

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX



A) **Introduction:**

Read the following situation and try to **work out** what has happened. You can ask yes/no questions to find out more information.

A man is lying dead in a snowy field. There are no footprints to or from his body. The man has a pack on his back. How did he die?

Answer: _____

A woman lives on the 30th floor of a building. When she gets home from work, she usually takes the lift as far as the 21st floor and then climbs the stairs to the 30th. However when it's raining, she'll always take the lift to the 30th floor. What explains this strange behaviour?

Answer: _____

When Harry comes home he finds Sarah is dead, lying in a pool of water and Tom is sitting quietly on the armchair. There is some broken glass on the floor. Tom won't be charged with murder. Why not?

Answer: _____

A man rode into town on Friday. He stayed for three nights and then left on Friday. How come?

Answer: _____

B) **Reading:** Read the text and say if the sentences are true (T) or false (F)

Lateral Thinking

It means being able to think **creatively** or "outside the box" in order to solve a problem.

Usually, logical thinking is used to solve problems straightforwardly (also known as vertical thinking). Lateral thinking however, looks at things from a sideways perspective (also known as horizontal thinking), in order to find answers that aren't **immediately** apparent.

The term was first coined by psychologist Edward de Bono. These skills are often required in creative careers like marketing or advertising.

If you study graphic or art and design at school, there's a good chance that you have developed some of these skills already, which can be useful in your future career.

Lateral thinking interview questions:

These questions are **particularly** popular with job interviewers. Not only do they test your ability to think creatively, but they can also reveal your problem solving skills as well. **Fortunately**, if you're someone who enjoys playing puzzles or working out brain teasers, you may already be good at answering these types of interview questions.

This type of interview question can **sometimes** be difficult to identify. If you're ever asked a question in an interview that seems a bit odd, or that **apparently** doesn't make sense upon first hearing, there's a chance it could be a lateral thinking question.

The University of Kent has a great resource that provides a list of these types of questions.

Improving these skills can be challenging as lateral thinking comes more **naturally** to some people than others.

Here are some exercises you could try and that will **eventually** help you develop your lateral thinking skills:

Mind mapping

Mind maps are **certainly** a great way of solving a problem when logical thinking just doesn't help. Because mind maps are visual aids, they require your brain to adjust its thought processes, which can often help you find answers unexpectedly. Mind maps give you the opportunity to put all your ideas down on paper and then take a step back to gather your thoughts.

Reverse thinking

Reverse thinking involves analyzing what people normally do in a situation and then doing the opposite. If you find yourself only getting so far into a problem and then becoming stuck, you might want to start

at the end and work backwards. For example, look at the problem and then describe what you'd like the solution to be. From there, you can begin working backwards to find the starting point to your solution.

Lateral thinking is a skill that will be useful for whatever job you end up doing, but there are some career paths where it can really come in handy. Here are some examples of lateral thinking career choices:

Advertising

People who work in advertising use this type of thinking to persuade us to buy products. The adverts which makes us think a little harder are the ones we remember the most.

Marketing

Marketers often have to come up with novel or creative ways to promote products and services. Although there are some rules in marketing, it's often the campaigns that bend the rules **slightly** that are successful.

Media

Working in the media, you may have to use these thinking skills to deliver a message in a creative way. Whether you're a journalist, filmmaker or press release writer, some sideways thinking can come in handy.

1. Lateral thinking is a way of solving problems in a direct, straightforward way.
2. These skills help you find answers that aren't so obvious.
3. These skills are only useful if you pursue a career in the media or marketing design.
4. Playing puzzles or solving brain teasers helps develop these skills.
5. For some people is easier to develop lateral thinking skills than it is for others.
6. Mind maps are a good way of solving a problem using logical thinking.
7. When you use reverse thinking to solve a problem you work forward from beginning to end.



C) **Grammar.** Adverbs and adverbial phrases.

Time adverbials:

These adverbials tell us when something happened. They usually go at the end of the sentence or clause. We can use simple adverbs like **now** and **then**, or adverbial phrases like **early one morning**. If we put the adverbials at the beginning of the sentence, it puts more emphasis on the time.

Adverbials of manner:

These adverbials tell us how something happens, and they usually go at the end of the sentence. Adverbials of manner can go in the middle of the sentence (before the main verb or between the auxiliary and the main verb). This occurs when the adverb is not the main focus of the sentence.

*She's studying **quietly**.*

*She **quickly** finished the test.*

Adverbs of attitude:

These go at the beginning of the sentence and are followed by a comma. They express the speaker's attitude towards an action. They refer to the content of the whole sentence.

Interestingly, lateral thinking is a very useful skill in careers having to do with art and the media.



1. Classify the highlighted adverbs and put them into the correct column

Time	Manner	Attitude

Extra task: find three relative clauses in the text.