

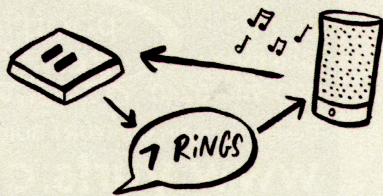
FOR FUN

# MATH PROBLEMS FOR ADULTS

WHO CARES WHICH TRAIN GETS TO POUGHKEEPSIE FIRST?  
BRUSHING UP ON MATH SKILLS WOULD BE EASIER  
IF THE QUESTIONS WERE A LITTLE MORE RELATABLE.

By Janine Annett

- 1 You're working from home and on an important conference call when your child says, "Alexa, play '7 Rings.'" Calculate how quickly you can hit mute on your phone, factoring in how soon the song will start and how loud the volume will be.



- 2 You recently decided to take a job that pays 20 percent less than your previous job but allows you to work from home 30 percent more. Your property taxes increase by 50 percent. Have you made a good decision or a bad one? Show your work.

$$20\% - \frac{???}{\quad} < 30\% \times \text{clock} @ \text{house}$$

- 3 You are home alone with some miniature peanut butter cups your child got from her teacher for Valentine's Day. How long can you resist eating some, and how many can you take before your child notices? Bonus question: Can you calculate your co-pay for a cavity filling?

$$\text{cupcake} \times 30 - \frac{????}{\quad} = \text{cavity}$$

- 4 Your child's friend is at your house when you find out he has pinky. Determine the fastest method of getting him out, and calculate how many loads of laundry you can do in two hours.

$$\text{eyes} + \text{laundry} + \text{house} = \frac{???}{\quad}$$

- 5 You have 15,723 unread emails and are weighing the pros and cons of deleting all of them. What is the probability that one of them is crucially important?

$$15,723(x) = \frac{n!}{\quad} \text{WHAT?!@#!?}$$

- 6 Your mom calls and says she wants to drop by. It's dinner-time, and she'll expect a meal. She won't eat pizza (she's "off dairy") and doesn't like Chinese food. You have three eggs and two questionable lettuce leaves in the refrigerator. She arrives in seven minutes. Solve for dinner.

$$\text{eggs} + \text{lettuce} = \text{dinner}$$

- 7 Soccer practice starts in 17 minutes, two miles away. Your child needs to find a clean soccer uniform, cleats, shin guards, socks, a ball, and a water bottle. How late will you be to practice? Remember: You cannot drive more than 10 miles above the speed limit because you put that bumper sticker on your car proclaiming you are setting an example as a safe driver.

$$\text{house} + \text{gear} + \text{speed limit} = \frac{\text{late}}{\quad}$$