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Regulars



## Puzzle page



## Russian roulette



Your mother did tell you to stay away from gambling, but now it's far, far too late to heed her advice. You're sitting in a smoke–filled room, your single opponent staring you down. Between you, on a table, there is a six–shot revolver, containing exactly one live bullet. Someone has spun the cylinder so neither of you knows whether the next shot will be blank or lethal. Each of you will take one shot at the opponent in turn, and the cylinder will be spun again after each shot. The game ends, obviously, when one of you fires the lethal shot, and the other person is dead. It's your choice whether to go first or second – which should you choose? Does it matter?

*This puzzle was inspired by a problem in the book *Number Story*, which is [reviewed](#) in this issue of *Plus*.*

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If you are stumped by [last issue's puzzle](#), here is [the solution](#).

## Puzzle page

For some challenging mathematical puzzles, see the [NRICH](#) puzzles from [this month](#) or [last month](#).

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*Plus* is part of the family of activities in the Millennium Mathematics Project, which also includes the [NRICH](#) and [MOTIVATE](#) sites.