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MENSA INTERNATIONAL

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https://bit.ly/MI_welcome

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Happy reading!

Kate

Log in to www.mensa.org to read or download the MWJ in full colour

Daring Differently: Gender Differences in Risk-Taking Behaviour

Women are less willing to take risks than men because they are more sensitive to the pain of any losses they might incur than any gains they might make, new research from the University of Bath School of Management shows.

Published in the British Psychological Society's *British Journal of Psychology*, the study - "Gender differences in optimism, loss aversion and attitudes toward risk" - also finds that men are 'significantly' more optimistic than women, making them more willing to take risks.

Researcher Dr. Chris Dawson, associate professor in business economics at the University of Bath School of Management, said, "It is widely acknowledged that men, across many domains, take more risks than women. These differences in how the sexes view risk can have significant effects," Dr. Dawson says.

"For instance, differences between the sexes in risk taking can explain why women are less likely to be entrepreneurs, are underrepresented in high-paying jobs and upper management, and less likely to invest their wealth in equities markets than men. However, we still know very little about why women take fewer risks than men."

"My research attempts to fill that gap. When thinking about risky choices, people tend to assess the probability of losing something alongside an evaluation of how painful that loss would be. I found that women take less risks than men as they focus more on the possibility of losing and anticipate experiencing more pain from potential losses," he adds.

Previous research suggests that women are more risk averse than men, and this study investigated the joint role of two psychological characteristics to explain the differences - loss aversion, the idea that losses loom larger than gains, and optimism.

To measure loss aversion, Dr. Dawson used data from 13,575 people from the UK British Household Panel Survey to assess how changes in household income from one year to the next predict changes in psychological well-being.

He found that income losses are less painful for men than for women with no difference in the psychological responses to income gains between the sexes.

The research indicates that this optimism may be linked to men's overconfidence about their abilities compared to women's which previous studies have highlighted.

If women are both less optimistic about the probability of favourable outcomes occurring and less confident in their abilities than men, they will naturally evaluate a given gamble as being riskier, the research says.

Overall, the study finds that women report a lower willingness to take risks than men with 53 percent of this gap accounted for by the higher levels of loss aversion among women and a further 3 percent attributable to the lower levels of financial optimism among women.

Extracted from neurosciencenews.com June 10, 2023

from your executive committee

from your Chairman, Björn Liljeqvist

Solving problems in Mensa

Squares, circles, triangles; dots and arrows and wavy lines – of these things my head is full. Over the last few months my wife Camilla and I have been conjuring up IQ puzzles out of the depths of our minds, in an attempt to make a book of brain teasers. It is fun and like all creative work it grows on you until it fills the sky and you can think of little else. In that sense, it's a lot like joining Mensa: a puzzling experience at first but before you know it Mensa is part of your life and includes both your friends and family.

IQ puzzles are strange beasts. It is more than a test of logic. Attention, focus, memory, abstraction, imagination, speed – these are all indispensable. Some problems are easy in theory, but only if you can keep that train of thought long enough to see it through. Spatial reasoning is an example: how do you assemble a particular figure out of separate pieces in two or three dimensions. Others are very easy to solve once you crack the principle and "just see it". Here is such a gem from the book *Games for the super intelligent* by James Fixx. Plain letters arranged in four groups, but only half the alphabet. Finish the sequences!
1. AM… 2. BCDEK... 3. FGJL... 4. HI... Once you see it, it's obvious. But if you don't, then what? Then you get creative. Which brings me back to Mensa, where the problems we want to solve are of a different character.

Let me tell you of two meetings we've recently had. In March, the Executive Committee met in my hometown of Stockholm for a couple of days. In June, the much larger International Board of Directors (IBD) met online for a discussion session live streamed to members on our community platform Workplace, where you can watch the recording of this and all virtual IBD meetings at https://mensainternational.workplace.com/groups/mensaworld/permalink/1582814705462524/

If you prefer to read, detailed discussion minutes can be downloaded from mensa.org. They are more fun to read than some would think.

