

DEDUCE

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32 Reasoning Puzzles — Free

A free taste of the full 150-puzzle collection — ONE puzzle of every reasoning type it teaches: seating (floor, row, circular, square, double-row, box), scheduling, ranking, syllogism, inequality, blood relations, coding-decoding, classification, data sufficiency, series, direction, input-output and more. Solver-validated, with full answers. For IBPS PO, SBI Clerk, SSC, RBI Grade B and all banking exams.

32 Puzzles

Every Reasoning Type

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How to Use This Sample

Arrangement puzzles give you a small group of people in a fixed arrangement (seats in a row or circle, a square table, floors, two facing rows, a stack of boxes, a week of appointments, or a 1-to-N ranking) and a handful of logic clues — eliminate the impossible placements, find the single arrangement that fits, then answer the question. Multiple-choice puzzles (syllogism, inequality, blood relations, coding-decoding, classification, data sufficiency, series, direction, input-output, eligibility and more) give a short prompt and options A–E — work the rule and pick the one defensible answer.

Method: draw the structure → find the absolute clue (an end / opposite / top floor / rank) → translate relative clues (left/right/higher-lower/next-to) into eliminations → check every clue before answering. Target ~60-90 seconds each — IBPS/SBI exam pace.

Every arrangement puzzle is **solver-validated** (exactly one arrangement fits all clues) and every MCQ answer is **engine-validated**. This sample is 32 of the 150 puzzles in the full eBook.

How to Read Each Arrangement Type

A quick orientation to the five arrangement layouts, each with a tiny worked example and the one mistake that trips most solvers. (Multiple-choice types are self-explanatory from the prompt.)

Floor arrangement. People live on the numbered floors of a building, one per floor. Floor 1 is the lowest and floor N is the topmost. Clues fix who is above/below whom, how many floors apart two people are, or who is on the top/bottom floor.

WORKED EXAMPLE Three people P, Q, R live on floors 1–3. P lives above R; Q lives on the top floor. Q is on floor 3 (top). P is above R, so with floor 3 taken, P is on floor 2 and R on floor 1. Arrangement (top → bottom): floor 3 Q · floor 2 P · floor 1 R.

COMMON MISTAKE lowest = floor 1, topmost = floor N (don't read "floor 1" as the top).

Row seating. People sit in a single row, all facing the same way (north). Seat 1 is the far left and seat N is the far right, so "left" and "right" are the reader's left and right. Clues fix ends, neighbours, Nth-from-an-end positions, and how many sit between two people.

WORKED EXAMPLE P, Q, R sit in a row facing north (seat 1 = far left). P sits at the far left; R sits to Q's right. P is in seat 1. R is to Q's right, so Q is in seat 2 and R in seat 3. Arrangement (left → right): P · Q · R.

COMMON MISTAKE all face north, so left/right are the reader's left/right (seat 1 = far left).

Order & Ranking. People are ranked from 1 to N with no ties. Rank 1 is the top (highest) and rank N is the bottom (lowest). Clues fix who ranks above/below whom, Nth-from-top or Nth-from-bottom positions, and how many people rank between two people.

WORKED EXAMPLE L, M, N are ranked 1–3 (rank 1 = top). L ranks above M; N is ranked last. N is rank 3 (bottom). L above M, with rank 3 taken, puts L at rank 1 and M at rank 2. Order (top → bottom): rank 1 L · rank 2 M · rank 3 N.

COMMON MISTAKE rank 1 = top (highest); rank N = bottom (lowest).

Circular seating. People sit around a circular table, all facing the centre. Because everyone faces in, a person's LEFT is the next seat clockwise and their RIGHT is the next seat anticlockwise. Clues fix neighbours, who faces whom (even N), and how many sit between two people.

WORKED EXAMPLE A, B, C, D sit around a table facing the centre. B is immediately to the left of A; C faces A. Facing the centre, B's seat is one step clockwise from A. With 4 seats, C is directly opposite A. Clockwise from A: A · B · C · D — so D is immediately to A's right.

COMMON MISTAKE facing the centre ⇒ LEFT = clockwise, RIGHT = anticlockwise.

