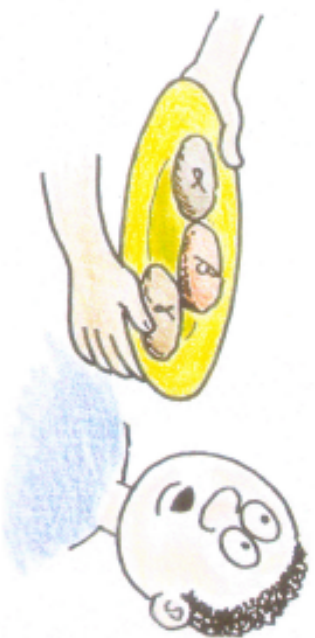


## Next-Time Question

Suppose you are given three radioactive cookies—one an alpha emitter, one a beta emitter, one a gamma emitter. You must eat one, hold one in your hand, and put the other in your pocket. How can you minimize your exposure to radiation?



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### Answer:

Ideally get as far from the cookies as possible. But if you must eat one, hold one, and put one in your pocket, hold the alpha; the skin on your hand will shield you. Put the beta in your pocket; your clothing will likely shield you. Eat the gamma; it will penetrate your body in any of these cases anyway.