A common theme for both meetings was the inherently global nature of Mensa. It is right there in our very logo. Look at it. The big sphere hovering over the table is clearly a brain, but also the Earth itself: a planet-sized world mind resting on three mighty pillars, probably symbolizing the three purposes of Mensa. We pass the test and join Mensa in a country, but we also get the world. That is the deal.

Or the ideal, at least; our aspiration. In practice, making this work is less straightforward, as members who have visited Mensa in other countries might know. That is about to change though.

The IBD has now approved the funding and implementation of an international member database - a big step forward. It will make it much easier for members to join Workplace, Facebook groups, vote in elections, visit foreign gatherings, use SIGHT and so on.

As a member of Mensa, you have a right to be recognized as a member of Mensa wherever you go. The obligation is on the organization to ensure that this is done. Data privacy means that regular members will not be able to browse the entire directory – but all members will be able to prove their membership to other members because of the underlying database.

Speaking of rights, what rights do members of Mensa have? This was another important point of discussion.

Continued on p04

Continued from p03

In the constitutions of national Mensas, it says there is only one class of members with equal rights and privileges. So what are those rights? That is not so clear, and the idea of what a "member right" is can differ between countries. Case in point: does everyone have a right to attend all Mensa activities?

Here, there are two schools of thought. In one, a Mensa activity is by definition an event advertised to all members and to which all members are welcome. In the other, the equal rights of members do not include a right to attend any Mensa activity – but instead the right to host activities for other members and use Mensa's channels to advertise your own events even if not all members are welcome.

These things matter because a membership society is more than a group of friends who can include and exclude others on a whim. All countries must not necessarily do things the same way. But this is just one an example of how organisational culture can diverge. Some variation is good, too much variation and it is no longer one and the same Mensa.

Can we find a universal principle and define the basic rights of Mensa membership in a way that would apply to all, perhaps with exceptions for children and legal minors? If nothing else, it is a useful exercise. The topic is sure to be revisited.

Adaptive IQ testing was another topic. Delayed by the pandemic, we have since made progress on our path towards a new type of admissions test. Within the next year we expect to offer this option to all national Mensa groups. An adaptive electronic test means that the questions are selected algorithmically depending on the answers so far of the test candidate. This allows for higher accuracy and lowers the risk of cheating. There is no fixed list of answers, instead each candidate gets a unique sequence of questions. Automatic test supervision using webcams, eye tracking anti-cheating software and similar gadgets are already in use by some universities and sufficiently reliable also to become an option for Mensa admissions. This is a game changer. It will make it possible to greatly scale up Mensa testing while also solving the problem of old paper tests becoming outdated. Norming of the new test is currently under way.

In what I hope will be recurring feature for the virtual IBD meetings, a number of our international volunteers joined to introduce themselves to the IBD and the members who watched. They are the ones carrying out much of the regular work for the society, people such as the *MWJ* editor Kate Nacard, the Ombudsman Vicki Herd, the Supervisory Psychologist Kristof Kóvacs and others too many to list here, but without whom Mensa could not function.

On that note, I want to extend my special thanks to José Luis Martínez, who recently stepped down from his position as Director of Development for reasons related to his professional duties. José brought a lot of fresh ideas and worked hard to make Mensa grow and we wish him well in his endeavours. The IBD is currently in the process of filling the vacancy.

Many and bright are the minds that work to find solutions and improve Mensa. And speaking of solutions, did you solve that brain teaser? I will give you an anagram clue: **mmystery.**

Floreat Mensa!

Björn Liljeqvist
Chairman, Mensa International

what's on...

