

Puzzler:

True story:

A friend of mine was driving through a certain southern state when he was pulled over and arrested by the local police for drunk driving. The next morning, he was summarily brought in front of a judge, and after a short hearing, found guilty (he *was* guilty to be sure) and sentenced to the chain gang for a month.

So they took him to a prison farm, locked shackles around both his ankles and ran a chain through the shackles of the guy behind him, through both his shackles, to the shackles of the guy in front of him and he stayed shackled that way for the whole 30 days.

I was curious about this since I thought that prisoners on a chain gang were only shackled to keep them from running away when they were working outside, but my friend said that they stayed shackled *all* the time, when sleeping, eating, showering...*all the time*.

*Now, wait a minute!* I said. If they stayed shackled for a month, how do they take a shower? Or for that matter how do they change their underwear?

My friend said, in fact, that was the first thing they taught him how to do.

Question: How do the chain gang prisoners do this?

Answer: Very simply. The shackles are just loose enough to allow thin cotton pants and underwear to slip between the shackle and the ankle. Then if you lower your drawers and work the leg *and* waistband through that gap, and back up through the shackle, then repeat on the other side, it is not at all hard to do. And of course they had lots of time to learn this important skill.