Double-row (facing) seating. Two equal rows sit facing each other in aligned columns — one row faces north, the other faces south. The person "opposite" someone sits in the SAME column in the other row. Because the rows face opposite ways, a north-facer's left is a south-facer's right.

WORKED EXAMPLE P, Q face south; X, Y face north, in two rows. P is opposite X; Q sits to P's right. P and X share a column. P faces south, so P's right points WEST — Q takes the west seat, P the east; opposite Q is Y. North row (W → E): Y · X | South row (W → E): Q · P — and Q faces Y.

COMMON MISTAKE the person opposite X is in the SAME column, the other row (not diagonally across).

Contents

32 **puzzles** in 3 sections, plus the answer key. Puzzles are numbered **1–32 straight through** — the section lists that follow are slices of that one run, and the answer key uses the same numbers.

1	Clerk Prelims (Speed & Direct Flow)	Puzzles 1–11 11 puzzles · 11E / 0M / 0H
2	PO Prelims (Branching & Uncertainties)	Puzzles 12–22 11 puzzles · 0E / 11M / 0H
3	PO Mains (Multi-Variable & Complex Grids)	Puzzles 23–32 10 puzzles · 0E / 0M / 10H
✓	Answer key The correct option for every puzzle, in the same numbering.	All 32 answer key

How to move around: each section opens with its own contents list, and every puzzle header carries a link back to that list.

Section 1 Contents — Clerk Prelims (Speed & Direct Flow)

Puzzles 1–11 of this section only. The full index is at the front.

[Puzzle 1](#) · Easy

[Puzzle 2](#) · Easy

[Puzzle 3](#) · Easy

[Puzzle 4](#) · Easy

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[Puzzle 7](#) · Easy

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[Puzzle 11](#) · Easy

Puzzle 1 EASY[↑ Section index](#)

Divya, Zoya, Tarun, Farhan live on the 4 different floors of a building (floor 1 = lowest, floor 4 = topmost).

Clues:

- Zoya lives on the floor immediately above Tarun.
- Farhan lives on the floor immediately above Divya.
- Divya lives on the floor immediately above Zoya.

Question:

Who lives on floor 2? (The lowest floor is floor 1; the topmost is floor 4.)

Puzzle 2 EASY[↑ Section index](#)

Sanjay, Meera, Vikram, Arjun, Kiran sit around a circular table, all facing the centre.

Clues:

- Kiran sits 2nd to the left of Vikram (all facing the centre).
- Arjun sits immediately to the right of Sanjay (all facing the centre).
- Meera sits next to Vikram.

Question:

Who sits immediately to the LEFT of Sanjay (all facing the centre)?

Puzzle 3 **EASY**[↑ Section index](#)

Lata, Varun, Nikhil, Rahul, Geeta, Aditi, Tanvi, Tarun sit around a square table — 4 at the corners, 4 at the middle of the sides.

Clues:

- Geeta sits 2nd to the right of Nikhil (all facing the centre).
- Varun sits immediately to the right of Lata (all facing the centre).
- Aditi sits immediately to the right of Geeta (all facing the centre).
- Nikhil sits at one of the corners of the table.
- Varun sits at the middle of one of the sides.
- Rahul sits 2nd to the left of Tanvi (all facing the centre).
- Varun sits immediately to the left of Tarun (all facing the centre).

Question:

Who sits directly opposite Lata at the square table?

Puzzle 4 **EASY**[↑ Section index](#)

Lata, Sanjay, Chetan, Neha sit in a row of 4 seats, all facing north (seat 1 = far left, seat 4 = far right).

Clues:

- Sanjay sits immediately to the left of Lata.
- Lata sits somewhere to the right of Chetan.
- Chetan sits somewhere to the right of Neha.

Question:

Who sits in seat 2 counting from the left end? (Seat 1 = far left ... seat 4 = far right.)

Puzzle 5 EASY[↑ Section index](#)

Sneha, Uma, Chetan, Sanjay sit in two rows of 2, facing each other — one row faces north, the other faces south, aligned in columns.

