



# 6 Lateral Thinking Prompts

Original Source: <https://www.rd.com/article/lateral-thinking-puzzles/>

- 1** A woman lives on the 30th floor and hates taking the stairs. Every day she takes the elevator down to the lobby floor to go to work. When she comes home from work, she takes the elevator to the 20th floor and walks the rest of the way up, except on days when it rains. Those days she takes the elevator all the way home. Why does she walk the last ten flights of stairs if she hates it so much?

*Answer: The woman is too petite to reach the button for the 30th floor. She can only reach the 20th floor button. On days when it rains, she uses her umbrella to hit the button for the 30th floor.*

- 2** A man pushes his car until he reaches a hotel. When he arrives, he realizes he's bankrupt. What happened?

*Answer: He's playing Monopoly and his piece is the car. He lands on a space with a hotel and doesn't have the money to pay the fee.*

- 3** A woman enters a room and presses a button. Within seconds she instantly loses 20 pounds. How did she lose the weight?

*Answer: The room is actually an elevator. When she gets inside to go down, the elevator accelerates downward, making her weight temporarily lower.*

- 4** A man who lives in a 30-story building decides to jump out of his window. He survives the fall with no injuries. How did that happen?

*Answer: He may live in a 30-story building, but he only jumped out the window of the first floor.*

- 5** A man is condemned to death. He has to choose from three rooms to accept his punishment. The first room has a firing squad with guns loaded. The second room has a blazing fire. The third room is full of tigers that haven't eaten for six months. Which room should he choose?

*Answer: The room of tigers. If the tigers haven't eaten in six months, they'd be dead.*

- 6** A woman opened a door, screamed, and then was found dead a few minutes later. No gunshots were heard in the area. What happened to her?

*Answer: She was on an airplane and opened the door while the plane was in flight, falling to her death.*