**LATERAL THINKING PUZZLES**

**Background:**
A man is lying dead in a telephone booth. The receiver is hanging at the end of its cord. The windows on both sides of the body have holes in them. How did the man die?

**Solution:**
He was a fisherman who had just caught a very big fish. He was miming the size of the fish to a friend over the phone and in doing so, broke the glass in both sides of the phone booth, slashed his wrists and bled to death.

**Background:**
Every day, a man comes out of his flat on the 9th floor of a building, takes the lift down to the ground floor and then goes to work. Every evening after work, he comes back, takes the lift up to the 7th floor and walks the last two flights up to his home. Why?

**Solution:**
The man is a dwarf (or very small) and cannot reach higher than the 7th button.

**Background:**
A man is trying to sleep. He takes the phone and calls 345. A voice says “Hello.” The man says “Thank you” and puts the receiver down. Now he can sleep. Why?

**Solution:**
He is a guest at a hotel and someone in the neighbouring room was snoring. By waking the person up he made the snoring stop.

**Background:**
There is a carrot, two pieces of coal and a walking stick in a field. How did they get there?

**Solution:**
It is spring time and they were parts of a snowman.

**Background:**
A man is found dead, hanging from the ceiling of an unfurnished room which is locked from the inside. There is a little puddle of water under his feet. How did he die?

**Solution:**
He had ordered a huge block of ice to stand on when he hang himself. By the time he was found the ice had melted.
Background:
A man walks into a pub and asks for a glass of water. The bartender takes out a gun and points it at him. The man says “Thank you very much” and walks out. Why?
Solution:
The man had hiccups. The bartender realised this and gave him a fright to stop them.

Background:
There was a sound of broken glass and Adam and Eve were found dead on the floor in a pool of water. What had happened?
Solution:
Adam and Eve were goldfish whose water bowl had broken.

Background:
A dead man is lying in a field. Beside him there is a bag. How did he die?
Solution:
He was a parachutist whose parachute had failed to open.

Background:
A man goes to his bedroom, switches off the light, and goes to bed. He wakes up the next morning, looks out of the window, and kills himself. Why?
Solution:
The man worked in a lighthouse. By switching off the light he caused a big ship accident that killed hundreds of people. After seeing the dead people floating in the sea and realising what had caused the accident, he decided to kill himself.

Background:
A man gets into a lift, which goes down a little bit and then stops because there is a power cut. After a while the man says: “My wife is dead.” How does he know?
Solution:
She was lying in a respirator, which will also have switched off.

Background:
A man went to Paris and bought something very expensive. He then went out and gave it to a series of total strangers who, in turn, each handed it back to him. What was it?
Solution:
It was a camera. The man was a tourist who asked people to take photographs of him in front of various famous places.
Background:
A naked man was found dead in a mountainous area. In his hand he had half a match. How did he die?

Solution:
Three men had decided to cross the mountain in a hot-air balloon. The balloon soon started to lose altitude and the three men had to throw all their belongings overboard, including their clothes. After a while they realised that the only chance for two of them to survive was that one of them jumped overboard to save his fellow passengers. Each of them randomly picked one of three matches, one of which had been broken into two, and the one who got half the match had to jump.

Background:
A man walks into a restaurant and orders albatross. When it arrives, he takes one bite and then goes outside and kills himself. Why?

Solution:
In his youth, he had been stranded on a desert island where they had very little food. One day the older people had prepared two meals, one of human flesh (his friend) and one of albatross. When he tasted the albatross in the restaurant, he realised that he had eaten his friend back on the island. He got so disgusted that he killed himself.

Background:
There is a man in a room with a stick. He looks at it, and then kills himself. A man is passing the window. He looks into the room and laughs. Why?

Solution:
Both men were dwarfs. The dead dwarf was the smallest man in the world; the other dwarf was the second smallest. The stick was a measuring stick, and the second smallest dwarf had taken a piece off it. The first dwarf thought that he had grown and therefore killed himself in despair.

Background:
A man gets out of his car, where there is some music playing, runs into a building, kills a man in a room where there is the same music playing, goes back to his car, where he hears a different piece of music, and kills himself. Why?

Solution:
He is a disc jockey, and he put on a piece of music which he thought would be long enough to cover the time he was killing the man. When he finds that there is a different piece of music on the radio, he realises that someone else must have put it on and discovered his absence, and so he no longer has an alibi.
Background:
A man takes the train to a nearby city to meet an important person. After the meeting he takes the train back home. If he had been in a smoking department, he would still be alive. Why?

Solution:
The man had been blind, and a doctor had promised to perform an eye operation to make him see again. The operation was successful, but the doctor told him that if he loses his eyesight within the next hour, it will never come back again. On the way home, after the operation, the train went into a long tunnel. Everything became pitch dark, and the man thought he had lost his sight for good and committed suicide. If he had been in a smoking department, he would have seen the glowing cigarettes of his fellow passengers.

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Background:
A bell rings, a man dies, and a bell rings. Why?

Solution:
A blind man is swimming in the sea. He has an arrangement with a friend to ring a bell from the shore when it is time to swim back again. A ship approaches the man, sees him, and rings a bell to warn him to get out of his way. He thinks it is his shore bell, swims towards it, crashes into the ship, and is killed. Then his shore bell rings.

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Background:
A man is passing a window. He hears a telephone ring, and he realises that he is dying in vain. Why?

Solution:
There had been a nuclear accident and the man had not seen a living soul for a very long time. Believing he was the last person on earth he decides to commit suicide by jumping from the roof of a very high building. Falling down towards the ground he hears a phone ring and he realises that he is not the only survivor.

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Background:
A man is staying in his friend’s house and makes a telephone call. Then he starts frantically to run around the house to look for the dog. Why?

Solution:
The man phoned an airline company to book a flight. They said they would call him back and asked for his phone number. He couldn’t remember his friend’s number, but he knew it was written on the tag on the dog’s collar.