'And now,' he announced in a booming voice, 'an amazing trick! I will throw this ball as hard as I can. It will leave my hand at tremendous speed, stop and come straight back to me. As you can see, there is no elastic or string attached to the ball and it will not strike anything and rebound to me.'

There was a drum roll. He paused, set himself... and threw!

The crowd did not gasp as they often do at magic shows. They groaned.

'That's not magic!' cried a voice in the crowd.

And yet the trick had worked exactly as Marvo had said it would.

'Oh, I see! A difficult audience! Not good enough for you, eh?' stormed Marvo. 'You will love this, my most amazing and bewildering trick. In my right hand I have a pistol, in my left hand a hat. I shall raise my pistol so that the barrel is pointing to the sky. My assistant, the lovely Louise, will blindfold me, then take the hat from me and hang it up. I shall walk fifty paces, stop, turn and shoot a bullet straight through the hat.'

Sir Marvo did exactly what he said he would do but nobody in the audience was very impressed. How could he have done such a difficult sounding trick but still fail to get a single gasp from his audience?

'And that concludes the show for this evening!' said Sir Marvo.

The audience filed out of the huge theatre looking rather bewildered. Sir Marvo may be playing at a venue near you now. Check the newspapers. It is said he has some fascinating new tricks in his act now. ☺

You, the comprehension detective, must solve the puzzle of Sir Marvo's tricks. Why did most people think they were dull?

1. See how many words of three letters or more you can make from 'magician'. No proper nouns. Ten is a good score.