

Einstein's Puzzle

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There are 5 houses in 5 different colours. In each house, lives a person with a different nationality. The 5 owners drink a certain type of beverage, smoke a certain type of cigar and keep a certain pet. However, no owner has the same pet, smokes the same brand of cigars or drinks the same beverage.

Question to answer: who owns the fish?

Facts:

1. The British lives in the red house.
2. The Sweden keep a dog as pets.
3. The Dane drinks tea.
4. The green house is on the left of the white house.
5. The green house owner drinks coffee.
6. The person who smokes Poll Mall rears birds.
7. The owner of the yellow house smokes Dunhill.
8. The man living in the centre house drinks milk.
9. The Norwegian lives in the first house.
10. The man who smokes Blends lives next to the one who keeps a cat.
11. The man who keeps the horse lives next to the man who smokes Dunhill.
12. The owner who smokes Bluemaster drinks beer.
13. The German smokes Prince.
14. The Norwegian lives next to the Blue house.
15. The man who smokes Blends has a neighbour who drinks water.

Einstein wrote this riddle and predicted that 98% of the world would not solve it.

We assume the 5 houses are in alignment, i.e. they form a straight line.

We define the first house as the leftmost house. We denote Y as the yellow house, R as the red, W as the white, B as the blue and G as the green house.

1. From (4), the white house is not the first house. From (9) and (1), the Norwegian lives in neither the white nor the red house. From (14), he does not live in the blue house either. Notice that he has only one neighbour since he lives in the first house. If he lives in the green house, his neighbour is the white house keeper (4). But it would contradict (14)! So we conclude that the Norwegian lives in the yellow house.
2. Let's find out the alignment of the houses first. The alignment by now is: YB??? (from (14)). From (4), G is on the left of B. So we have the two possibilities: YBGWR or YBRGW. If it is YBGWR, the green house becomes the centre house. By (8), its owner drinks milk. But (5) tells us that he drinks coffee! So the only possible alignment is YBRGW. Hence the British lives in the centre house and he drinks milk.
3. Let's decide who drinks beer. The British drinks milk. From (2), the Dane drinks tea. From (12), the one who drinks beer smokes Bluemaster. But from (13), the German smokes Prince; from (7), the Norwegian smokes Dunhill. So, the Sweden has to drink beer and hence he smokes Bluemaster. Therefore, either the British or the Dane smokes Blends.
4. The remaining two drinks are water and coffee. From (5), the green house owner drinks coffee. But the Norwegian lives in the yellow house! So, the German lives in the green house and drinks coffee. The Norwegian drinks water. So, from (15), the blue house owner smokes Blends. But the British lives in the red house. So he cannot smoke Blends. He smokes Pall Mall while the Dane smokes Blends.
5. Hence, the Dane lives in the blue house. The Sweden keeps the white one. Summary: Norwegian – Y, Dane – B, British – R, German – G, Sweden – W.
6. Finally, we come to the pets. From (2), the Sweden keeps the dog. From (6), the British keeps the bird. From (11), the horse keeper lives next to the Norwegian. He must be the Dane. From (10), the cat keeper lives next to the Dane. The people living next to the Dane are the British and the Norwegian. But since the British rears the bird, the Norwegian keeps the cat. The German is then forced to rear the remaining animal (which is not mentioned). The question asks who owns the fish, so the German keeps the fish.

And so I belong to the 2% of the world who can answer the question!

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