The Wine Barrels

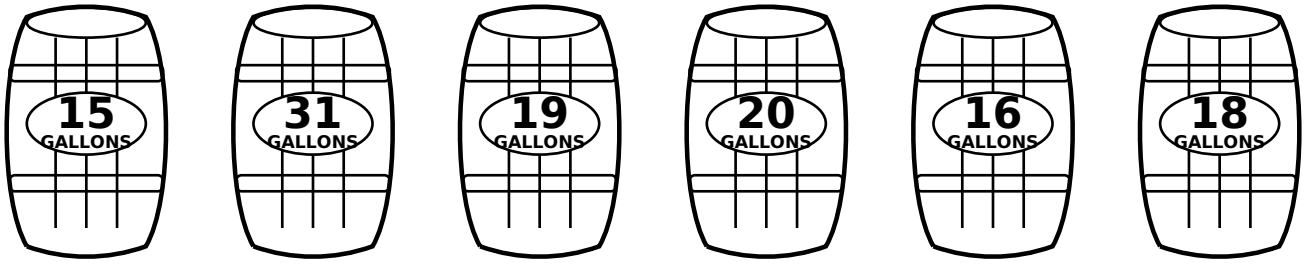
PRINTABLE BRAIN TEASER

A wine merchant had six barrels containing 15, 31, 19, 20, 16, and 18 gallons. Five barrels contained wine, while one contained beer. Two customers purchased all five barrels of wine. The second customer purchased exactly twice as much wine as the first. The merchant sold the barrels without opening them or transferring their contents.

The Challenge

Assign five whole barrels to the two customer pallets so Customer 2 receives exactly twice as much wine as Customer 1. Leave the beer barrel in storage. Use every wine barrel; do not pour, split, or exchange any contents.

Original Barrel Storage

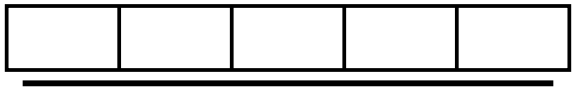


Customer 1

Receives the smaller amount of wine

Barrels: _____

Total: _____ gallons

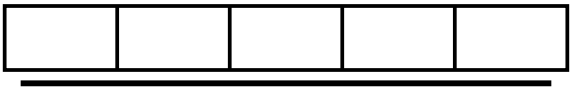


Customer 2

Must receive exactly twice as much

Barrels: _____

Total: _____ gallons



Barrel left in storage (beer):_____ gallons

Tip: Circle or cross out the source barrels as you assign them to each customer.

Based on "The Barrel of Beer" by Henry Ernest Dudeney, 1917