

Mirrors

Like echoes and shadows, mirrors are inherently ambiguous, paradoxical objects that are perfect for riddling! The answer to all of these is "a mirror" or "in a mirror" — you can mix-and-match the elements of these riddles to make your own, or maybe you will notice some other paradoxical feature of the mirror's reflection that you can use to make a completely new mirror riddle.

What the mirror shows is both true but also not true:

- **I never speak, yet I always tell the truth. Who am I?**
- **Deaf, dumb, and blind, yet it always tells the truth. What is it?**
- **Though I am your opposite, I will look you straight in the eye, tell the truth, and never lie. What am I?**
- **My vision is perfect, but my memory is short; without passing judgment, the truth I report. Who am I?**
- **Everything you see in me is both the truth and also a lie; I am a window through which you look, but you can never get to the other side. Who am I?**
- **I show you a perfect but only partial truth; if you want to see the real truth, you must turn away from me. Who am I?**

The mirror is both alive but also not:

- **I'm not alive, but I can move as fast as any living thing; my mouth can open, but I cannot speak or sing. Who am I?**
- **When there is fire in me, I am still cold to the touch. Who am I?**
- **To each who look, a different vision is revealed: full of life, yet like a coffin sealed. What is it?**
- **My mouth can't taste, my eyes can't see, my ears can't hear, my body has no flesh or bones, but when you look at me, you see someone you recognize at once. Who am I?**

Mirrors show ever-changing, impermanent reflections:

- **To all things, I give no more than what I am given, and of the many things I am given, I keep none of them. Who am I?**
- **My appearance is always changing though I wear no disguise; I see everything around you, but I do so without eyes. Who am I?**

The mirror is a place of opposites:

- **What can you look into and out of at the same time?**
- **Where can you find the exact opposite of yourself?**

- What is the land where up is up and down is down, but left is right and right is left, and if you turn around, it's gone?
- There is a topsy-turvy world where what was right is all that's left, and all that's left is right. What is this place?
- I can make water that is not wet, and I can turn east into west. Who am I?

Your mirror-self is you, but also not you:

- I am you, but you are not me; I can never leave you, but you always leave me, sooner or later. Who am I?
- You will never know who I really am, because I pretend to be your perfect twin. Who am I?
- When you look at me, I look at you, and you also look at you too. Who am I?

You cannot enter the mirror world:

- There is a door through which no one can pass. If you try to go through, you yourself will stop yourself. What is this door?
- You yourself are the guardian at my gate; if you use brute force to break on through, the gate vanishes, and so do you. Who am I?
- I am a door through which you cannot pass but, no matter, without having entered my room, you are already inside. Who am I?
- I am a perfectly still reflecting pool, but you cannot dive below my surface nor can you drink from my waters. Who am I?

Mirrors have a front and a back, and the backing is made of silver or some other metal:

- I turn my back, I'm nobody; I turn my face, I'm somebody. Who am I?
- Clothed with silver, nickel, tin or brass, I imprison all I see in glass. Who am I?
- I float on a sea of silver or rest in a copper field, capturing whatever I see and locking it in a glass prison. Who am I?

Mirrors can break, which can be bad luck:

- Hit me hard and I may crack, but you'll never stop me staring back. Who am I?
- If you drop me I will surely crack, but give me a smile and I'll always smile back. Who am I?
- I watch you yet I have no eyes, and should I break, your good luck dies. Who am I?

Plus here's a "What's the difference..." riddle about mirrors:

- **What's the difference between a loudmouth and a mirror?** *Answer.* A loudmouth talks without reflecting; the mirror reflects without talking.