

Shapes
by
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Have you ever wondered what the best shapes are? No? So what happens if you get kidnapped and you are only allowed to take one shape with you? Exactly. You're stuck. If you answered 'yes' to that question, however, good on you. But keep reading this anyway, just so you can top up your knowledge.

We start things off in logical order, with the one sided circle. This is a great one for the pranksters out there and for people who are owed a favour. Maybe you did a spot of gardening for someone. In return, ask someone to draw one for you and they'll fail miserably, until they get their hands on some specialist equipment. Even with compasses, drawing circles is a bit of a pain. If they screw up, you can laugh in their face and hopefully you won't be asked to do any work for them, again. Also, make a mathematician think about this shape and pie, and the rest of his life will be gone, just like that.

Semicircles are even better, because you need two pieces of equipment to draw them - a compass and a ruler. Unlike the prior, they make completely useless wheels, though they do make outstanding bridges. (Curved side up, obviously). Anyway, I know what you're thinking... You've done someone else a favour, and this time you feel you've gone completely beyond the call of duty. To get revenge, maybe you can pressure the overbearing slave driver into drawing the two sided nightmares without any aides. Chances are they'll produce some weird cucumber shape. If so, you've won.

Next, we have the shape that puts in the most effort - the triangle. (Or try angle, if you will). You've now thrown your compass away as no-one will ever need one, from this point on. However, when you ask someone to draw these three-sided things, they'll now require more information: What type should they draw? Equilateral, isosceles or scalene? At the end of the day, only a maniac will truly care but no-one need know this. Stare at the drawer intensely as if their life depends on it. Don't let them think you're going easy on them, now that all they need is something long and straight.

Squares! Famously pretty dull, (as in 'stop being such a square'), but you can use that to your advantage, for you know who. 'Hey, I've dug up your weeds', you could point out to your faux employer. (Just in case they didn't learn their lesson from the time they had to produce circles, and in case they ignored your frustration based taunts). 'Fair point', you will probably get told, and from that moment on, you can let loose. Repeat 'so... some squares, please...', until they get the job done. Of course squares aren't the only four sided shapes, you also have oblongs and rhombuses. However, the formers are equally boring, and the second ones just baffle me, so I don't know what to say about them. When are those shapes ever used in real life? In buildings? They'll just topple over. :S

Next... How the hell do you draw pentagons without using an old 50 pence piece as a stencil? No one really knows, which is perhaps why the mysterious Pentagon in America is called what it is - to give a sense of fascination. If you tell someone to draw this shape from memory and they succeed, it actually means they're an allied spy. Crazy, I know. Alright, I'm going to move onto 3D shapes now, as hexagons, heptagons, etc. all look kind of similar...

So, now we have spheres! Don't even bother pencilling these, or getting others to do so. Fantasists may tell you otherwise, but it's actually technically impossible to draw these shapes. It's even impossible to produce a rough sketch, for reasons I don't fully understand. However, you can THROW spheres at people. Immoral, but not necessarily illegal; just watch your velocity levels.

Spheres may make good light weapons, but cones on the other hand are potentially lethal. No amount of forced gardening ever makes uses of cones justified, unless you're at war. (Gardening war?? Hm...) In that very surreal case, charge at your enemy until the terrifying sight of a massive point makes him run away. If he doesn't run away, jab at him until submission. In a drastic change of tone, cones of course make great ice-cream cones. Needless to say, the clue's in the name. Is there a connection between close combat warfare and sugary snacks? There might be, but for now I won't waste my time pondering that one. That really is a toughy.

Next are the cousins of cones - pyramids. The ancient Egyptians were famously really fond of these ones, as we all know. Maybe a bit too much; once you've seen one, you've kind of seen them all. Even so, they're still standing today, and that needs to be respected. Will Big Ben be still standing in a few thousand years, or will it fall over? Only time will tell. All I can say is anything long and stick shaped is asking for trouble.

Cubes! Ok, THESE ones don't look boring. In fact, they're cool as ice (as in ice cubes). Ever heard of an ice pyramid, or whatever? Of course not, they'll always be too hot. It's no coincidence Egypt has matching weather, the country is too affected by the massive, warming shapes. I know you're wondering why certain shapes have different temperatures, but I don't know either. Interestingly, rounded igloos deviate from Western cube-ish housing when it comes to form, as Inuits want to be warmer than Westerners.

What the hell are you supposed to call a 3D pentagon-like shape? I have no idea. I do know what I call such shapes and ones similar to them, though - superhedrons. That word kind of covers everything 3D and complex. Do I have any thoughts about the shape aesthetically speaking? I actually think they look cooler than cubes, suggesting that being in the presence of superhedrons can potentially cause frostbite or worse.

Dangerous isn't it? So perilous in fact, that I think I should quickly move onto...

... The finishing paragraph! So which shapes are the winners? Best shape for annoying people: The circle. Coolest looking shape: The superhedron. Most lethal shape: The cone. Most boring shape: The square. Most impressive shape to draw: The sphere. Easiest shape to draw with the help of an old 50 pence coin: The pentagon. Easiest 3D shape to draw: The cube. Best shape at getting people thinking (as in, 'can you think of a two sided shape?'): Yes, it's the semicircle. Most sturdy shape: The pyramid. Shape that puts in the most effort: The triangle. Bye!