# Brain Games

**Trick your noodle with these mind-bending optical illusions!**

## VANISHING COLOURS

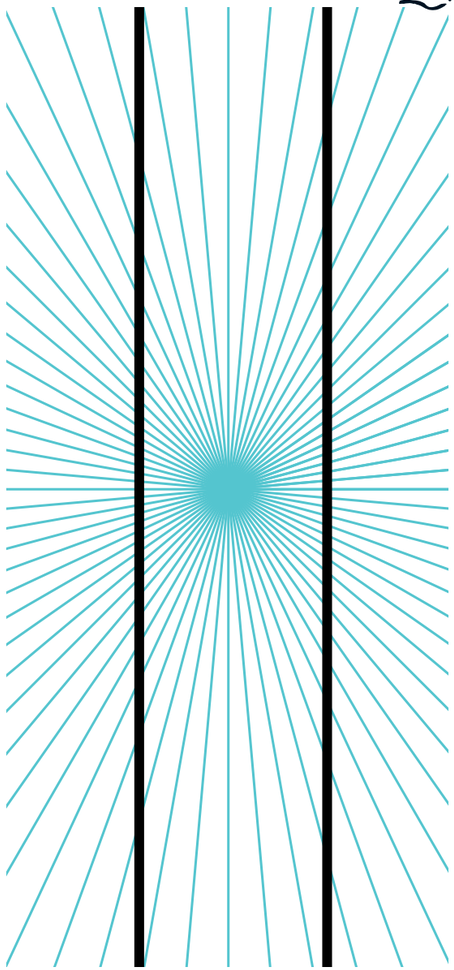
Make these five coloured circles **disappear**! Hold this page close to your face and **keep it still**, focusing on the **centre of the yellow dot**. Try not to move your eyes or blink. As you watch, the red, purple, blue, and green circles will **vanish**. Then the yellow circle will fade out too. Finally, the pink background will fade to grey – and you'll be left with a **blank square**. Whoa!

### BEHIND THE BRAIN

The colours **seem to disappear** because you're keeping your **eyes still**. When your eyes start to get **tired**, they stop telling your brain about the stuff that hasn't changed. So over a small amount of time, the colours **appear to fade**.

## STRAIGHT LINES

The black lines appear to **bend away** from the centre of the blue lines. But do they really? Use a ruler or another straight-edged object to check.



### BEHIND THE BRAIN

In this illusion, the blue lines appear to be **vanishing into the distance**, even though they're just drawn on the page. This **tricks your brain** into thinking that you're looking down a **long, circular tunnel**. Your brain then assumes the black lines must have been drawn on the inside of that tunnel – so they must **bend** too.

## BLIND SPOT

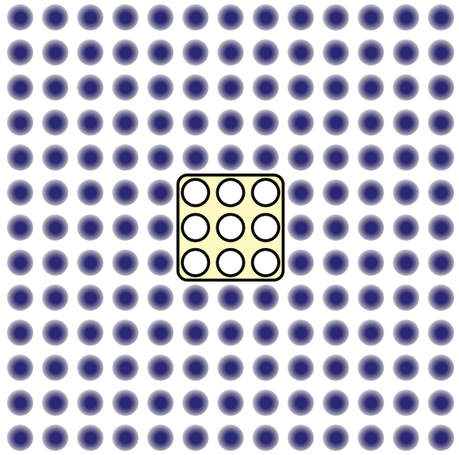
Hold the magazine as **far away from you as you can**, so that you can clearly see all three boxes below. Then **close or cover** your **right eye**. Keeping your right eye shut, focus on the **red box** – you should still be able to see both the blue and green boxes at the edge of your vision. Next, slowly and steadily **move the magazine towards you**. As the page gets closer, you'll see the **blue box vanish**. Then, as the magazine gets even nearer, the blue box will **reappear**. And then the **green box** will **disappear and reappear**. Weird!

### BEHIND THE BRAIN

The **optic nerve** is a **clump of nerve endings** in each of your eyes. It **sends information** about what you see to your **brain**. But this nerve also creates a **blind spot** in your peepers. Normally you aren't aware of it because your brain **fills in the missing parts of the picture** with information from **your other eye**. But when an object falls in your blind spot – and your **other eye can't see it either** – the object **vanishes**. Then it reappears once it moves out of your blind spot.

## FLOATING SURFACE

Let your eyes rest on this image. Does the **pale yellow box** appear to be **floating above** the scene, while the blue circles seem to be positioned below?

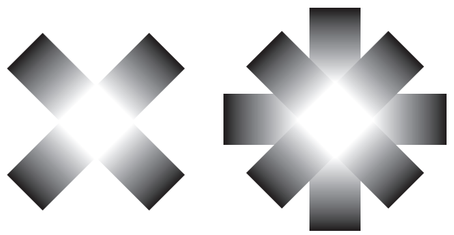


### BEHIND THE BRAIN

Of course nothing is actually floating off the page. But since **distant objects** appear **blurry in real life**, your brain assumes the blurred shapes here must also be in the **distance**, and that the sharp, clearly outlined yellow box must be much **closer**.

## TURN ON THE LIGHTS

The **white diamonds** in the centre of these two images both appear to glow much **brighter** and **whiter** than the white paper around them. But the paper and the diamonds are **exactly the same** brightness.



### BEHIND THE BRAIN

Your brain sees the **black rectangles** fading to white towards the centre and decides there must be a **bright light shining on them**. The illusion is stronger in the right-hand picture because the diamond shape is surrounded by **more shaded black rectangles**.

Puzzles by Gareth Moore.