

# Re: Updated unexpected hanging paradox bibliography

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.math/2005-09/msg02243.html>

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- *From:* Kees <[kees@xxxxxxxxx](mailto:kees@xxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Fri, 09 Sep 2005 18:37:33 EDT
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>>> If the students start with the assumption that it  
> is indeed \*possible\*  
>>> that the teacher is lying, then ...  
>  
>  
>>The problem is that the teacher gave the exam on  
> thursday and  
>>completely surprised all students. So, the teacher  
> wasn't lying after  
>>all... Thus, still a paradox.  
>  
> I think you missed the point. The students were  
> surprised  
> \*because\* they didn't take into account the  
> possibility that  
> the teacher was lying.  
>

What you are saying is the following: suppose I want to prove statement T is false. I say well suppose it is true. Then I derive a contradiction. Now just as I conclude that T is thus false, you say: "wait, you have to keep in mind that T might be false afterwards..." This is not how proof by contradiction works.

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