

Hard Riddles

Printable Riddles



1. A number is doubled, then 6 is added. The result is 22. What was the number?
Answer: 8
2. A number is doubled, then 7 is added. The result is 25. What was the number?
Answer: 9
3. A number is doubled, then 8 is added. The result is 28. What was the number?
Answer: 10
4. A number is doubled, then 9 is added. The result is 31. What was the number?
Answer: 11
5. A number is doubled, then 10 is added. The result is 34. What was the number?
Answer: 12
6. A number is doubled, then 11 is added. The result is 37. What was the number?
Answer: 13
7. A number is doubled, then 12 is added. The result is 40. What was the number?
Answer: 14
8. A number is doubled, then 13 is added. The result is 43. What was the number?
Answer: 15
9. A number is doubled, then 14 is added. The result is 46. What was the number?
Answer: 16
10. A number is doubled, then 15 is added. The result is 49. What was the number?
Answer: 17
11. Find the next term: 3, 5, 10, 12, ?. The rule alternates +2, $\times 2$.
Answer: 24

Hard Riddles

Printable Riddles



- 12.** Find the next term: 4, 6, 12, 14, ?. The rule alternates +2, $\times 2$.
Answer: 28
- 13.** Find the next term: 5, 7, 14, 16, ?. The rule alternates +2, $\times 2$.
Answer: 32
- 14.** Find the next term: 6, 8, 16, 18, ?. The rule alternates +2, $\times 2$.
Answer: 36
- 15.** Find the next term: 7, 9, 18, 20, ?. The rule alternates +2, $\times 2$.
Answer: 40
- 16.** Find the next term: 8, 10, 20, 22, ?. The rule alternates +2, $\times 2$.
Answer: 44
- 17.** Find the next term: 9, 11, 22, 24, ?. The rule alternates +2, $\times 2$.
Answer: 48
- 18.** Find the next term: 10, 12, 24, 26, ?. The rule alternates +2, $\times 2$.
Answer: 52
- 19.** Find the next term: 11, 13, 26, 28, ?. The rule alternates +2, $\times 2$.
Answer: 56
- 20.** Find the next term: 12, 14, 28, 30, ?. The rule alternates +2, $\times 2$.
Answer: 60
- 21.** Among 30 students, 18 play soccer, 12 play basketball, and 7 do both. How many do at least one of the two activities?
Answer: 23
- 22.** Among 25 people, 14 drink tea, 10 drink coffee, and 6 do both. How many do at least one of the two activities?
Answer: 18
- 23.** Among 40 students, 22 study French, 19 study Spanish, and 11 do both. How many do at least one of the two activities?
Answer: 30

Hard Riddles

Printable Riddles



- 24.** Among 28 children, 16 own a bike, 15 own a scooter, and 8 do both. How many do at least one of the two activities?

Answer: 23

- 25.** Among 32 students, 20 like science, 17 like art, and 9 do both. How many do at least one of the two activities?

Answer: 28

- 26.** Among 35 workers, 21 use email, 18 use chat, and 10 do both. How many do at least one of the two activities?

Answer: 29

- 27.** Among 24 players, 13 play chess, 12 play cards, and 5 do both. How many do at least one of the two activities?

Answer: 20

- 28.** Among 50 students, 31 take math, 27 take science, and 18 do both. How many do at least one of the two activities?

Answer: 40

- 29.** Among 29 people, 17 read fiction, 14 read nonfiction, and 8 do both. How many do at least one of the two activities?

Answer: 23

- 30.** Among 36 students, 23 join music, 19 join sports, and 12 do both. How many do at least one of the two activities?

Answer: 30

- 31.** Three boxes are labeled Apples, Oranges, and Mixed, but every label is wrong. You may take one fruit from one box. Which box should you sample first to identify all three boxes?

Answer: The box labeled Mixed.

- 32.** You have two ropes that each burn for exactly 60 minutes but not at a constant rate. How can you measure 45 minutes?

Answer: Light one rope at both ends and the other at one end; when the first finishes, light the second end of the other rope. It will finish 15 minutes later.

- 33.** Outside a closed room are three switches, inside are three bulbs. You may enter the room once. How can you match switches to bulbs?

Answer: Turn one switch on for a few minutes, turn it off, turn a second on, then enter. The lit bulb is switch two, the warm dark bulb is switch one, and the cold dark bulb is switch three.

Hard Riddles

Printable Riddles



- 34.** A farmer must take a fox, a chicken, and grain across a river. The boat holds the farmer and one item. How can everything cross safely?

Answer: Take chicken across, return alone, take fox across, bring chicken back, take grain across, return alone, then take chicken across.

- 35.** You have 8 identical looking balls, one is heavier. Using a balance scale only twice, how can you find the heavier ball?

Answer: Weigh 3 vs 3. If equal, weigh the remaining 2; otherwise weigh 2 balls from the heavier group against each other.

- 36.** A clock shows 3:15. What is the smaller angle between the hour and minute hands?

Answer: 7.5 degrees.

- 37.** A two-digit number has digits that add to 11. Reversing the digits makes the number 27 larger. What is the number?

Answer: 47.

- 38.** A father is 30 years older than his child. In 5 years, he will be three times the child's age. How old is the child now?

Answer: 10 years old.

- 39.** A drawer contains red, blue, and green socks. In darkness, how many socks must you take to guarantee a matching-color pair?

Answer: 4 socks.

- 40.** A jar contains 5 red, 4 blue, and 3 green marbles. Without looking, how many must you draw to guarantee at least two of the same color?

Answer: 4 marbles.

- 41.** Ignore the obvious and combine both clues carefully: I store power but am not a warehouse. I help devices work until my charge runs low. What am I?

Answer: Battery

- 42.** Ignore the obvious and combine both clues carefully: I can pull certain metals without touching them first. I have a north and south but no map. What am I?

Answer: Magnet

Hard Riddles

Printable Riddles



- 43.** Ignore the obvious and combine both clues carefully: I point north without knowing where I am. Travelers use me when directions are unclear. What am I?

Answer: Compass

- 44.** Ignore the obvious and combine both clues carefully: I drop to help something stay in place. Boats trust me when they do not want to drift. What am I?

Answer: Anchor

- 45.** Ignore the obvious and combine both clues carefully: I have rungs but never run. You climb me to reach higher places. What am I?

Answer: Ladder

- 46.** Ignore the obvious and combine both clues carefully: I go around and around to help things move forward. I have no legs but make travel easier. What am I?

Answer: Wheel

- 47.** Ignore the obvious and combine both clues carefully: I have a tongue but cannot talk. I travel wherever your foot goes. What am I?

Answer: Shoe

- 48.** Ignore the obvious and combine both clues carefully: I have fingers but no hand. I cover your hand when it is cold or dirty. What am I?

Answer: Glove

- 49.** Ignore the obvious and combine both clues carefully: I sit on your head but never think. I can shade your face or keep you warm. What am I?

Answer: Hat

- 50.** Ignore the obvious and combine both clues carefully: I can be empty and still contain air. I hide small things inside clothing. What am I?

Answer: Pocket