

Enigmas and searching for solutions...

1. The murdered woman...

"A woman neglected by her husband who worked late and came home tired every night, decided to take a lover. The lover lived on the other side of the river and every day, in the middle of the afternoon, she would go and visit him by crossing a bridge. She would cross the bridge in the other direction in the evening, before her husband came home. On day when she was with her lover they had a serious argument. She decided to go home but on the bridge was confronted by a madman who threatened to kill her if she approached.

She drew back and went to see the boatman who asked for 3 Euros to cross the river. Unfortunately, she had no money. The boatman refused to take her without being paid. As a last resort, she went back to her lover for help but he was still furious with her and sent her away. She didn't know what to do and her husband was about to return at any minute. So, she decided to run across the bridge. The madman carried out his threat and killed her when she approached."

The game consists of ranking the responsibilities for the death of the woman from 1 to 5 and to justify your choice.

	Ranking participant 1	Reasons
The woman		
The husband		
The lover		
The boatman		
The madman		

Who is responsible for the woman's death?

	Participant 1	Participant 2	Participant 3	Participant 4	Participant 5	Participant n
The woman						
The husband						
The lover						
The boatman						
The madman						

Give the reasons for your ranking in the reasons section. After exchanging on the different arguments, you may change your initial ranking. The group then seeks a consensus and we build a consensual response.

2. The leopard of Kilimandjaro

During an expedition to the summit of the famous Tanzanian mountain in 1926, the scientists discovered a leopard frozen in a glacier at an altitude of nearly 5,000m.



What hypotheses can we develop to explain the presence of this animal so far away from its original habitat? Note the diversity of the registers of the explanations given: scientific, imaginary, emotional, spiritual...

3. The burglar

Words have a huge impact on our representations. Enigmas can exploit this.

“In the middle of the night, Edmond Dufresne was woken by a burglar in his bedroom. He was a little surprised at first but not at all put out.

Furthermore, he did nothing to stop the burglar. The burglar too saw Edmond Dufresne, but didn't worry either. He stole some paintings and jewellery and made his way out. Why did Edmond and the burglar react in the way they did?”.

Clue: Edmond is a slightly misleading first name.

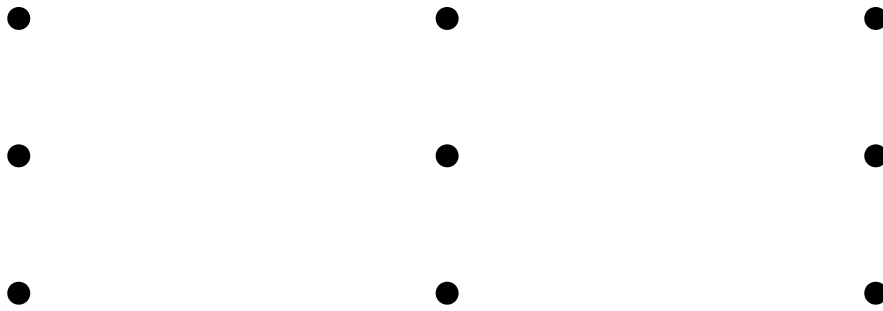
Answer: Edmond Dufresne is a baby. The name is commonly associated with older generations by this is a stereotype which prevents us from finding the right answer.

This enigma is proposed to learners at the beginning of a training course in order to make them aware of the weight of their representations and the necessity of taking a step back from these in order to take a neutral view of what the farmer says, without making any judgments.

The trainer allows the learners to think about possible answers during the day and gives the answer in the evening or the next day, underlining the necessity for the trainees to take the representation message into account.

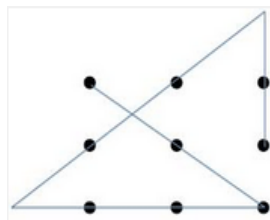
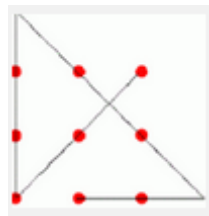
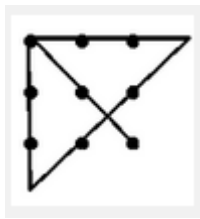
4. The frame game

Take a grid with 9 dots, as below:



How do you connect the 9 dots by drawing just 4 lines, without taking your pen off the paper ?

Observe the solutions :



The solution lies in the need to draw outside the limit formed by the 9 dots. Most people do not authorise themselves to go beyond the frame and therefore... they don't find the solution !