

Reading

- 1** Read the article quickly and choose the best definition of 'lateral thinking'.

'Lateral thinking' is ...

- a a new way of thinking about old problems.
- b a fun way of solving puzzles.
- c an alternative way of thinking about problems.

Verb patterns (1)

VOCABULARY 1.3

- 2** Read the article again. Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- 3** Read the article again. Which paragraph or paragraphs in the article:

- 1 encourage you not to give up thinking about the puzzle? **B** ,
- 2 tells you what you need to do if you want to use lateral thinking?
- 3 explains why some people are better at lateral thinking?
- 4 gives an example of solving a problem by lateral thinking?
- 5 presents a lateral-thinking problem for the reader to solve?
- 6 explains the way we traditionally deal with problems?
- 7 tells you where you can find the solution to the puzzle?

Teaching thinking

A Acting on an anonymous phone call, the police raid a house to arrest a suspected murderer. They don't know what he looks like but they know his name is John. Inside the house, they find a surgeon, a lorry driver, a mechanic and a fireman, all playing cards. Without hesitation or asking any questions, they arrest the fireman. How do they know the fireman is the murderer?

B The answer to the puzzle is printed at the bottom of the page. But if you don't know it, try ¹ not to look (not look) yet! Read this article and then force yourself ² (think) a little harder.

C In the 1960s, Edward de Bono, a Maltese doctor and writer, invented the phrase 'lateral thinking'. He believes that we understand the world by building up patterns based on experience. These patterns teach us ³ (recognise) familiar problems and situations and allow us ⁴ (make) simple decisions quickly. However, de Bono argues these patterns can also stop us from seeing the solution to a problem.

D Edward de Bono thinks that for every problem, you need ⁵ (check) your assumptions. What did you assume when you read the puzzle above? To think laterally means you must avoid ⁶ (make) assumptions about a problem and make yourself ⁷ (think) 'outside the box'.



E Now think about the fireman puzzle again. Have you got the solution yet? No? Well, keep ⁸ (read) then think again.

F Edward de Bono once asked some children ⁹ (suggest) ways of estimating the height of a tall building. Some suggestions were asking the architect and also dropping a stone from the top, and measuring the time taken to fall. But one boy refused ¹⁰ (take) the question seriously. "Put the building on its side and measure it," he said. The class laughed. Edward de Bono then managed ¹¹ (demonstrate) that this was actually a very sensible idea. You can measure the building, de Bono pointed out, in a photograph. And if you put something else in the photograph – that you know the height of – you can easily calculate the height of the building.

G In fact, children are often good at lateral thinking. With less life experience, they bring fewer assumptions to a problem, and so look for different solutions. So, if you can't answer the murderer puzzle yet, try asking a young person the same problem. You might ¹² (be) surprised at how simple they find it!

The surgeon, lorry driver and mechanic were all women. The fireman was the only man.