Clues:

- Chetan faces south.
- Chetan sits immediately to the left of Sneha (both facing south).
- Uma sits immediately to the left of Sanjay (both facing north).

Question:

Who sits directly opposite (faces) Sneha?

Puzzle 6 EASY[↑ Section index](#)

Jaya, Tanvi, Arjun, Sneha live in a building of 2 floors with 2 flats on each floor, East and West (floor 1 = lowest, floor 2 = topmost).

Clues:

- Jaya lives on the floor immediately above Sneha.
- Jaya lives in the East flat.
- Tanvi lives in the East flat.
- Arjun lives on the topmost floor.

Question:

Who lives in the East flat on floor 1? (Floor 1 is the lowest; floor 2 is the topmost.)

Puzzle 7 EASY[↑ Section index](#)

Kiran, Neha, Manish, Bhavna are ranked from 1 to 4 (rank 1 = highest, rank 4 = lowest); no two share a rank.

Clues:

- Neha is ranked immediately below Kiran.
- Kiran is ranked lower than Manish.
- Exactly 1 person is ranked between Kiran and Manish.
- Bhavna is ranked immediately above Kiran.

Question:

Who is ranked 2nd from the top? (Rank 1 = highest, rank 4 = lowest.)

Puzzle 8 EASY[↑ Section index](#)

Aditi, Gauri, Tarun, Vikram each have an appointment on a different day of a 4-day week starting Monday.

Clues:

- Vikram's appointment is on an earlier day of the week than Aditi's.
- Tarun's appointment is on an earlier day of the week than Gauri's.
- Tarun's appointment is on the day immediately before Aditi's.

Question:

Whose appointment is on Tuesday? (Day 1 is Monday.)

Puzzle 9 EASY[↑ Section index](#)

Box E, Box D, Box F, Box C are kept in a single vertical stack of 4 (position 1 = bottom, position 4 = top).

Clues:

- Box F is kept immediately below Box E.
- Box C is kept 3rd from the bottom of the stack.
- Box D is kept somewhere above Box E.

Question:

Which box is kept at position 2 from the bottom? (Position 1 is the bottom; position 4 is the top.)

Puzzle 10 EASY[↑ Section index](#)**SEATING ARRANGEMENT MCQ**

Who sits second to the right of Farhan?

Given:

- Divya, Tarun, Geeta, Farhan sit in a row, all facing north. Seat 1 is the far-left end and seat 4 is the far-right end.
- Divya sits immediately to the left of Geeta.
- Divya sits immediately to the right of Farhan.
- Tarun sits somewhere to the right of Divya.

Options:

- A** Farhan
- B** Tarun
- C** Divya
- D** None of these
- E** Geeta

Puzzle 11 EASY[↑ Section index](#)**DATA SUFFICIENCY (FLOOR)**

Each person lives on a different floor (1–4). Which statements are sufficient to fix EVERY person's floor?

Given:

- Statement I: There are exactly 2 floors between Nikhil and Sanjay; Sanjay lives on an odd-numbered floor; Tanvi lives on a floor somewhere above Sanjay; Bhavna lives on an even-numbered floor.
- Statement II: Nikhil lives on the topmost floor; There is exactly 1 floor between Nikhil and Bhavna.

Options:

- A** Statement I alone is sufficient, but II alone is not.
- B** Statement II alone is sufficient, but I alone is not.
- C** Each statement ALONE is sufficient.
- D** Both statements TOGETHER are sufficient, but neither alone.
- E** Even both statements together are NOT sufficient.

Section 2 Contents — PO Prelims (Branching & Uncertainties)

Puzzles 12–22 of this section only. The full index is at the front.

[Puzzle 12](#) · Medium

[Puzzle 13](#) · Medium

[Puzzle 14](#) · Medium

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[Puzzle 17](#) · Medium

[Puzzle 18](#) · Medium

[Puzzle 19](#) · Medium

[Puzzle 20](#) · Medium

[Puzzle 21](#) · Medium

[Puzzle 22](#) · Medium

Puzzle 12 MEDIUM[↑ Section index](#)**DATA SUFFICIENCY (RANKING)**

5 people are ranked from 1 (highest) to 5 (lowest), no ties. Read Statements I and II, then decide which, if any, are sufficient to fix EVERY person's rank.

