



Bell Ringer

October 24, 2011

A cowboy rode into town on Friday.  
He left three days later but left on  
Friday. How is this possible?

Answer

His horse was named  
Friday.



## Bell Ringer

October 25, 2011

You are presented with three boxes. One contains only apples, one contains only oranges, and one contains a mix of apples and oranges. Each box has a label on it, one saying "apples", one saying "oranges", and one saying "apples and oranges"—but each one of these labels has been placed on the wrong box. You can't look into any of the boxes to see which contains what, but you can remove one fruit from one of the boxes.

What can you do to set the labels right?



## Bell Ringer Answer

Take a fruit out of the box labeled "apples and oranges". Since you know each box is mislabeled, you know that this box contains either only apples or only oranges. Removing one fruit from the box will determine which it contains. Place the label for the fruit you removed on that box. You can then confidently place the "apples and oranges" label on the box labeled with the name of the fruit that you didn't remove from the box., because you know that each box is mislabeled. Finally, by process of elimination, you can place the label for the fruit you didn't draw from original "apples and oranges" box on the remaining box.



## Bell Ringer

October 26, 2011

The triangle drawn below was first invented by philosopher and mathematician Blaise Pascal. Can you figure out the pattern according to which it was made and fill in the next row of digits?

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | 1 |   |   |
|   | 1 | 1 |   |   |
|   | 1 | 2 | 1 |   |
| 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 |   |
| 1 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 1 |

## Answer

The outer two digits in any row are 1s. All the other digits are the sum of the two digits above them.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & & & & 1 & & \\ & & & & 1 & 1 & \\ & & & & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ & & & & 1 & 3 & 3 & 1 \\ & & & & 1 & 4 & 6 & 4 & 1 \\ 1 & 5 & 10 & 10 & 5 & 1 & \end{array}$$



## Bell Ringer

October 27, 2011

You are sailing on a lake. Suddenly, a mysterious stranger standing on the shore points a rifle at you and fires. Fortunately, the shot misses and the bullet enters the water right next to your boat.

In what order do you experience the following:

- A. See the splash on the water
- B. See the flash of the rifle firing
- C. Hear the gunshot

## Answer

Light travels faster than sound;  
Sound travels faster than bullets;  
So, the order would be:

- B. See the flash of the rifle firing
- C. Hear the gunshot
- A. See the splash on the water



Bell Ringer

October 28, 2011

Mickey and Minnie are found dead on the floor, surrounded by water and broken glass. No weapons were used to kill them; they did not kill themselves.

How did Mickey and Minnie die?

Answer

Mickey and Minnie are  
fish; someone broke their  
tank.