

If you have a question and an open, receptive mind, then you're two-thirds of the way toward creating an oracle. Let's run through it step by step.

1. Let's suppose that you're working on a project and wonder, "What should I be thinking about? What should I do next? What's an alternative approach? What aren't I seeing?" First off, clear your mind. Take time to relax and focus your thinking. Now form your question.

2. Select something from the world at random. Indeed, constructing the means to get a piece of unexpected information can be both a great way to use your imagination and a lot of fun. It could be one of the following:

*Pick out the sixth word on page 247 of your dictionary: *A doorknob.*

*Open a magazine. Count the the 12th full page advertisement from the front. What product is shown? *An exercise machine.*

*Look out the window and find the second thing that has yellow in it: *A tennis ball.*

*Open a catalog at random. What's in the upper left hand corner? *Coffee cups.*

*Go to the center of your town or city and walk north exactly 1.6 miles. Enter a store on the right hand side. Find the strongest smelling item you can find: *Second hand dresses that have been stored away in moth balls.*

*Open up the stock section of your newspaper. Go to the third column. Count down to the 16th company whose shares increased in value the previous day. What is their main product? *Water faucets.*

*It could be a word that you pick at random on the next

maze anvil bait balloon nail key organ skin zone pump parachute program quilt rag powder harbor vertebra glue hair raft lode ruler kitchen robot valley plate mountain needle violin pacemaker soap pen knife piano planet pocket dung powder pump radar halo rubber saddle cup school ship road ball zoo trigger cloud chord chain cannon cal-dron man woman crystal channel copy cycle plow egg hook drain drum tree bomb wing furniture fungus fork fog flood guitar flag treasure water well girdle glue hair template mirror camera wedge wave sandpaper chessboard desert crown clock cinema food cave staircase network bridge water dust eraser statue net gate pump broom bottleneck ratchet-wheel glacier funhouse fossil block food flower floor antenna god guillotine bee plug blanket funnel book brain brakes booby-trap cesspool cell cancer weed buffer toilet television spring tub compass circle code web dress current detour ear button face factory fairy fan farm feather fertilizer field finger engine floodlight sandwich treasure cup umbrella farm feather fertilizer spectrum template forge adult dope color hole bottle bird trap foot fly foam game garden gear ghost glass graph gun gutter bruise bug circus hammer head heart family blister acid candy chorus springboard fire film festival fence fish eye drill body die spotlight frame glove hand song grave lever sphere square sun table tool trail vent vegetable soup spiral shaft market torpedo thermometer ticket vacuum triangle train torch sword weirdness telescope target spear sponge stomach memory spectrum telephone tapestry kaleidoscope car stove skeleton room treadmill oven filter root temple window star typewriter seed bed fountain armor battery molecule purse library fruit water air earth money spice bell rock album robot farm weapon bank tide bag computer army diamond altar tunnel amoeba anvil bait bible hinge image junk knot sex match manual liquid leg lamp algebra alphabet menu prison monster nest nut opium page parasite pendulum microscope radio puzzle prism port rug pod satellite pill pepper rainbow rudder safe sauce saloon shadow shovel smoke rash horizon mattress map machine lock lever landslide ladder index key ice meteor mist moon music net ocean sphere paint passport perfume river rope pipe plant pond pore prison pyramid record rope rug sand saw screw shell signature herb hose icon horoscope star meat march magnet lode vise nail meter missile motor organ nose onion palette pebble script shoe siren house lightning bridge network eraser laser lens milk mask medal thunder bomb fungus fog soap kite music prison blister toilet pill lode ramp saddle vulture water dust gear blanket garden song rug hook pen knife fork rash weed scale loom rubber hinge ladle landslide lever lock machine mattress copy umbrella hair template farm crystal fossil wedge wave torch root window battery lever keys sponge stomach memory spectrum telephone tapestry kaleidoscope car stove skeleton room treadmill oven filter root temple window star typewriter seed bed fountain armor gutter bruise bug circus hammer head heart family blister acid candy chorus parachute template mountain needle violin pace-maker soap pen knife piano planet pocket dung powder pump radar halo rubber saddle cup school ship road ball rudder safe sauce saloon shadow shovel smoke lamp leg ocean muscle cycle meteor funnel fork rain loans fly dust oven temple star typewriter weapon machine pendulum path objective pool onion treasure fog camera fungus candy shovel torpedo knife planet life stone shell chapter classroom dump robot farm weapon bank tide bag computer army diamond altar tunnel amoeba valley plate sandwich treasure cup stove skeleton room treadmill oven filter root temple window star typewriter seed bed foam game garden gear ghost glass graph gun gutter bruise bug circus hammer head sea herb gangster partner fascist halo nerd trend computer guerilla copy tomb womb comb broom thumb finger footprint palm lotus blossom fool window carpet luck dictionary parasite trashcan door button smudge pimple horseshoe pen thorn suitcase desktop appliance car oracle crown clock cinema food cave staircase network parachute template mountain needle violin pacemaker soap pen knife piano planet pocket dung powder pump radar voicebox finger molecule pod script meat puzzle tunnel amoeba eyeball ear wedge dung meteor oven loins testicles ovaries umbrella magic duality partner game wave fork wristwatch keys blister crystal gridlock logjam corn tomato paper pirate roof fence telephone rock'n'roll compass circle code web dress current detour ear button face factory fairy fan farm engine floodlight sandwich treasure cup umbrella farm feather fertilizer spectrum template forge adult dope color hole bottle bird trap foot fly foam game garden gear ghost glass graph gun gutter bruise bug circus hammer head heart family book cup album robot farm weapon camera wedge wave sandpaper