Given:

- Statement I: Harsh is ranked FIRST (highest); Lata is 4th from the bottom; Harsh is ranked higher than Lata; Lata is ranked higher than Meera.
- Statement II: Lata is ranked higher than Uma; Nikhil is ranked immediately below Meera; Nikhil is ranked lower than Harsh; Nikhil is ranked lower than Lata.

Options:

- A Statement I alone is sufficient, but II alone is not.
- B Statement II alone is sufficient, but I alone is not.
- C Each statement ALONE is sufficient.
- D Both statements TOGETHER are sufficient, but neither alone.
- E Even both statements together are NOT sufficient.

Puzzle 13 MEDIUM[↑ Section index](#)**CODING-DECODING (LETTER SHIFT)**

If "KING" is written as "QOTM" in a certain code, how is "LION" written in that code?

Given:

- Determine the coding pattern from the example and apply it to the target word.

Options:

- A TQWV
- B SPVU
- C ROUT
- D PMSR
- E QNTS

Puzzle 14 MEDIUM[↑ Section index](#)**MESSAGE CODING-DECODING**

What is the code for "paper"?

Given:

- "silver school paper" is coded as "ro du ki".
- "silver school yellow" is coded as "ro du pa".

Options:

- A ro
- B mi
- C ki
- D la
- E su

Puzzle 15 MEDIUM[↑ Section index](#)**CLASSIFICATION (ODD ONE OUT)**

Four of these five numbers are alike in a certain way and form a group. Which number does NOT belong to that group?

Options:

- A 40
- B 54
- C 72
- D 60
- E 76

Puzzle 16**MEDIUM**[↑ Section index](#)**NUMBER ANALOGY** $17 : 290 :: 9 : ?$ **Given:**

- Work out how the first number becomes the second, then apply the same rule to the third.

Options:

- A** 80
- B** 82
- C** 72
- D** 90
- E** 81

Puzzle 17**MEDIUM**[↑ Section index](#)**LETTER CLASSIFICATION**

Four of these five letter clusters follow the same alphabet-gap pattern. Which one is the odd one out?

Given:

- Check the gap between consecutive letters inside each cluster.
- All five clusters span the same distance, so compare the individual steps.

Options:

- A** INT
- B** EJP
- C** CHN
- D** LQW
- E** GMR

Puzzle 18 MEDIUM[↑ Section index](#)**SYLLOGISM (STATEMENTS & CONCLUSIONS)**

Take the two statements to be true even if they differ from commonly known facts, then decide which conclusion logically follows.

Given:

- Statements: All desks are tables. All tables are stools.
- Conclusion I: No stools are desks.
- Conclusion II: Some desks are stools.

Options:

- A** Only conclusion I follows
- B** Only conclusion II follows
- C** Either conclusion I or II follows
- D** Neither conclusion I nor II follows
- E** Both conclusions I and II follow

Puzzle 19 MEDIUM[↑ Section index](#)**BLOOD RELATIONS**

How is Rahul related to Nikhil?

Given:

- Use only the relationships stated below.
- Rahul is the son of Deepak.
- Manish is the father of Deepak.
- Manish is the father of Nikhil.

Options:

- A** nephew
- B** grandson
- C** niece
- D** uncle
- E** granddaughter

Puzzle 20**MEDIUM**[↑ Section index](#)**CODED BLOOD RELATIONS**

If the expression is "Anjali / Rohan + Vihaan", how is Anjali related to Vihaan?

Given:

- Code: A + B means A is father of B.
- Code: A - B means A is mother of B.
- Code: A * B means A is brother of B.
- Code: A / B means A is sister of B.

Options:

- A** son
- B** aunt
- C** grandmother
- D** uncle
- E** grandfather

Puzzle 21**MEDIUM**[↑ Section index](#)**PHOTOGRAPH BLOOD RELATIONS**

Pointing to the boy in a photograph, Neha said, "He is the son of my brother." How is the boy related to Neha?

