



# *Tell me Why*

## *Activities to develop the faculty of Reasoning for 8-14 year olds*

*Why the sky is blue*

*Why only to stick with glue*

*Tell me if rocks can grow*

*How does pendulum go to and fro*

There are many questions which we wonder about. We are curious, wondering about all the interesting things that happen in our world. But why don't we find the answers? Sometimes because we don't even try to frame the right questions. Fortunately we have got a special capacity, which differentiates us from the animals. Can you guess? Yes it is our Reasoning Faculty. Just imagine that if we don't use our reason and develop it then how can we be different from animals? And this is the capacity in us that helps us to think, framing right questions and also to arrive at logical conclusions. Thus it is very important that we find opportunities to utilise and train our reasoning.

Like the computer, reason is a servicing mechanism to service the data and perception we are using. Reason is based on Perception. What you perceive is then processed by logic. Thus it is important to broaden our perception. Following are some of the exercises that will help to make our thinking active and will broaden our mind.

### Exercise 1

#### *CAF : Consider All Factors*

CAF is an attention directing tool. CAF is a tool designed to broaden the perception. What are the factors that have to be considered in each matter? Suppose you have to choose a language to study, while in school - French, German, Sanskrit. What are the factors you will consider before you take the decision which language you would like to study. These factors might include:

- Will I score marks in it
- Will it be of use in my later life
- Is the teacher good
- Is it difficult or easy

- Are my friends going for it
- Will it be fun

Once you list these out you may decide to choose some factors over others and make your decision based on that.

#### **Application:**

- 1) You have to decide if you should take up an assignment to design an advertisement to get young people to drink more Coke. What factors do you have to keep in mind? Do a CAF.
- 2) Your parents are choosing a place to go on holiday. They have done a CAF and list the following factors.
- 3) If you had to make suggestions for re-designing the human head and face, what factors would you keep in mind? Do a CAF on this.

### Exercise 2

#### *APC : Alternatives, Possibilities, Choices*

This is another attention-directing tool. Instead of moving 'forward' with our thinking we look at 'parallel' possibilities, i.e, sometimes we are forced to look at alternatives because the traditional way does not work. Sometimes we want to look for alternatives because we believe we might find a better way than the one we now use.

The things to be considered while doing the exercise:

- 1) PERCEPTION: The same thing can be looked at in many different ways.
- 2) ACTION: Alternative courses of action that can be taken in a situation.
- 3) SOLUTION: Alternative solution to a problem.
- 4) APPROACHES: Different ways of tackling the problem in order to find a solution.
- 5) EXPLANATIONS: Alternative explanations of how something happened.



**Application:**

- 1) If some mysterious thing comes on earth and suddenly makes the majority of people deaf, how would people communicate with each other? Do an APC and give more than three alternatives.
- 2) Your teenage sister has competed in the exams and your parents want to reward her. They could give her money as a gift but they want to find other ways of rewarding her. Do an APC and suggest some alternative rewards.
- 3) Your school is looking for alternative ways of evaluating the child's progress instead of examination, please suggest some alternatives.

**Exercise 3**

*Values*

In mathematics and in logic puzzles it is enough to get the right answer. Real life is very different because values are involved. Values are part of thinking. Values usually involve other people. A logically correct solution to a problem may be unacceptable because it goes against people's values (which may be illogical). If we are going to think in real world, we have to be conscious of values in all our thinking. For e.g., recently many houses, shops, and farms were demolished near Andheria More on Delhi-Gurgaon Road in order to broaden the road leading to the city. In a few months a new highway will be ready.

- The house owners who had to move are not happy.

- Neighbours who are now separated are not happy.
- Those who will find themselves alongside the new road will be upset by the noise and the pollution and danger to their children.
- Those who live outside the city are delighted as there will be less chances of traffic congestion on the road and so they will be able to drive in more quickly.
- More people visit the city.
- There is more pollution and car exhausts.
- Dealers can sell bigger and faster cars.

Not all situations are as complex as this but all situations do involve different values for different people. The world is quite a crowded place. What is good for one person may be bad for another. A new airport is good for those who have to fly but those who live nearby suffer from the noise.

While doing the following worksheet do ask yourself:

- 1) What are the values involved?
- 2) Who is affected by the values?

**Application:**

- 1) You enjoy watching television. Your parents think you watch far too much. What are the values involved?
- 2) Your father does not like your new friend. You have a fight with your father. What are the values involved?
- 3) The lawyer knows that her client is guilty of a robbery. Should she defend him in court? What are the values involved?

**Compiled by Yogita and Aditi**



**Replace the ambition to be first by the will to do the best possible.**

**Replace the desire for success by the yearning for progress.**

**Replace the eagerness for fame by the aspiration for perfection.**