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# Math Puzzles Volume 1: Classic Riddles And Brain Teasers In Counting, Geometry, Probability, And Game Theory

## MATH PUZZLES VOLUME 1

CLASSIC RIDDLES AND BRAIN  
TEASERS IN COUNTING, GEOMETRY,  
PROBABILITY, AND GAME THEORY



PRESH TALWALKAR



## Synopsis

You want to cut a tortilla into 8 pieces. What's the minimum number of cuts you need to make? Is it statistically harder to guess an iPhone password that uses 3-digits or one that uses 4 unique digits? Two friends agree to meet up in a bar between midnight and 1 am. Each arrives at a random time and will wait 10 minutes for the other to show before leaving. What is the probability the two will meet at the bar? What if they are playing strategically? The YouTube channel and blog Mind Your Decisions has millions of views for math videos and posts. This ebook is a compilation of 70 of the best puzzles, divided into 25 classic puzzles in counting and geometry, 25 probability puzzles, and 20 game theory puzzles.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This little book is a treasure of old and new problems, presented in a way that allows me to peruse it on the Tube, and spend some time at home squeezing my brain cells and working out the math rigorously. My favourite is the game theory section, although I will get back to the probability part which I found harder than the rest, but then probability has never been my cuppa.

There is just a nuisance in this ebook: graphics is really minimal. Sometimes it is useful to have a picture, just to lighten up the text. But apart from this, the book is really interesting for people who like math puzzles. Its main strength lies not in the problems, but rather in the way the author attacks them. He does not just provide the answer (the actual result) or the solution (the way to arrive at the answer), but often also the logic which let the user arrive to the solution, through red herrings, examination of simpler cases and so on. The ebook was born from the blog managed by Mr Talwalkar, and his readers are also featured, giving different solutions and even proposing new problems. Among the three sections of problems, the most interesting one is without any doubt the last one, problems from game theory: this is one of the few places where a curious reader may find definitions and explanation about strategy games, and indeed the solutions are quite lengthy in order to explain how things are going (and moreover, most puzzles in this section are not very famous...) A must-have for a math puzzle lover.

If those other puzzle books are too easy, this is the one you need. Presh's puzzles are fantastic because they make you look at a problem from a different perspective, and while they may seem difficult at first, Presh does an excellent job of explaining the solutions. Like Kacker said, check out Presh's blog ([@preshtalwalkar](https://twitter.com/preshtalwalkar)) for more of his awesome insights. Also, this book would make a great gift for the know-it-all in the family. Prove to them that there is still some stuff they can learn!

I've been a regular follower of Presh's Mind Your Decisions blog for quite a while now and this book is a well-condensed aggregation of the best stuff off the website. It's a fun collection to sit with alongside your Sunday morning coffee (or at least, that's how I best enjoy the puzzles therein). It's consistent high quality of puzzles and Presh's discerning mastery of the subject and taste in content has rendered this compilation a definite must-have. Do get this book but also add the website to your RSS readers. So worth it!

You won't realize how little you think about the world around you until you apply your mind to some of these puzzles. Not just for mathletes, they will help you make better decisions in everyday situations. The author does an excellent job communicating how a little bit of critical thinking can lead surprising and sometimes counter-intuitive solutions. Plus, some are just plain fun! Whoever told you that math was no use in everyday life had clearly never read, and enjoyed, these puzzles.

On a recent family vacation to China, I worked through these puzzles with my wife, parents and

in-laws. The level of difficulty was just right. The problems were challenging and it was a lot of fun trying to see who could get the right answer first. To get a sense of what the puzzles are like you should check out Presh's blog at Mind Your Decisions. But really for \$5 this should be an impulse buy that will make your next spell of downtime infinitely more entertaining.

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