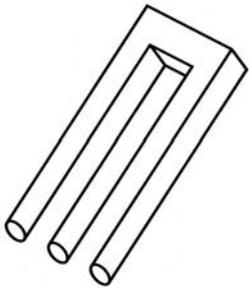


# Mind-Tricking Optical Illusions

Jason Owen • Definition.org

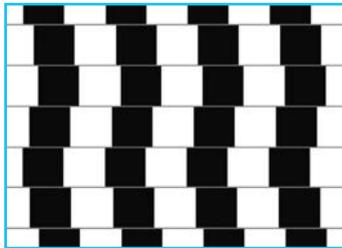


## 1) The Impossible Trident

The impossible trident, also known as a blivet, is an impossible object that appears to have three prongs, but transforms into just two prongs at the fixed end. Looking from one end to the other can be disorienting. One of its first appearances was on the cover of *MAD Magazine* in March of 1965.

## 2) Caf Wall—Straight or Crooked?

Dr. Richard Gregory first observed this illusion in the tiles on the wall of a Bristol cafe (hence the name).



The alternating light and dark bricks are staggered and the gray “mortar” lines separate the layers. But while the lines may look as if they curve, they are actually straight across and parallel.



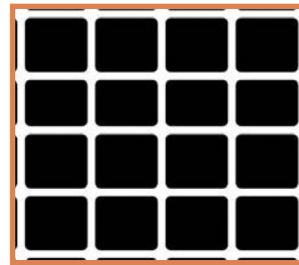
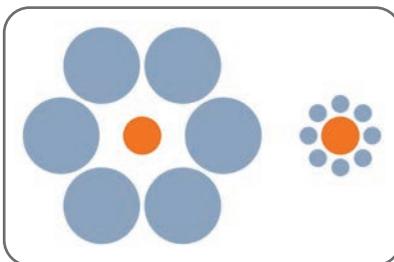
## 3) Stair Banister / People?

Do you see columns, or do you see people? The stair banister optical illusion contains easily visible columns, but in the negative

space between them are silhouettes of people. This is a classic example of a double image. Sometimes it's drawn two-dimensionally, making it even harder to decipher.

## 4) Ebbinghaus Illusion

It may seem like the orange circle on the right is larger than the one on the left, but the two circles are the exact same size. In illusions like these, the space surrounding objects will deceive our eyes and make us think some things are different sizes, when really they're the same.



## 5) Grey Squares?

This illusion tricks your mind into thinking gray squares appear between the black squares as your eyes shift over the image, almost giving the impression that it's a

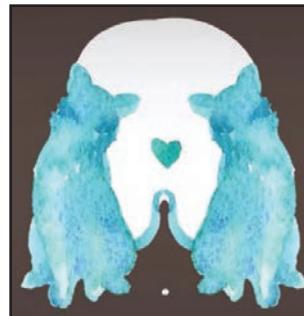
moving image. The trick lies in the intense contrast between the black square and the white lines.

## 6) Rabbit / Duck?

You may have seen this one before. Do you see the rabbit first, or the duck? Is there

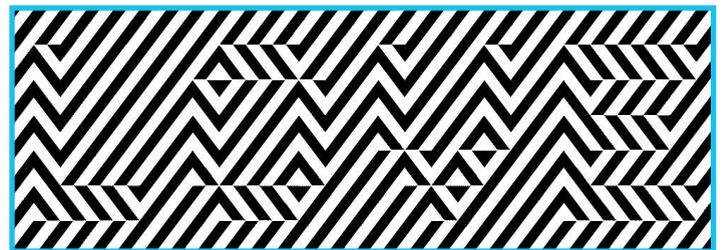


one you don't see? The image first appeared in a German humor magazine in 1892. It reportedly inspired some deep thoughts from philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein.



## 7) Dog Person or Cat Person?

What's the first thing you see when looking at this optical illusion? According to researchers, if you see a pooch you're an extrovert, while those who see two cats are apparently more introverted.



## 8) Can You Read Between the Lines?

What is the hidden word here? Here's a hint: When you find it, you'll realize it's all you need. (At least, that's what the Beatles song says.)