

Answers to April 14 questions

A The answer is 0 4 2. I'll refer to the five pieces of information by number. From 4 and 5 we have 0 is correct, but not in the 3rd place.

Then in 1 we know 8 is not correct, so either 6 or 2 is. But comparing 1 and 2 we can see that 6 cannot be correct, as it cannot be both in the correct and the wrong place at the same time, so 2 is correct, and in the right place, so we have _ _ 2, with 0 being in first or second place.

From 3 we have two numbers correct, so these must be 2 and zero, both in the wrong place, which means the zero is in first place, i.e. 0 _ 2.

Finally in 2 we know 6 is wrong, so either 1 or 4 is correct, but in the wrong place. We only have second place free, so 1 cannot be correct, thus 4 is and the combination is 0 4 2.

B A computer keyboard

C Switch on the left-most switch, go and make a cup of coffee, drink it, then come back and switch it off again. Then switch on the middle switch and go up to the attic straight away.

Find the room with the light on: that is the middle switch of course. Go into the other two unlit rooms in turn and feel the bulbs. The one with a warm bulb is connected to the left-most switch, the other one to the right-most switch.

D Fill the 5-litre jug, then pour water from it into the 3-litre jug until that is full. Empty the 3-litre jug, and pour the 2 litres remaining in the 5-litre jug into the 3-litre jug.

Fill the 5-litre jug again, and pour from it into the 3-litre jug until that is just full. This will take 1 litre, and so 4 litres will remain in the larger jug.

E Tug of war

Answers to 7 April questions – I have just realised I did not send these out – sorry!

A A dealer bought an article for £7, sold it for £8, bought it back for £9, and sold it for £10. How much profit did he make? £2 profit

B When can you add two to eleven and get one as the correct answer?

When it is 11 o'clock. Add two hours and you have 1 o'clock.

C Can you guess the next three letters in the following sequence and why?

C Y G T N T L I T F _ _ _ Those are the initial letters of the words, so the final three are S A W

D The following words share an interesting property. What is it?

Assess, Voodoo, Banana, Grammar, Potato, Dresser, Revive, Uneven

Take the first letter off, put it on the end. They then read the same backwards as forwards originally