Mensa Serbia Giftedness Conference 2023
September 29-Oct 1, 2023
Mensa Serbia is delighted to announce The Sixth International Professional and Scientific Conference, entitled "Working with the Gifted: Methods and Programs", which will be held in Novi Sad, Serbia, from 29th September to 1st October.
https://www.mensa.org/system/files/first_call_for_conference_working_with_the_gifted_-_methods_and_programs.pdf

Asia-Pacific Mensa Gathering: Bali, Indonesia
November 2, 2023
The second AMG of 2023 will be held from November 2nd to 5th on the magical Indonesian island of Bali, famous worldwide for its warm hospitality, ancient culture, and stunning landscapes.
https://www.facebook.com/asian-MENSA/

IBD Meeting in Dallas, USA
12 Oct 2023 - 16 Oct 2023
At the International Board of Directors (IBD) Meeting, IBD members discuss, debate and vote on motions which affect Mensans locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. The meeting also includes activities for non-delegates.
https://www.facebook.com/groups/1224844085031215

Mensa Switzerland by Natalie Ryser

Mensa Switzerland places great importance on impeccable testing processes, which ensures that people who pass our national admission tests are eligible for joining Mensa International directly. There is for sure a tradeoff between our strict testing processes and increase of membership at all costs.

Our community is growing but within the last year Mensa Switzerland rather focused on pleasing their existing members rather than expanding. After a lack of events due to Covid-19 followed by some difficulties with introducing the new website, the event section is now definitely more alive again. We haven't reached the amount of activity which is desired but there is still a big upward trend.

With the IT team working hard on an alternative solution for digital event handling, the Board is really optimistic that this will simplify the process and serve as a motivation factor to organise events.

What is really special within Mensa Switzerland are the Guest Members. With their ideas and their drive, they contribute a lot to the development of Mensa Switzerland, and we are happy and proud to have them! There were so many international guests at the Annual Gathering in Montreux last year, more than ever before.

Another unique characteristic of Mensa Switzerland is the multilingualism. With four official languages in Switzerland not including English (French, German, Italian and "Romansch"), we decided to officially communicate in English. Whenever meeting fellow Mensans you will always meet people you don't understand - sometimes even after finding a common language to communicate in. This brings me to a point I personally really appreciate about Mensa Switzerland. For every person you can't find common grounds with, there will always be at least two people with whom you can connect immediately!

I'm Natalie, 26 years old and Board member of Mensa Switzerland. I joined Mensa in November 2019 and became an active member in February 2020. For almost two years I was the technical editor of our national magazine "Mensa Inside". In September 2021 I joined the Board as Head of Marketing. In the meantime, my responsibilities are Marketing, Gifted Children and Membership Services.

Why this description of my time in Mensa? I want to show you that even as a new member you can contribute a lot. ***Be courageous – be active!***

recent research into the brain...

Thought Power: Altering Tactile Perception With the Power of Imagination
A study tested the influence of beliefs on tactile perception. Researchers found that hypnotic suggestions could alter an individual's tactile discrimination threshold. When participants under hypnosis believed their index finger was larger, they could distinguish two closely-spaced needle points more accurately. This ability was impaired when they were made to believe their finger was smaller.

The study, backed by concurrent brain activity measurements, gives us valuable insights into the top-down influences of beliefs on perception. It suggests the human mind's extraordinary ability to influence perceptual experiences.

Diet and Dementia: Study Uncovers Gut-Brain Link to Alzheimer's
A new study adds weight to the hypothesis of a gut-brain link in Alzheimer's disease. Researchers identified certain gut bacteria that could potentially increase or decrease the risk of developing Alzheimer's. This correlation between gut health and neurodegenerative disease is a reminder that our overall health is interconnected.

The work provides hope for personalized treatments involving dietary changes or probiotics to positively influence our gut microbiome, immune system, and brain function.

Tiny Human Brain Tissue Organoids Can't Be Legally Considered "a Person"
Researchers discuss the legal status of human brain organoids. These lab-grown replicas of human brains, produced from stem cells, have sparked debate about their potential juridical personhood.

The authors of this study assert that brain organoids do not fulfill the requirements to be considered natural persons, highlighting the urgent need for a legal framework to govern this emerging field of research.

New Antidepressant Reduces Stress and Depression With Low Side Effects
Researchers discovered that the delta opioid receptor agonist, KNT-127, could be more effective and cause fewer side effects than many current drugs for the treatment of depression.

