A woman is heating a cup of coffee in **a microwave oven**.  
She puts it in for exactly one minute.  
Then she opens the door and immediately closes it again.  
She heats the coffee for two more seconds.  
Why does she do that?



- Answer: When she opens the door, she sees that the handle of the cup is facing the back of the microwave. By heating it for two more seconds, the cup turns 180 degrees and this allows her to take it by the handle.

## TEN.

A woman stands in the middle of a **court**.  
She can't believe what is happening.  
She has her hand over her mouth.  
She is **speechless**.  
What is going on?

- Answer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UtPkxzHKLpk>

