

Telephone interview made 13/06/2014  
Jenna Collins talking to Terry Ball.

Extracted selection of Terry Ball's answers:

Wow, so you haven't done any research at all. There are several really good books, they are written for lawyers, so lawyers can get an understanding of the process and how it works and how things are done.

So let me first tell you which books to go after. There is a guy by the name of Stan Abrams, A B R A M S, first name Stan. He's written two books, both entitled 'Polygraph for Lawyers'.

That would probably answer the majority of your questions, probably reading that book.

I can tell by your questions that you don't really understand.

Most questions are dictated by, by, by, circumstance. If a person has been accused of murdering someone then the questions are going to be "are you the person who shot your wife?" or, "are you the person who caused the death of your wife?" so its pretty simple.

The questions don't build up, they are nice and direct.

There are also some other non-descript questions that have specific purposes for the validity of the test. You have irrelevant questions which are; 'Is your first name Terry, is today Monday, er, are the lights on in this room, that kind of thing, irrelevant questions.

There are symptomatic questions that deal with outside issues that sometimes cause errors to be made.

And there are control questions which are used to gauge the truthfulness to the relevant questions so there are quite a lot of questions to the test each one of which has a specific purpose, but they are all simply constructed, straight forward and direct and usually no more than 10 or 15 words.

Well there are a lot of people who don't know what they are doing with the test, that violate some rules. When we go to school we are taught how to formulate questions, there's a variety of rules, probably 20 rules, in

formulating questions, which you can't violate. If you do, then the test is no good.

So a person can make a bad question. These are usually not on the issue, directly, usually something that encompasses feelings or emotions, thoughts or predictions of future behaviour. There are all kinds of reasons for a question to be bad.

I was a sales rep, a part time sales rep for a computerised polygraph company and they were offering a \$500 trade in value for older instruments, if you bought the computer, the computerised instrument, unfortunately, the older instruments were worth between \$6,000 and \$9,000 a piece, \$500 didn't seem very fair to me and it kind of made me mad so instead of returning the instruments to the company as I sold the instruments, I sent them back \$500 in cash and kept the instruments and started collecting them at that point.

I am kind of winding everything down. You know the museum really isn't a physical location, all of the instruments are in my office, underneath desks and in corners, they are in my garage at home, my storage unit, so there is no physical museum you can go to, the museum only exists on the internet.

I have had a lot of fun with it and I have met a lot of people because of it. I have had a lot of families of polygraph examiners who pass away, and they either sell or donate their instruments to me, and I give them away to police departments who have their own little museums and want to set up a display so I send them one or two.

They have changed a great deal over the years, since 1925 as you can imagine.

I suggest you get Stan Abrams book, and as you are reading that you can write questions down and email them to me, if there is something you don't understand or something, email me the questions or call me back on the phone and I can answer them then but you've got a lot of work to do in order to be able to ask good questions.

I know everything there is to know about it and nobody knows anything, very few people know anything about it, very few, less than one one hundredth of a percent of the population, probably less than one one ten thousandths of the population. There are only 5,000 polygraph examiners on the planet earth.