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Up or Down

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At one time in your life you've surely played the kids' ditty:

"Look up. Look down. Look at my thumb. Gee, you're dumb"

Which way is up? Which way is down? Are these always opposite directions? Can you construct a definition of up that is true and that works in all situations? Consider the following situations and for each state an operational definition:

> Jump up. Get up. Come up here. Turn the lights up. Turn the radio up. Put your books up. Tighten up the screw. Loosen up the jar lid.

If a house is on fire, will it burn up? Or, will it burn down? The car broke down. Will we have to get it fixed up?

The ice in the lake is breaking up. What's it doing? Which way is it going? A spaceship leaves the earth for the moon. Does it go up all the way? Or does it eventually go down to the moon? If it goes up from the earth, then down to the moon, where does it change from up to down? Does an astronaut look up or down to the earth?

If time runs down in a basketball game, why is the time up when the game is over?

Did you ever get dressed down by your school principal? And this after the teacher said "come up here" and then sent you down to the principal's office.

If you're called to come up to the front of the classroom, do you go down when returning to your desk?

An elevator is going down but a child passenger jumps up. Is the child travelling up or down? Or both?

Does your town have an uptown or a downtown? Why is a classy act called uptown?

Why is heaven up and hell down?

Why do we say up north and down south? Is there an up or down horizontal to the earth's surface?

Are you up for these questions? Or did I put you down?