



# An Exercise in Critical Thinking (Answers)

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1. A man buys a new car and goes home to tell his wife. He goes the wrong way up a one-way street, nearly runs into 7 people, goes onto the pavement and takes a shortcut through a park. A policeman observes all this and doesn't arrest him. Why not?

*The man was walking.*

2. If you had a machine that could generate one million dollars a day, what would you be willing to pay for it?

*Why pay for the machine if you already have it?*

3. Why is it against the law for a person living in Germany to be buried in California?

*Burying people who are still alive is a crime.*

4. One house is made of red bricks, one of blue bricks, one of yellow bricks and one of purple bricks. What is a green house made of?

*Panes of glass.*

5. A little girl kicks a football. It goes 3 metres and comes back to her. How is this possible?

*She kicked it straight up into the air.*

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6. In South Africa you can't take a picture of a man with a wooden leg. Why not?

*You can't take a picture with a wooden leg; you have to use a camera.*

7. You drive past a bus stop and see 3 people waiting for the bus: an old lady who is about to die, an old friend who saved your life and your perfect partner. Knowing you can only have one passenger in your car, what would you do?

*Give the car keys to your friend and let him take the old woman to the hospital. Stay and wait for the bus with your perfect partner.*

8. How much soil is there in a hole 1 metre deep, 2 metres long and 1.5 metres wide?

*None—otherwise it wouldn't be a hole.*

9. If it took 8 men 10 hours to build a wall, how long would it take 4 men to build the same wall?

*The wall is already built; no need for anyone to build it again.*

10. How far can you walk into the woods?

*Halfway—after that, you're walking out of the woods.*

11. How many apples can you put in an empty backpack?

*You only need one; then the backpack isn't empty.*

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12. Your friend says he can predict the exact score of every football match before it begins. He's right every time. How is that possible?

*The score before any game of football begins is 0:0.*

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