
SITTING ARRANGEMENT CONCEPTS

1. THE KINDS:

There can be two ways of seating people in a circle (could be a square too – doesn't make a difference), where people are sitting:-

- (i) facing inwards – towards the centre of the circle,
- (ii) facing outward – away from the centre of the circle.

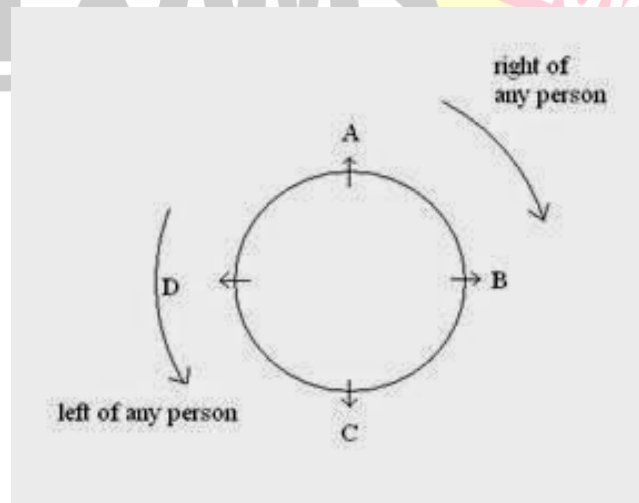
2. WHEN FACING INWARDS:

Where all the persons to be arranged face the centre – then

- i. all their 'rights' is in the anti-clockwise direction,
- ii. their 'lefts' is in the clockwise direction.

So, when they ask who's to the left of D, in the above diagram – close your eyes – picture yourself to be D – answer will be A. If picturing in the head is confusing – take the rough sheet you've drawn the diagram on and turn it around! Turn it around so that D is directly in front of you – so you become D and now according to your left/right direction – answer the questions!

Nothing simpler and easier than that!!



3. WHEN FACING OUTWARDS:

Where all the persons to be arranged face the centre – then

- i. all their 'rights' is in the clockwise direction,
- ii. their 'lefts' is in the anti-clockwise direction.

Here too, try visualizing yourself in their places to answer – or else turn the papers around.

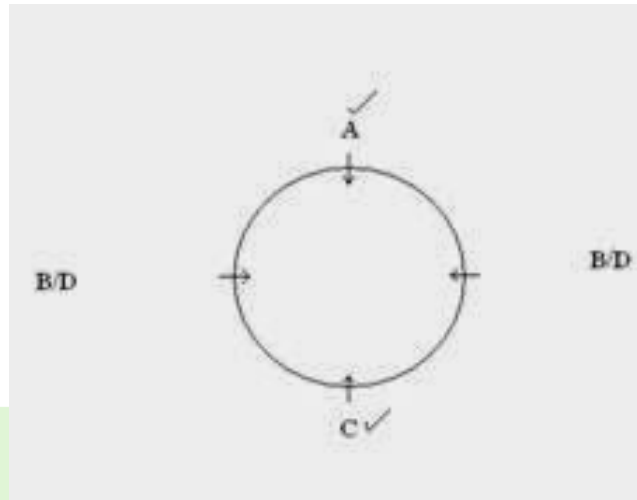
4. HOW TO SEAT THEM:

This is the problem area for most – how to correctly seat Mr. A, B and C!

Let me try breaking this ‘problem’ down to smaller problems and then we’ll tackle ‘em!

(i) Draw a circle – mark the places (4/6/7/8) – and then start reading the question!

(ii) Arrange the information in every sentence – if possible – if not – write it down beside you circle in shorthand – to be arranged when further information clarifies the position.



(iii) If you find a situation where, supposing, A can be seated in 2 different places – then, go ahead with one place and arrange the rest accordingly – if you successfully arrange the entire thing – then the A’s place which you had arbitrarily decided is the correct place!

If it is not correct you’ll find that your arrangement of A’s position is contradicting as per other information in the question and you can then chose the other A’s possible position.

Okay, another one – if P has two possible ways to be seated – namely Seat 1 and Seat 2. You are not understanding from the available information, where to seat P. So you, arbitrarily seat him in either Seat 1 or Seat 2.

Let’s say you seated him at Seat 2 – ok – now go ahead and try seating the others as per the rest of the information in the question.

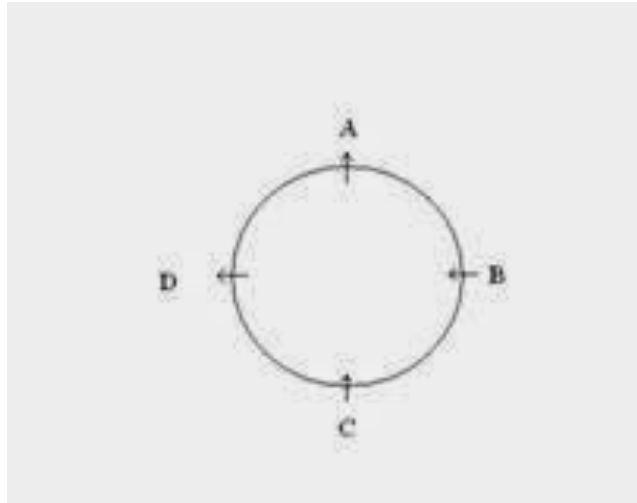
If you are able to seat ‘em all without any contradictions or problems, you have successfully solved the question and P’s seat that you chose is correct.

And if you find a contradiction of P’s Seat 2 – then you immediately know for sure that Seat 2 is not the right place of P and it has to be Seat 1, as there were only 2 possibilities!

(iv) Always arrange those person’s around your circle, whose positions are 100% clear and accurate. Keep the persons who you have a doubt on a little farther away so you know who’s definitely sitting correct and who you need to revise the seating for!

Or, put a tick on the persons who are seated correct.

This brings clarity to the fact that – these people are sitting right and these places are not available for further arrangement – the rest need to be arranged in the available places only.



(v) If there are 4/6/8/10 persons, i.e., even number of people and all facing one particular direction – then 2nd/3rd / 4th / 5th to the left or right is always the person sitting opposite!

(vi) Where some are facing outward and some facing inward, then mark the places with arrows pointing inward/outward. Like in this figure, A and D are facing outward and so their arrows are pointing away from the centre; while, B and C are facing inward with their arrows pointing towards the circle.

I usually more my rough sheet around without wasting my time and get the positions correct!

(vii) Practice! The Golden Rule to solving Seating Arrangements – advocated everywhere by everyone is – LOTS OF PRACTICE!

Honestly, there is no other way around it!

Some people are just born with the knack of seating people correct and some aren't – I fall in that category of 'seating – arrangement – challenged'! But I make up for it by practice and perseverance! I now solve sums like I was born doing it!!