In a mouse model of depression, KNT-127 demonstrated anti-depressant-like effects, prevented neuronal inflammation, and reduced newborn neuronal death.

While further research is needed, this study offers hope for an effective and less burdensome treatment option for depression.

Exercise and the Brain: The Neuroscience of Fitness Explored
A new article explores the profound impact of exercise on the brain.

Research shows that regular physical activity promotes neurogenesis, particularly in the hippocampus, improves spatial memory, enhances sleep quality, increases brain plasticity, and reduces inflammation.

In essence, exercise seems to be a potent elixir for brain health and cognitive function, and it underscores the significant role that lifestyle factors play in maintaining our neurological health.

Neurosciencenews.com May 14, 2023

Sadness

- a poem by Australian member Syd Harris, aged 8

Down in the alleyways of the mind.
Sadness is allowed to sit there,
pondering life's hardships and
the weight of them.
Grieving and mourning for what is
lost.
Tears falling on to the path, making
puddles of sadness.
People sprinting from the
disagreeable sight.
A blue figure standing, tears
pouring like a waterfall into a
river of sadness.

Reprinted from Australian Mensa's magazine, TableAus, Edition 464, March-April 2023, Editor Peter Gibson.

Would you like to contribute to the *Mensa World Journal*?

Articles, poetry and member achievements are all welcome!

Send your submissions to the Editor at mwjeditor@mensa.org

Deadline for each issue is the 1st of the month two months before publication. Eg, the deadline for the November issue issue is September 1.

member profile

by Susan Jensen

Four-year-old Teddy Hobbs became the youngest member of British Mensa last year at age three.

Parents Beth and Will, who met in the RAF Air Cadets, are bright people who did well academically, but can't think of any family members as precocious as Teddy. While the family was in Covid lockdown, at age two, Teddy taught himself to read and count to 100 in English by watching educational TV shows, which he vastly prefers to cartoons and pure entertainment shows.

A "perfectly normal little boy" according to his mother, he enjoys play doh, stuffed animals, and rough-housing but also is a sponge for new information from geography to language (he can count to 100 in seven languages and once gave himself a nosebleed from his excitement at fractions!).

After receiving a tablet computer for Christmas, he ignored all of the 'normal' games his parents had downloaded for him to play. Instead, he prefers to play maths games, word search, reading comprehension and spatial games, all of which he found on his own.

Recently, while on a trip to a mall to spend his Christmas money, he discovered a children's STEM science kit. Now he is often found at the kitchen table with test tubes filled with coloured water making predictions on what sorts of colours he can make, and how he can make them lighter or darker.

After his nursery school teacher suggested Teddy was exceptionally gifted, his parents had him assessed by Lyn Kendall, child adviser to Mensa UK. Their goal was to get guidance on what sort of academic programs and extra stimulation might be best for their son. Lyn told them Teddy's score qualified him for Mensa.

Teddy's parents signed their son up for Mensa and also joined Potential Plus UK - a non-profit organisation that advocates for the educational needs of British students with high learning potential, and provides support for such children and their parents. Teddy now has several playmates through Potential Plus and Mensa but most of his friends are local kids who love him just the way he is.

The family lives in Somerset, UK, where there aren't any schools or special programs for gifted children, so Teddy will most likely attend the local state primary school. He is lucky to have lots of access to extra-curricular activities within the wider community, so hopefully will be able to continue his interests in gymnastics, swimming, tennis and music.

His parents are most grateful to connect through Mensa and Potential Plus with other parents of gifted kids. Thanks to Mensa, Potential Plus and the plethora of virtual education now available, the Hobbs hope their son's intellectual needs will be met as he matures.

For now, they are delighted that Teddy lives such a happy, typical little boy life and wonder if their daughter Pippa, age 16 months, might one day demonstrate the same high IQ as her brother.

Anyone with a young, gifted child in England who would like to communicate with the Hobbs family are welcome to write to them at: hobbsfamily.mwj@outlook.com

Untangling the Human Mind...

