BRAINSTRETCHERS

Some of these are well known, and some are old favourites put into new words. The thicker the border, the tougher it is to crack the puzzle.

Ten people were sheltering under one umbrella but none of them got wet. Why?

What doesn't get any wetter, no matter how much rain falls on it?

If a dog is tied to a rope ten metres long, how can it reach a bone twenty five metres away?

You are trapped in a prison cell with nothing except a piece of sandpaper and a table. How do you escape?

What is better than heaven, worse than the devil, the dead eat it and if you eat it you die.

Percy purchased some parrots and perches. If Percy perches one parrot per perch, one parrot has no perch. If Percy perches two parrots per perch one perch has no parrot. How many parrots and perches did Percy purchase?

What goes up but never comes down?

John's mother had three children. The first was called April, the second May. What was the third one called?

How many children 4 feet tall and weighing 30 kilos can you fit in an empty mini?

What do you break when you name it?

If you have it, you want to share it. If you share it, you don't have it.

What has no beginning, middle or end?

What weighs almost nothing, but cannot be held by the strongest man for more than a few minutes?

A man is put into a prison cell that has no doors and no windows. In the morning, the guards find he has gone. How did he get out?

A father and his son are out driving. The old man loses control and the car hits a tree. The father is killed instantly, and the boy is taken to hospital.

When he gets there, he is taken straight into the operating theatre. The surgeon arrives, takes one look at the boy and says, 'I cannot operate on this child, he is my son.'

How is this possible?

A man is found dead in a field. Next to him is an unopened package. What was in it?

My oldest son has as many brothers as sisters. Each of his sisters has twice as many brothers as sisters. How many sons and daughters do I have?

A widow lived in a round house with a cook, a maid, a butler and a gardener.

One day the cook screamed – the widow had been murdered. The police arrived and asked where everyone was at the time of the murder.

"I was making dinner," said the cook.

"I was sweeping out the corners," said the maid.

"I was polishing the silver," said the butler.

"I was mowing the lawn, "said the gardener.

Who was the murderer?

You have been left on an island by a villain who has escaped by helicopter. The island is round, with sheer cliffs on all sides dropping down into shark-infested waters. The surface of the island is covered with tall, dry grass.

Before leaving, the villain has started a fire at the north end of the island. A strong wind blowing from the north to the south is blowing the fierce blaze towards you. If you can survive the fire, you will eventually be rescued. What do you do?

A man in a dark suit drives a black car down a narrow lane. His headlights are not working. There are no streetlamps. Yet when a black sheep crosses the road, the man in the dark suit still manages to stop in time to avoid hitting it. How?

A captain and his crew go out on a fishing trip. They leave on Monday. It takes two days to reach the fishing ground. They fish for three days and don't catch anything. The next day, something goes wrong with the engine and they spend the whole day repairing it. Then for the next two days, the fishing is good and they catch all the fish they can store. On the way back, strong winds slow them down so it takes three days to reach home. They return home on Monday.

How?

Sue De Logia drove her teachers mad because she could never tell the truth about anything. She lied about the things she had done. She lied about who she was. She even managed to get a teacher arrested during a school trip by pretending he was a kidnapper.

Every year, she would have days off school and then bring in forged notes to say someone in the family had died. That worked until the headmaster added them up and realised her whole family would have been wiped out several times.

After she had pretended to own the school so that she could sell it, the headmaster had had enough.

"Sue," he said. "I should expel you now, but I am going to give you one final chance to prove that you can tell the truth. So after school, I'm going to ask you to write one true thing on a piece of paper."

"If what you write is true, then instead of being expelled, you can have a detention today and every day for the rest of the year. If what you write isn't true, you will be expelled."

After school, Sue turned up at the headmaster's study and wrote something on the piece of paper he gave her. He looked at it, puzzled for a moment and then huffed and puffed without saying anything.

"Am I being expelled?" Sue asked.

"No," he replied.

"Have I got a detention?"

"No, Sue. You win. Off you go."

What had Sue written on the piece of paper?

I can save life and I can take it away.

I can lift up the strongest man, but the weakest child can push right through me.

What am I?

There are three lights in the loft, and three light switches down below. You cannot see the lights from where the switches are. You can only visit the loft once.

How can you work out which switch connects to which light?

There are two doors, one leading to heaven and one leading to hell. They look exactly the same.

In front of each door stands a guard. They look exactly the same.

But you know that one always tells the truth and the other always lies.

You are allowed to ask just one question of just one guard. What question can you ask to make sure you go the right way?