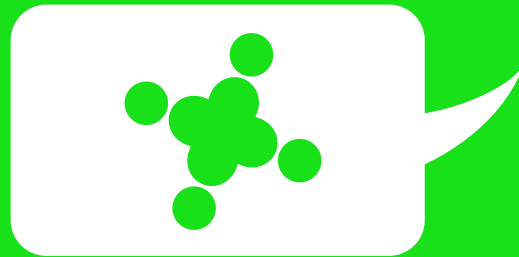


Imagine ridiculous situations!



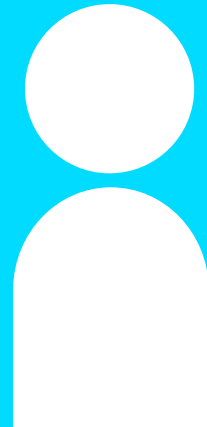
Using humor to develop your imagination is a nice and amusing alternative! One of the easiest way to reach this goal is to visualize a normal situation, but include unusual elements into it.

Here are a few examples to help you understand:

- Imagine a wedding involving dogs (or any other animals that could make this situation even more funnier!). Whould they exchange bones instead of rings? How would the bridesmaids look like? Should the cake be made of meat?
- How about a world governed by babies? How would they interact with each other? Would they punish adults by sending them outside, far from their televisions or computers? Maybe cities would be colorful and build with giant plastic blocks? Perhaps that the most powerful companies in the world would sell diapers!
- Imagine that the earth is upside down. The sky would be below our feet and the ground above our head. How would we walk in the street? How could we build cities and make them viable?

So many interesting questions!

Perseverance!



I do have a lot of qualities! Unfortunately, until recently, perseverance wasn't one of them! I managed to work on this aspect of my personality and learn how to be patient.

Setting up a goal and working hard to make it happen is a wonderful experience! But if you quit as soon as a problem arises, then no doubt that you and success will never have a chance to meet!

So how can perseverance help you become more creative?
Simple...

Since you don't want to quit, you **MUST** find a way to be successful!
You **MUST** work hard to create something original and interesting!
Your creativity and imagination **MUST** help you get out of this situation in a winning position!

Just like a deadline will give you a boost of adrenaline, perseverance forces you to come up with the best solution possible!

Sure, you will probably start things over again and again a few times. You will spend hours and hours doing things that won't be useful, but in the process, if you learn from your mistakes and do things differently each time you face a problem (by using your imagination!), then there is no doubt that one day, you will achieve your goal!

Be up-to-date with technology!



If you work in an environment related to technology, you know that creativity is essential to stand out from the crowd. New gadgets are invading the market on a daily basis and most of them are quite original.

Even publications that are focusing on future technologies can be a very useful source of inspiration.

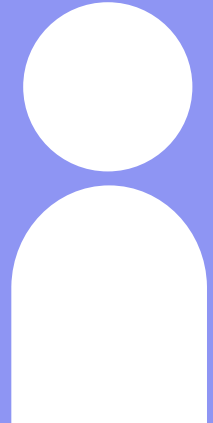
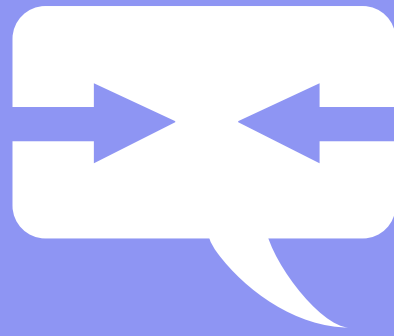
Learning new things about technology can help you build the world of tomorrow.

You could find new ideas to create innovative objects or build inspiring cities. Even if you are not creating a high-tech story set in a distant or futuristic world, just being aware of the evolution of humanity is a nice exercise to help you become more imaginative.

It could help you come up with interesting concepts that could be applied today or even in a story set in the past!

You need an example? Let's say that someone, somewhere, is releasing a new archaeological tool that could help scientist "see" through several kilometers below the surface of the earth. Why not write a story about one scientist who could use this new tool to discover a new species that was, until now, unknown to man?

Combine different ideas!



Everything has already been done! That is one sentence a creative person will never say! Why? Simply because you can always combine old ideas together to create new ones.

I use to create video games. I did everything all by myself: The design, the images, the coding and even the music.

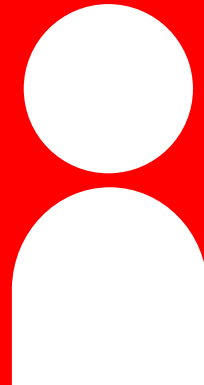
But there is one game that I was particularly proud of. It was called "Rock Solid". It was a logical game in which the player had to move a stone trying to reach the exit. However, all other stones onscreen were moving in the same direction as the player was, depending on which direction these stones were marked.

At that time, it was a new concept that I had never seen before. Probably that someone, somewhere, had already come up with this idea, but after making some research, I couldn't find a similar concept on the net. I am still considering this idea as being original.

How did I managed to find a new idea like this one? Simply by merging the concept of arcade games and the cleverness of puzzle games together. There are no new elements (or concepts) in this game.

But mixing these well-known features together is what makes this game so special and unique (to my eyes, anyway! :))

Do absolutely nothing!



No matter where you go, you're always surrounded by images, colors, sounds, odors or textures. Your senses are working day and night, even when you sleep!

But do you ever take the time to sit down, relax and... do nothing? And when I say nothing, I really mean nothing! No television, no books, no video games... just sit down and turn all cerebral activities down (except breathing... of course!).

Just close your eyes, make sure that you are in a calm environment and think about nothing. I know that it's a difficult exercise. I mean, we're always thinking about something.

But just give it a shot. Maybe you'll be able to have a few seconds of complete silence. Not only from your environment, but from yourself as well.

It may seem like a weird exercise, but there are many good reasons to do so:

- You will hear noises that you normally don't.
- You will feel things in your body that you usually don't take the time to feel. It could be your heartbeat or something more painful!