In a new landmark study, University of Minnesota research shows surprising links between human cognition and personality — pillars of human individuality that shape who we are and how we interact with the world.

Key Facts:
- The study drew upon data from over 1,300 studies across 50 countries, involving over 2 million participants.
- Active and energetic individuals were found to have superior command over various cognitive abilities, including knowledge acquisition and memory retrieval.
- There is a strong positive relationship between cognitive abilities and open-mindedness.

Personality influences our actions, emotions and thoughts, defining whether we are extroverted, polite, persistent, curious or anxious.

On the other hand, cognitive ability is the umbrella that reflects our capability for navigating complexity, such as articulating language, grasping intricate mathematics and drawing logical conclusions.

Despite the prevailing belief that certain connections exist - for instance, introverted individuals are often perceived as more intelligent - scientists lacked a comprehensive understanding of these intricate connections.

The research, published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, synthesises data from over 1,300 studies from the past century, representing more than 2 million participants from 50 countries and integrating data from academic journals, test manuals, military databases, previously unpublished datasets and even proprietary databases of private companies.

This monumental endeavour presents an in-depth examination of the full pantheon of personality traits and cognitive abilities, spanning across a multitude of cultures and demographic groups. It features an array of 79 personality traits - from modesty to agreeableness - alongside 97 cognitive abilities - from reading speed to memory.

"Knowing how personality and intelligence are related allows us to ponder the much deeper question of why," said Deniz Ones, a co-author of the study and a professor of psychology in the College of Liberal Arts.

"These findings revolutionise our understanding of human diversity and individuality. Only by knowing ourselves can we fully tap into our potential."

Key findings include:
Individuals who are active and energetic tend to have a better command of various cognitive abilities. Most notably, this includes extensive knowledge, efficient memory retrieval and enhanced information processing. Regardless of the subject, active folks tend to know more about it. People who tend to experience high levels of depression or anxiety may find it more difficult to accumulate knowledge or reason logically.

Those who were more industrious and compassionate tended to have better verbal and quantitative knowledge skills. This discovery suggests an exciting connection between personality traits and how we learn.

There are robust, positive relationships between many cognitive abilities and open-mindedness (i.e., receptivity to fresh ideas).

"It took over 13 years and a team of over 30 volunteers to seek out, translate, enter and analyse the more than 1,300 studies," said Kevin Stanek, a co-author of the study who previously led the College's Personality and Intelligence Lab.

"We're extremely grateful to the research team as well as the broader set of thousands of scholars, librarians and companies who contributed their time and data to piece together this mosaic."

A surprising revelation from this research was the consistency of research methods over the past century. Contemporary personality research often still employs self-reporting of agreement with written items.

To counter this stagnation, the authors are working on research to explore the use of innovative methods such as sensor studies and generative AI for assessing personality traits and cognitive abilities.

Neurosciencenews.com June 1, 2023

Unmasking Anosognosia

Anosognosia is a condition in which a patient is unaware of their neurological deficit or psychiatric condition. Visual anosognosia, also called Anton syndrome, is associated with complete cortical blindness and unawareness of vision loss.

Researchers identified specific brain network connections associated with anosognosia, a condition where patients are unaware of their neurological or psychiatric deficits.

Using a technique called lesion network mapping, they identified separate networks linked to visual and motor anosognosia and a shared network responsible for awareness of these deficits. The shared network converged on the hippocampus and precuneus, both associated with memory.

This is the first systematic analysis to highlight the role of the hippocampus in visual anosognosia. Researchers from Brigham and Women's Hospital, a founding member of the Mass General Brigham healthcare system, sought to identify brain network connections associated with anosognosia.

Researchers used a recently validated technique termed lesion network mapping to test whether these lesion-induced deficits map to specific brain networks. They were able to identify distinct network connections associated with visual anosognosia and motor anosognosia as well as a shared network for awareness of these deficits.

The visual anosognosia network was defined by connectivity to visual and metacognitive processing regions while the shared network for awareness converged on the hippocampus and precuneus - brain structures that are associated with memory.

