

Why the hot light bulb annoys me

Peter Rowlett
peterrowlett.net
@peterrowlett

2nd Maths Jam Conference, 12–13 Nov

A puzzle

- There are 3 switches outside a closed room. One of them controls a lightbulb inside.
- Flip switches as much as you like then open the door and say which switch controls the lightbulb.

Solution

- Flip A. Wait 10 minutes. Flip A back.
- Flip B. Open the door.
- Three options:
 - Lightbulb is on: it's B.
 - Lightbulb is off and cold: it's C.
 - Lightbulb is off and hot: it's A.

Grammar test

- Which is correct?

Grammar test

- A: don't be silly, the yolk of an egg is yellow

A sorites

- a) babies are illogical
- b) illogical persons are despised
- c) no one is despised who can manage a crocodile

A sorites

- a) babies \Rightarrow illogical
- b) illogical \Rightarrow despised
- c) manage a crocodile \Rightarrow not despised
or despised \Rightarrow not manage a
crocodile

A: babies cannot manage crocodiles

For me, saying

“don’t be silly, a yolk is yellow”

is like saying

“of course babies can’t manage
crocodiles”

- There are 3 switches outside a closed room. One of them controls a lightbulb inside.
- Flip switches as much as you like then open the door and say which switch controls the lightbulb.

Why the hot light bulb annoys me

Peter Rowlett
peterrowlett.net
@peterrowlett

2nd Maths Jam Conference, 12–13 Nov