

Learning Yerkish

This exercise is meant to give you a sense of what some of the ape language experiments were like. Lana the chimpanzee was required to use an artificially designed language called 'Yerkish', which consisted of symbols ('lexigrams') on a keyboard.

Study the lexigrams and try to determine what each one means. The 'Lexigram Worksheet' file has a list of all the lexigrams that appear here; 'Lexigram Answers' gives the meanings that the researchers assigned to each lexigram.

Where possible, these lexigrams are taken from publications that describe the Lana experiment. The full list of lexigrams has never been published; to fill in the gaps, I have substituted lexigrams with similar meanings for certain words.

Part 1:

Requests by Lana

The top part of each page shows a request that Lana could type with her lexigram keyboard. The bottom part shows what would happen when Lana made that request.

Request:



Result:

Request:



Result:



The vending machine dispenses milk.

Request:



Result:

Request:



Result:



The vending machine dispenses water.

Request:



Result:

Request:



Result:



The vending machine dispenses coffee.

Request:



Result:

Request:



Result:



The vending machine dispenses M&Ms.

Request:



Result:

Request:



Result:



The vending machine dispenses an apple slice.

Request:

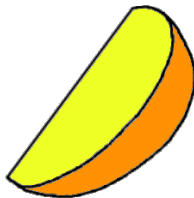


Result:

Request:



Result:



The vending machine dispenses an orange slice.

Request:



Result:

Request:



Result:



The vending machine dispenses a piece of banana.

Request:

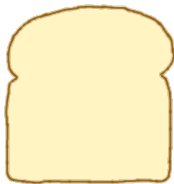


Result:

Request:



Result:



The vending machine dispenses a slice of bread.

Request:

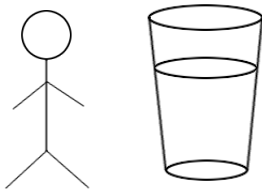


Result:

Request:



Result:



Trainer Tim brings water.

Request:

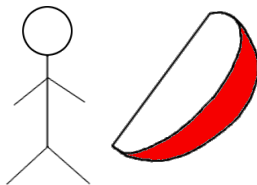


Result:

Request:



Result:



Tim brings an apple slice.

Request:

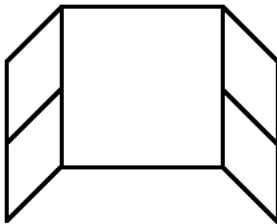


Result:

Request:



Result:



Lana's window opens.

Request:

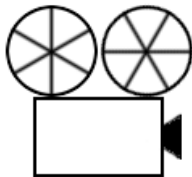


Result:

Request:



Result:



A movie clip plays.

Request:

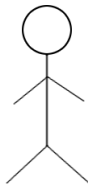


Result:

Request:



Result:



Tim comes into Lana's room.

Request:

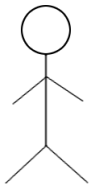


Result:

Request:



Result:



Tim grooms Lana.

Request:

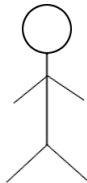


Result:

Request:



Result:



Tim tickles Lana.

Part 2:

Questions for Lana

The top part of each page shows a question that Lana might be asked as part of her training, plus the object(s) relevant to the question. The bottom part of each page shows the correct answer to the question; Lana had to type this response in order to get a reward.

Question:



Answer:

Question:



Answer:



Question:



Answer:

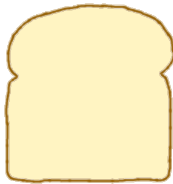
Question:



Answer:

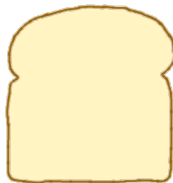


Question:



Answer:

Question:



Answer:



Question:



Answer:

Question:



Answer:



Question:



Answer:

Question:



Answer:

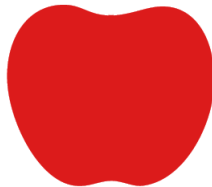


Question:



Answer:

Question:



Answer:

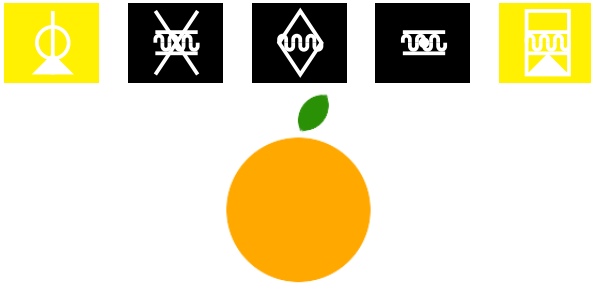


Question:



Answer:

Question:



Answer:



Question:



Answer:

Question:



Answer:



Question:



Answer:

Question:



Answer:



Question:



Answer:

Question:



Answer:



Question:



Answer:

Question:



Answer:



Question:



Answer:

Question:



Answer:



Question:



Answer:

Question:



Answer:



Question:



Answer:

Question:



Answer:



Question:



Answer:

Question:



Answer:



Question:



Answer:

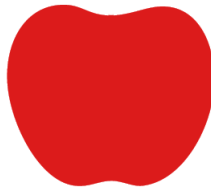
Question:



Answer:



Question:



Answer:

Question:



Answer:

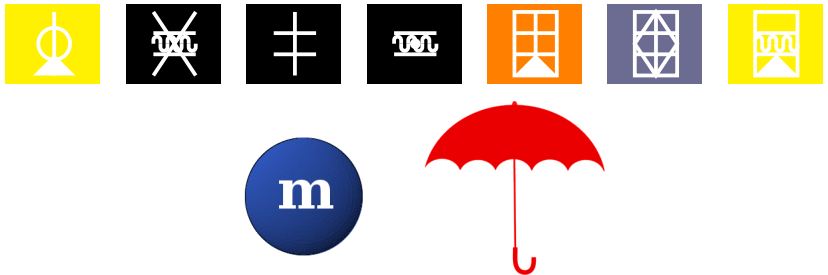


Question:



Answer:

Question:



Answer:



Question:



Answer:

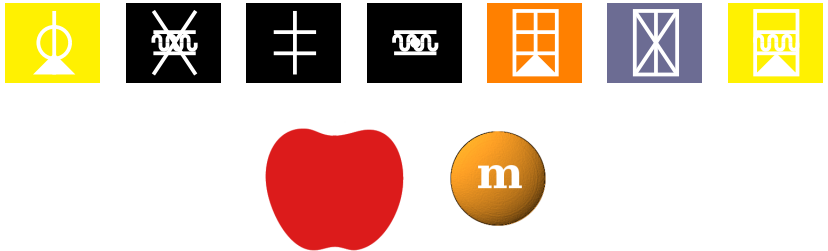
Question:



Answer:

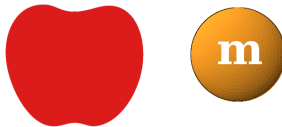


Question:



Answer:

Question:



Answer:

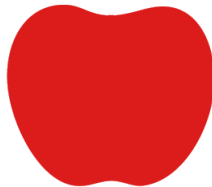


Question:



Answer:

Question:



Answer:



Question:



Answer:

Question:



Answer:



Question:



Answer:

Question:



Answer:



Question:



Answer:

Question:



Answer:

