

I would like to thank Thomas Toce for volunteering last issue's "A Verbal Dodecahedron" problem. It was very clever. Future requests to host or suggest a puzzle are encouraged.

THIS ISSUE'S PUZZLE

Here is your next problem. A 10-inch stick is thrown into a buzz saw and cut in two pieces at a random point. Each resulting piece is thrown into the buzz saw again, and each is again cut at a random point. What is the probability that all four remaining pieces are one inch long or greater?

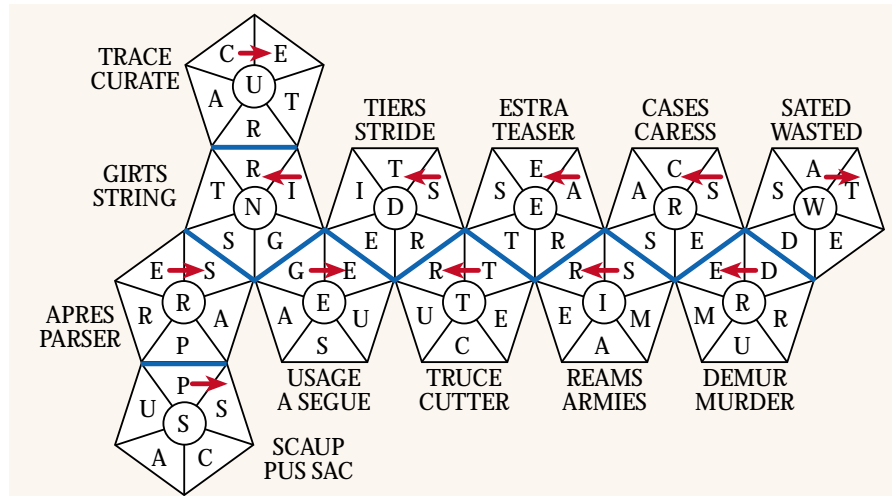
Please submit an exact expression of the answer only (no computer simulations) to shack@charm.net or by mail to Michael Shackelford, 9200 Sierra Vista Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89117. No solution is required. Please also submit your answer as soon as possible to make the solvers list, especially those outside the United States.

ANSWER TO NOV./DEC. PUZZLE

The answer to my last puzzle on the three circles in the September/October 2001 issue is $(60-153/2)/2 \approx 0.9526$.

SOLVERS (NOV./DEC.)

Yu Feng, Krupa Subramanian, Tony Noe, John Herder, David Soderquist, Mark Evans, Rich Bailey, Robert Shapland, Doug McKenzie, Bob Link, Al Spooner, Achilles Natsis, Robert S. Ballmer, David Myers, Alan Erlebacher, Julie Normand, Tim Pollis, Michael Heuermann, Andrew Dean, Toby L. Hall, John Noble, Kevin Trapp, Bob Bartholomew, Don Onnen, Sean Donohoe, George H. Kuhlmann, Rodney Wilton, Ralph Garfield, Mark J. Chartier, Lois Cappellano, Mark Danburg-Wyld, Duane Kidwell, Larry Pinzur, Jerry Francis, A. Rousseau, Robert Giambo, William H. Scott, Randy Nordquist, Brad Simanek, Noam Segal, Amos Budde, David Uhland, Mike Weiler, Karl Whitmarsh, Frank A. Hacker, Don Sondergeld, Bill Bush, Matthew C. Lynch, Dimitry Mindlin, Bill Carpenter, Dick Hoye, Ted Shively, John Pauly, David McMichael, Joe Theisen, Michael Wheeler, Doug Szper, Laurie



Solution to January/February 2002 puzzle

Lough, James Hedreen, Maggie Jacobs, Carl Tracy, Tim Haynes, Nathan K. Voorhis, George Crosby, Barry Koestler, Laszlo Pentek, Andrew Erman, James C. Hickman, Mark S. Fowler, Boris Raskin, Liz Baumann, Lawrence J. Latto, H.N. Croula, Michael Beuoy.

ANSWER TO JAN./FEB. PUZZLE

The final solution appears in the illustration above.

Six-Letter Words

- STRING = ST(O)RING (syn. of accretion minus "o")
- CUTTER = connectiCUT TERminal
- WASTED = TED WAS (anagram)
- TEASER = Pun of "Tea, sir?" (A teaser is a kind of curtain)
- CURATE = Cure it (pun)
- ARMIES = RE-AIMS (anagram)
- CARESS = viCAR ESSentially
- PARSER = P+ARSE+R
- PUS SAC = AS CUPS (anagram)
- STRIDES = SaTyR wInDs + E
- A SEGUE = Take SUE (from "A Boy Named Sue") and put A before and E. G. inside
- MURDER = RED RUM rev.

Five-Letter Words

- USAGE = U. S. + AGE
- TRACE = T (start of tremendous) + RACES (syn. of sprints)
- TRUCE = CUTER (anagram)
- ESTRA = RATES (anagram)

- SATED = SA-TE-D (the note TE is embedded in SAD)
- REAMS = MARES (anagram)
- SCAUP = SC(A)UP (the word "a" is embedded in "scup," which is a kind of fish)
- CASES = SECANTS minus NT (anagram)
- TIERS = Rites (anagram)
- APRES = PEARS (anagram), French word for after or following
- GIRTS = anagram of GIST plus R (beg. of Reader)
- DEMUR = UM embedded in RED, all backwards

The opposite of actuaries: UNDERWRITERS

U	CURATE	TRACE
N	STRING	GIRTS
D	STRIDES	TIERS
E	TEASER	ESTRA
R	CARESS	CASES
W	WASTED	SATED
R	MURDER	DEMUR
I	ARMIES	REAMS
T	CUTTER	TRUCE
E	A SEGUE	USAGE
R	PARSER	APRES
S	PUS SAC	SCAUP

SOLVERS (JAN./FEB.)

David and Corinne Promislow, Bob Magnuson, John Herder, Rich Bailey, George Hawkins, William Glasgow