"Despite being described more than 100 years ago, visual anosognosia has had little formal analysis," said corresponding author Isaiah Kletenik, MD, an investigator at Brigham's Division of Cognitive and Behavioral Neurology and the Centre for Brain Circuit Therapeutics.

"Our results are the first to identify the role of the hippocampus in a systematic analysis of visual anosognosia.

"Memory-associated structures are necessary to recognise a deficit by comparing visual inputs to prior information stored in memory while updating self-knowledge about performance compared to previous abilities."

Key Facts:

- Lesion network mapping was the key technique used by researchers to analyse the connectivity patterns of 267 lesion locations associated with vision loss or weakness (with and without awareness).
- Visual anosognosia, also known as Anton syndrome, involves complete cortical blindness and unawareness of this vision loss.
- The study identified the role of the hippocampus in visual anosognosia for the first time, suggesting that memory-associated structures are necessary to recognise a deficit by comparing current visual inputs to prior information stored in memory.

Source: Brigham and Women's Hospital

neurosciencenews.com June 10, 2023

supplementally... by John Blinke

Why?
Why should we trust Big Science?

Photo by Azmaan Baluch on Unsplash

Pseudoscientists would like us to think real scientists pull ideas out of a body orifice. But professional researchers really do not work like that. Scientific ideas are tested carefully and the researchers try to poke holes in their own work. If they don't make that effort, another scientist will do it — and the result could be embarrassing. The biggest names in science are the biggest targets. People like Einstein are challenged continuously. Because those ideas have survived all serious challenges to date, they are probably mostly correct, even though we expect to make adjustments when new facts come to light. But the basic ideas survive. Beside that, future developments depend on getting things right at the lower levels.

Let me plug a book I just finished reading - *The Matter of Everything*, by Oxford accelerator physicist, Suzie Sheehy. It is a very readable history of developments in particle physics from the discovery of atoms up to the present time.

Gird Your Bird

ScienceDaily, April 19, 2023.
"Why This Bird Flu Is Different: Scientists Say New Avian Influenza Requires Urgent Coordinated Response." (Conservation Biology)
People might have escaped Covid 19. But our feathered friends are in trouble. The H5N1 avian flu virus is loose in the wild, which makes it more difficult to defeat than diseases that only infect domesticated birds. Authorities can destroy all the chickens on affected farms to stop an epidemic. You can't do that with wild animals. H5N1 afflicts raptors, sea birds, and colonial nesting birds as well as farmed poultry and pets. Scientists at UMD Department of Environmental Science and Technology say the problem is so big that a solution will require a joint effort from the USA federal, state, and wildlife management sectors.

LIGO Returns

Nature, May 24, 2023.
"Gravitational-Wave Detector LIGO Is Back - And Can Now Spot More Colliding Black Holes Than Ever."
There is a reason you haven't heard much about gravitational waves lately: The Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) has been shut down for three years of upgrades. It is back in action as of May 24, 2023, and we can expect news of a new gravitational wave detection two or three times per week. LIGO was the first, but it is not the only such detector on the planet. Japan has KAGRA, which should also be online now and will soon be equipped with super-cooled mirrors. Italy has Virgo, which is temporarily shut down for repairs. And India is constructing a facility identical to LIGO. At this rate, it won't be safe for a black hole to eat tacos!

Jet Power

ScienceDaily, April 26, 2023.
"Direct Image Of A Black Hole Expelling A Powerful Jet."
The axial jets projected by supermassive black holes are fascinating to astrophysicists who would like to know how

the jets connect to the black hole environment. Scientists at Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy are studying images of M87 produced by three radiotelescope arrays working together: the GMVA, ALMA, and GLT make a virtual Earth-sized telescope similar to the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) which recorded the first images of the M87 black hole. Working at a different wavelength, the new image captures the base of the jet and the accretion disk in a single image. Analysis of this new picture will be valuable to scientists who want to know how black holes work.

