

Are you an arborist or a tree lopper? Are you a prancing, exfoliated, mocha-sipping, weight-reducing lover of trees with a selection of technical trousers, or a hairy-armed, knuckle-dragging throwback with balls the size of watermelons who lives in the hills and can barely write his own name? If you're not sure, why not take the handy quiz below and find out what part of the Yellow Pages you should be advertising in...

To take the quiz, work out your answer to each question, and then add up your total score (warning to loppers: this may involve counting to more than five). Look through to the end to find out what your results mean.

Hm, that secondary lateral in the eastern canopy could do with a little suppression, methinks...



**1: What equipment do you get out of the truck for a pruning job?**

- (a) "The truck? I cycle to most jobs, with my secateurs and handsaw in a little basket on the front" **(2 points)**
- (b) A mix of stuff, it depends on what you're going to be doing. **(1 point)**
- (c) Spurs. Flipline. '66. **(0 points)**

Pruning, removal, it just depends on how high I leave the trunk



I don't know chaps. I checked the radar on my iPhone 5 and it looks like it's going to keep dripping all afternoon. Latté?



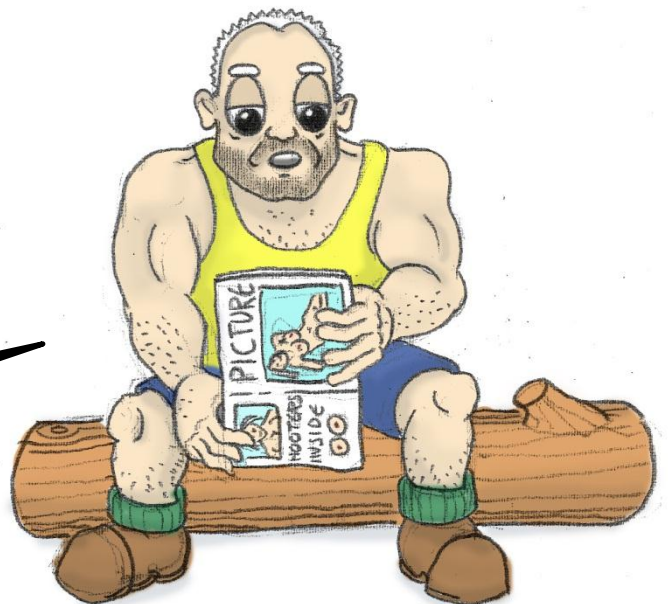
Now *that* is interesting...

**2: How bad does the weather have to get before you pull the pin?**

(a) Depends on the job. When it gets hard to communicate, or if the rain or wind is making the climbing difficult. **(1 point)**

(b) Being hit by lightning only slows you down. **(0 points)**

(c) You are off to the nearest café at the first sign of rain. In your opinion an honest day's work can be done indoors on your iPad 2, with a latté in hand. **(2 points)**



**3: What literature would you consult when conducting a tree assessment?**

(a) "Lit-rit-chur? Do you mean the Sekret Tree Lopers Kod? I don't talk about that. I like to look in Picture magazine. **(0 points)**

(b) "Well, Mattheck's *Body Language of Trees* is a given, and of course we all owe a debt to Shigo's work on compartmentalisation. But these days I'd probably be looking to Ken James for a more local flavour, and then diving into the work of... **(2 points)**

(c) Nothing for the first look, and then it would depend on what you found. Most mechanical stuff you'd be happy assessing on-site, with maybe the occasional checking of a pathogen in one of the books back at the office. **(1 point)**

**4: How would you describe your most challenging job so far?**

- (a) "Well, I had the new DMM Impact Block, the large one with the hollow sheave, used as a floating anchor on a highline with four rigging points. I'd calculated the forces with a rigging program on my iPad 2. I was able to rig out the whole pear tree with one cut of my largest handsaw at ground level." **(2 points)**
- (b) "Real men don't talk about what they've done" **(0 points)**
- (c) The one that was most challenging had a lot of technical problems, but you found a way to address them and in the end the job was safe enough. **(1 point)**

**5: What does "taking a big piece" mean to you?**

- (a) "Anything over 10mm is putting an awfully big wound on the tree." **(2 points)**
- (b) It would depend on the anchor point and the equipment. **(1 point)**
- (c) "A real man takes big pieces. Anything I could cut with an '020 is too small." **(0 points)**

**6: It's Friday, 4PM. What are you drinking?**

- (a) Red wine, or maybe a G&T. I find the high level of antioxidants in red wine really help my complexion **(2 points)**
- (b) 4PM? Are you only working part-time these days? Back to work! **(1 point)**
- (c) Victoria Bitter. With any luck there'll be a fight soon. **(0 points)**



### 7: What's for lunch?

- (a) Usually one person will be elected to head down to the nearest shop to buy food for the crew. That way the job doesn't have to stop. **(1 point)**
- (b) "Bicycles everyone! We are heading down to 'Moodies' for an Italian themed lunch. There's free Wi-Fi! **(2 points)**
- (c) Smash a meat pie, coke, doughnut. Beer o'clock soon! **(0 points)**

### 8: What do you think of working with female climbers?

- (a) You don't mind whether someone is male or female, black or white, all that matters is how well they do the job **(1 point)**
- (b) No woman could do this job. How is she supposed to get the cap of the fuel can off, let alone use the '88 for six hours blocking down. This is a man's job. A woman's job is in the kitchen. **(0 points)**
- (c) You're all for positive discrimination. You would hire an unqualified woman over a competent man any day. Your dream is to one day employ a disabled lesbian climber from an obscure (but chic) ethnic minority. **(2 points)**

Barrista! This had better be soy milk in my orange mocha frappucino!



