

Situation Puzzles – Practice Exercise

A situation puzzle, also called a lateral thinking puzzle, is played with at least two people, and begins with a sentence describing a scene that is unusual or intriguing. The person describing the scene knows the answer to the question, “What’s going on here?” The other player (s) attempt to find that out, by asking only Yes-or-No questions.

Note that the player(s) have the responsibility of asking questions that can be easily answered “Yes” or “No.” If not, the game leader or facilitator will ask that the question be refined.

Situation Practice Puzzle: Death: delayed



Situation:

Helen never thought that her decision to travel by plane would save her life..

Explain this.

So what questions might you ask so you can explain “what’s going on here?”

Perhaps . . .

Question	What is the objective of the question?	Answer
Is this situation likely something that happened in modern times as opposed to during the infancy of aviation?	<i>Narrows down the time window</i>	Yes
Is the time of this situation keyed to a holiday or a special date or dates in a year, such as Easter?	<i>Further determines if a time window is involved</i>	No
Was Helen accompanied by one or more people when her life was saved or potentially saved?	<i>Determining if others were involved.</i>	No
Was the decision made while aboard a plane?	<i>Trying to narrow down the location</i>	No
Did the decision involve her checked luggage?	<i>Trying other possible factors involving her decision.</i>	No
Was the decision made while in an airport?	<i>Trying to narrow down the location</i>	Yes
Was her decision based on or affected by her location in an airport	<i>Trying to narrow down the location</i>	Yes
Was her decision made in the cell phone lot, parking lot, check in desk, TSA screening, departures area, boarding area, or a merchant area?	<i>Trying to narrow down the location</i>	Yes
Was her decision made while in TSA screening?	<i>Trying to narrow down the location</i>	Yes
Was her decision based on something she was wearing, or about to carry on the plane?	<i>Narrowing down pertinent matters that affected the decision</i>	No
Was her decision based on the body scan?	<i>Narrowing down pertinent matters that affected the decision</i>	Yes
Something inside her body?	<i>Trying to narrow down the location</i>	Yes
Was her decision based on something she was trying to smuggle aboard the plane and/or something she inserted in herself?	<i>Narrowing down pertinent matters that affected the decision</i>	No
Someone else inserted it?	<i>Narrowing down pertinent matters that affected the decision</i>	Yes
Accidentally?	<i>Narrowing down pertinent matters that affected the decision</i>	Yes
Was she involved with a recent medical procedure?	<i>Narrowing down pertinent matters that affected the decision</i>	Yes
Was the object inside her a surgical instrument or something related?	<i>Narrowing down pertinent matters that affected the decision</i>	Yes
Was a surgical knife accidentally left in her body that could kill her if left there?	<i>Narrowing down pertinent matters that affected the decision</i>	ANSWER!

Get the idea?

Have fun!!!