Given:

- Read the statement from the speaker's point of view.

Options:

- A** son
- B** father
- C** nephew
- D** daughter
- E** aunt

Puzzle 22**MEDIUM**[↑ Section index](#)**CODED INEQUALITY**

Which of the following conclusions is DEFINITELY true from the given expression?

Given:

- Code: $*$ = $>$, $\#$ = $\geq$, $@$ = $<$, $\%$ = $\leq$, $\$$ = $=$
- Expression: $A * F, F \$ E, E * C$

Options:

- A** $C = A$
- B** $A > C$
- C** $C = F$
- D** $F < E$
- E** $A < F$

Section 3 Contents — PO Mains (Multi-Variable & Complex Grids)

Puzzles 23–32 of this section only. The full index is at the front.

[Puzzle 23](#) · Hard

[Puzzle 24](#) · Hard

[Puzzle 25](#) · Hard

[Puzzle 26](#) · Hard

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[Puzzle 29](#) · Hard

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Puzzle 23**HARD**[↑ Section index](#)**NUMBER SERIES (FIND THE MISSING TERM)**

What number replaces the question mark?

Given:

- 2, 6, ?, 14, 22, 36, 58

Options:

- A** 7
- B** 9
- C** 10
- D** 6
- E** 8

Puzzle 24**HARD**[↑ Section index](#)**ALPHABET TEST**

If the letters of the word "READING" are arranged in alphabetical order (left to right), how many letters remain in the same position as in the original word?

Options:

- A** Four
- B** None
- C** Two
- D** One
- E** Three

Puzzle 25**HARD**[↑ Section index](#)**INPUT-OUTPUT (MACHINE REARRANGEMENT)**

A machine rearranges an input line of words and numbers step by step, following one fixed rule (study the sample below). What is Step III for the New Input?

Given:

- Sample Input: mirror 45 garden 99 mango stone 29
- Step I: mango mirror 45 garden 99 stone 29
- Step II: mango stone mirror 45 garden 99 29
- (Only the first 2 steps of the sample are shown; the machine continues until the arrangement is complete.)
- New Input: 67 iron quilt 65 jam lamp 36

Options:

- A** jam iron lamp 67 quilt 65 36
- B** iron jam lamp 67 quilt 65 36
- C** iron jam lamp quilt 36 65 67
- D** 67 iron 65 36 jam lamp quilt
- E** quilt lamp jam 67 iron 65 36

Puzzle 26**HARD**[↑ Section index](#)**UNCERTAIN PERSONS**

How many persons are sitting in the row?

Given:

- Some persons are sitting in a single row, all facing north. The total number of persons in the row is NOT known. Positions are counted from the left end unless a clue says otherwise.
- Gauri is 3rd from the left end of the row.
- Varun is 2nd from the right end of the row.
- Exactly 7 persons sit between Tarun and Varun.
- Exactly 5 persons sit between Gauri and Tarun.

Options:

- A** 19
- B** 18
- C** 20
- D** 15
- E** 21

Puzzle 27**HARD**[↑ Section index](#)***DIRECTION & DISTANCE***

How far (in metres) is Pooja from the starting point?

Given:

- Pooja starts from a point and walks 15 m towards West.
- She then turns left and walks 11 m.
- She then turns left and walks 11 m.
- She then turns left and walks 6 m.
- She then turns right and walks 4 m.
- She then turns left and walks 5 m.

Options:

- A** 11 m
- B** 0 m
- C** 6 m
- D** 15 m
- E** 52 m

Puzzle 28**HARD**[↑ Section index](#)***ALPHANUMERIC SERIES***

If all the symbols are dropped from the series, which element will be 5th from the left end?

Given:

- 5 N P & Y 1 L H % Q M 7 2 F 3 \$

Options:

- A** H
- B** L
- C** Y
- D** &
- E** 1

Puzzle 29**HARD**[↑ Section index](#)**ELIGIBILITY TEST (DECISION MAKING)**

Study the eligibility criteria and the candidate's profile, then choose the course of action. Base the decision **STRICTLY** on the information provided — do not assume anything.