### 9: What's for breakfast?

- (a) "Well naturally the day begins with a soy mocha frappucino, made on my new zanussi espresso machine darling. Then I usually have a grapefruit half, a glass of freshly squeezed orange juice and a bowl of organic granola with soy milk whilst reading The Age in my pajamas. I try to avoid starting work before ten o'clock, so that I have time for my extensive skin-care regime." **(2 points)**
- (b) Last night's pizza, or a pie **(0 points)**
- (c) If there's time you try to have a bowl of cereal or something, if not you grab something on the way to work. **(1 point)**

### 10: A good night out is:

- (a) A very naughty second cocktail after the opera **(2 points)**
- (b) Not getting stopped when driving home blind drunk after winning the punch-on at the local. **(0 points)**
- (c) A couple of drinks with mates and maybe checking out a gig, but all too often these days you have to get home early because of family or work **(1 point)**

Great job chaps, the tree looks perfect! And you've done so well with the cleanup! Let's go grab a latté; if we're lucky there might be a new post on TreeTools.

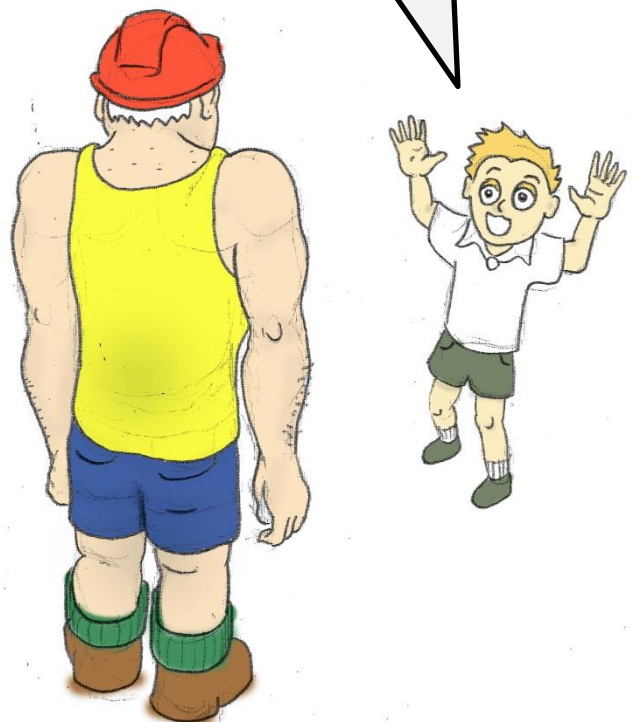


**11: Are you comfortable with physical contact?**

- (a) In its place. **(1 point)**
- (b) You are very comfortable with your masculinity. And with your friends'. You like nothing better than a big hug, when saying hello or goodbye, or when someone gets back from the café with your mocha. **(2 points)**
- (c) You don't even like it when your children touch you. The only way you would be comfortable with physical contact would be during a footie match or a punch-on at the local **(0 point)**

Yay! Daddy's home!

Touch me and die



Hm. Now the positioner is a great device, but the red really doesn't go with my harness. The cinch is green, perfect, but I don't want a dynamic lanyard. It's a puzzler all right.

**12: Buying new equipment is:**

- (a) Necessary to do your job - you need reliable equipment - but nothing to get excited about **(1 point)**
- (b) The annual trip to Big W to replace your wardrobe of stubbies and singlets. You're still on the same spurs that your Dad gave to you when you learned to walk. **(0 points)**
- (c) One of your favourite things in the whole wide world. You spend your time on forums worrying about the imperceptibly slight difference in performance between two almost identical devices... both of which you will replace promptly as soon as something new and shiny comes out. Your climbing gear is colour coded. You have a shortcut to the TreeTools blog on the home screen of your iPhone 5. **(2 points)**



Do you have these in an extra-small?



## **Results:**

**15+** Maybe you should add a teaspoon of concrete to your next mocha frappuccino, and harden the frock up! You probably spend more time looking at climbing stuff online than you actually do climbing. Your equipment is colour-coded and carefully matched, and looks almost brand new. You sometimes have heated arguments with other arborists about which of two pieces of equipment is better. You own at least three pairs of technical trousers. You have a poster of Scott Forrest on your bedroom wall, and you sometimes think that the Treemagineers are a lot like the three wise men from the nativity story.

**9-15** Although it's bound to get uncomfortable sitting on that fence, for the moment you've managed to keep a foot in both camps: you're a real man who's not afraid of being seen with a pair of secateurs and a cambium saver. Some of your gear is getting close to replacement, but it's all safe enough and you get by.

**Less than nine:** I'm surprised you can even read this. Oh, that's right, you've been looking at the pictures. You think that anything designed since 1980 is for poseurs; you get by fine with spurs, flipline and '66 so you think that everything else is a waste of time. You probably think compartmentalisation is something to do with trains, and self-optimisation is when you drink yourself into a good mood.