Deep Doodoo

New Scientist, May 13, 2023, p. 8. "14,000 Oil and Gas Wells Still Uncapped in Gulf of Mexico." Remember the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil well leak in the Gulf of Mexico? It has plenty of potential company. University of California, Davis, says there are 14,000 uncapped, abandoned oil and gas wells in the gulf. These should have been covered in concrete as soon as the wells stopped producing, when it would have been cheap and easy. It would now cost $30 billion to cap all the abandoned wells in the gulf because many are in very deep water.

"...there are 14,000 uncapped, abandoned oil and gas wells in the Gulf of Mexico."

TCE and Parkinson's

Science, May 15, 2023. "Widely Used Chemical Strongly Linked To Parkinson's Disease." (JAMA Neurology)

The solvent trichloroethylene (TCE) was widely used in industry 40 years ago. People who were exposed to it are now getting Parkinson's disease at an alarming rate. Global incidence of Parkinson's has doubled in the last 25 years. Among other places, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, in North Carolina, was contaminated with TCE. The chemical also wafts out of the ground at dump sites that may not even be marked.

JB

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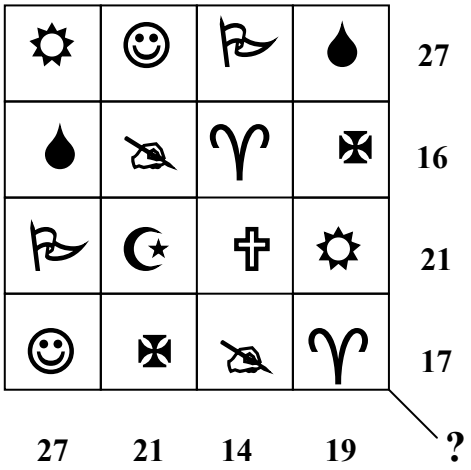
Therese's
BRAIN TEASERS

Cryptosum

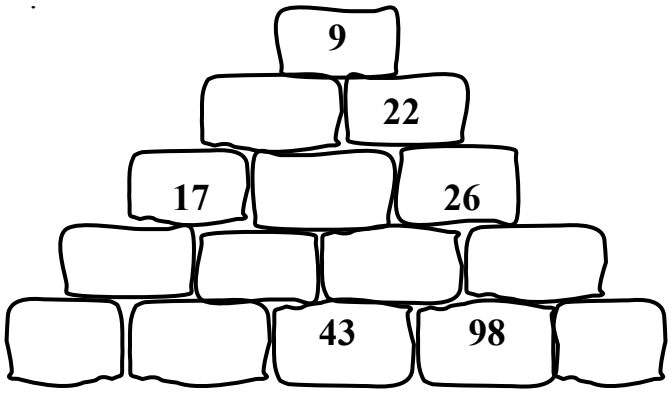
Each symbol represents a different digit from 1 to 9. The sum of the digits in each row and column is shown. Find the sum of the numbers along the diagonal line from the top left-hand corner.



Cairn

The number on each stone represents the difference between the numbers in the two stones on which it sits. There is a two-digit number in each of the bottom stones, using the digits 0-9 once each.

.



Rebus

Decipher the rebus to find a phrase:

Dire diet

Rob weighs 60 kilos plus a third of his own weight. His brother Ron weighs 70 kilos plus half his own total weight. If both go on a diet and Ron loses 20% of his current total weight, and Rob gains 20 kilos, who is the heavier, and by how much?

Anagram Riddle

Five letters have I, you can change them around
To find words which vary by more than a sound:

- *Notions; those things that come from your head;*
- *Assistants, supporters (though not to be led)*
- *Apart; to the side; or quietly said*

Now that you've solved me, what words have you found?

Answers

Cryptosum: *20 (9 + 6 + 4 + 1)* ***Cairn:*** *26 50 43 98 17*
Rebus: *In the middle of Nowhere* ***Dire diet:*** *Ron by 2kg. He will be 112 kg to Rob's 110.* ***Anagram Riddle:*** *Ideas Aides Aside*

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