Given:

- A bank is recruiting Probationary Officers. A candidate must —
- (a) be not less than 20 years and not more than 29 years of age as on 1st March 2026.
- (b) have secured at least 55% marks in graduation.
- (c) have secured at least 50% marks in the written examination.
- (d) have at least 3 years of work experience.
- (e) have secured at least 45% marks in the personal interview.
- However, if a candidate fulfils all the conditions EXCEPT (b), but holds a post-graduate degree, the case is to be referred to the General Manager.
- Further, if a candidate fulfils all the conditions EXCEPT (d), but has secured at least 65% marks in the written examination, the case is to be referred to the General Manager.
- Profile of Vikram Joshi —
- Vikram was born on 9th March 1995.
- Vikram secured 62% marks in graduation.
- Vikram holds a post-graduate degree.
- Vikram secured 55% marks in the written examination.
- Vikram has 2 years of work experience.
- Vikram secured 45% marks in the personal interview.

Options:

- A** Candidate is to be selected
- B** Candidate is not to be selected
- C** Case is to be referred to the General Manager
- D** Data inadequate — the decision cannot be taken

Puzzle 30**HARD**[↑ Section index](#)**CALENDAR**

What day of the week is 8 March 1996?

Given:

- Use the Gregorian calendar. A non-century year is a leap year exactly when it is divisible by 4.
- 22 January 1996 is a Monday.

Options:

- A** Sunday
- B** Friday
- C** Thursday
- D** Monday
- E** Saturday

Puzzle 31**HARD**[↑ Section index](#)**CLOCK**

What is the smaller angle, in degrees, between the hour hand and the minute hand at 6:18?

Given:

- A 12-hour analog clock. The smaller angle is the one that is at most 180° .
- The hour hand moves as the minutes pass (0.5° per minute).

Options:

- A** 72
- B** 66
- C** 101
- D** 81
- E** 56

Puzzle 32**HARD**[↑ Section index](#)**SYMBOL OPERATIONS**

What is the value of $11 - 2 \times 5 + 2$?

Given:

- Replace each printed symbol with the operation it stands for, then evaluate with BODMAS: $\times$ and $\div$ before $+$ and $-$, left to right within the same rank.
- $-$ means $+$
- $\times$ means $-$
- $+$ means $\times$

Options:

- A** 3
- B** 1
- C** 2
- D** 20
- E** 16

Answer Key

Check your answers below. **The worked deduction chains — clue by clue, the order that cracks each puzzle — are not in this file.** They're free at the link on any page: the answer tells you what, the method tells you how, and on exam day the method is what saves you two minutes a question.

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Zoya lives on floor 2. | 17 | E) GMR |
| 2 | Vikram sits immediately to the left of Sanjay. | 18 | C) Either conclusion I or II follows |
| 3 | Nikhil sits directly opposite Lata. | 19 | A) nephew |
| 4 | Chetan sits in seat 2. | 20 | B) aunt |
| 5 | Uma sits directly opposite Sneha. | 21 | C) nephew |
| 6 | Tanvi lives in the East flat on floor 1. | 22 | B) $A > C$ |
| 7 | Bhavna is ranked 2nd from the top. | 23 | E) 8 |
| 8 | Tarun's appointment is on Tuesday. | 24 | C) Two |
| 9 | Box E is kept at position 2 from the bottom. | 25 | A) jam iron lamp 67 quilt 65 36 |
| 10 | E) Geeta | 26 | B) 18 |
| 11 | A) Statement I alone is sufficient, but II alone is not. | 27 | B) 0 m |
| 12 | E) Even both statements together are NOT sufficient. | 28 | E) 1 |
| 13 | C) ROUT | 29 | B) Candidate is not to be selected |
| 14 | C) ki | 30 | B) Friday |
| 15 | B) 54 | 31 | D) 81 |
| 16 | B) 82 | 32 | A) 3 |

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- Engine-minted, engine-checked: the answer and the step-by-step working come from the same code, never hand-typed
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