

# Einstein's Riddle

Hi Samantha,

I loved grappling with the riddle that you sent to Fran! I wonder if you have tried to solve it – and whether you were successful or not. Fran didn't even try – she just passed it to me – probably knowing that I would get sucked into it.

It took me a couple of hours and plenty of scribbled notes, but I have finally figured out the answer. Since I don't know if you have tried it (or are trying it) and whether you want me to spoil it for you, I will tell you how I figured it out, but not what the answer is. If you want to find the answer, then you can discover it by scanning the barcode at the right. It tells you who owns the fish – along with all the other information about his/her house colour, drink, etc.



Here's how I figured it out.

I started by making a grid with 7 columns and 7 rows in the following way.

	House1	House 2	House 3	House 4	House 5
Nationality					
Colour					
Pet					
Drink					
Smoke					

I then put in the information that was clear from the various hints. Using hints 8, 9, and 14 I was able to fill in the following cells.

	House1	House 2	House 3	House 4	House 5
Nationality	Norwegian				
Colour		blue			
Pet					
Drink			milk		
Smoke					

Then I filled in all of the possibilities for the other cells – paying attention to the hints. For example, the first hint indicates that the Brit must live in house 3, 4, or 5, since he/she can't live in 1 (which is the home of a Norwegian) and he/she can't live in 2 since that house is blue. Thus, I put a "B" in the 3 cells for house 3 to 4 indicating that a Brit might live in one of these (see the grid below). I also put and R in the colour column wherever there is a Brit since they go together. I highlighted them both in red to remind me that they must go together.

According to hint 2, the Swede could live in house 2 to 5 since the only one from which he or she is excluded is house 1. Thus I entered in "S"s in the appropriate columns and D in the pet row wherever a Swede could live. I highlighted them with grey to remind me that they go together.

According to hint 3, the Dane can only live in house 2, 4, or 5, since the person in house 3 drinks milk, not tea. I also put a T in the row for drink wherever the Dane appeared and highlighted them with green to remind me they go together.

Hint 4 tells me that the green house must be in columns 3 or 4, since it can't be in house 1 (since that column is on the left of a blue house, not white), it can't be in column 2 (since that house is blue), and it can't be in column 5 (since that house is not to the left of any house).

Hint 5 tells me that the green house can't be in column 3, however, since the person in column 3 drinks milk, not coffee. Therefore, I crossed out the "G" in Column 3 and wrote out "Green" in column 4 since this must be the green house. I also wrote out "Coffee" since this must be the drink he/she drinks. I also crossed out "B" in the Nationality row since by hint 1 the Brit lives in a red house so if house 4 is green, then the Brit can't live there and I crossed out "D" in the nationality row as well since by hint 3 we see that the Dane doesn't live in a house where coffee is drunk.

Hint 6 tells me that this person could be in any of the cells, so I put "M" (for Pall Mall) and "B" in all the columns – and coloured them blue since they must go together.

Hint 7 tells me that Y and D go together in the colour and smoke rows – and that they might be in column 1, 3, 4, or 5. I coloured them yellow to remind me they go together.

Hint 8 – we already know.

Hint 9 – we already know.

Hint 10 tells me that Blends and cats could be in any columns – but I was careful to remember that they had to go together – across the columns.

Hint 11 tells me that horses may be columns 2 to 5 only – since the person in the blue house doesn't smoke Dunhill (hint 7).

	House1	House 2	House 3	House 4	House 5
Nationality	Norwegian	S, D	B, S	B, S, D	B, S, D
Colour	Y	blue	R, G, Y	R, G, <del>Y</del> green	R, Y
Pet	B, C	D, B, C, H	D, B, C, H	D, B, C, H	D, B, C, H
Drink		T	milk	T, coffee	T
Smoke	M, D, B	M, B	M, D, B	M, D, B	M, D, B

Then – I continued like this: adding in the items or deleting them when new hints suggested I should. Eventually, I was left with only one option in each cell – and the puzzle was solved.

Did you do it? If not, can you finish off the puzzle from where I stopped above?

You can check your answer with the one I have coded below.

Thank you very much for this wonderful puzzle. Have your other family members tried it? Did anyone succeed? Don't give away the answer until they give it a good try – and preferably BEG you for it!!!

Love,  
Bill (May 15, 2012)