Good Luck Railroad Puzzle Game

INSTRUCTIONS

When you start to solve this railroad switching problem note that Trains No. 2 and No. 3 are placed at each end of the track headed toward the top where the "Siding" is located. Also note that the Box-cars, No. 4, placed on the "Siding" are in "bad order" as the end couplers are missing. These "bad order" box-cars create the problem because without the coupler to hook the locomotive on the box-cars cannot be pulled but must always be pushed. There is no need to uncouple the box-cars as they are coupled together to facilitate making the turns around the horseshoe track and to uncouple them would not assist in solving the puzzle, however, you can uncouple the locomotives and coaches. The "Siding" will accommodate only the two box-cars and either one locomotive or one coach for you place more than three pieces of rolling stock on the "Siding" you will block the main line.

The railroad dispatcher ordered the engineers on Trains No. 2 and No. 3 to pass each other at the "Siding" not knowing that the two "bad order" box-cars were there. In solving this puzzle imagine yourself a locomotive engineer in the cab of one of these locomotives. You will understand that you cannot pull the box-cars because the end couplers are missing; that you can only push the box-cars; that the "Siding" is long enough to accommodate only three pieces of rolling stock without blocking the main line. Thus you realize you must manipulate the trains back and forth, always pushing the box-cars and always using a locomotive to do the pushing or pulling. Whenever you push or pull a coach or push the box-cars you should have a locomotive doing the job and do not use your fingers to do the work that is intended for a locomotive.

This is an actual railroad problem that can be solved. There are no tricks involved in any way, but merely a series of backward and forward movements shifting the box-cars and coaches around. When the puzzle is solved the Trains No. 2 and No. 3 will be at opposite ends of the track headed in a downward direction. After solving the puzzle in one direction another problem is presented to place the Trains No. 2 and No. 3 back to their original position requiring an entirely different series of movements. In either case when the puzzle is correctly solved the box-cars, No. 4, will always be returned to their original position on the top Siding.

Do not show anyone the solution and you will be rewarded with continued enjoyment.

Further Reading


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