

The Puzzle of the Day (well, most days) by Story

Every morning at 8:00 a.m., the Twitter feed for Merriam-Webster (@MerriamWebster) posts its Word Of The Day. Shortly thereafter, I try to come up with a puzzle based on that word, which I then post on my own Twitter feed (@puzzlereric). Here are some of my favorite Twitter puzzles.

yen
noun | YEN
a strong desire or propensity

What do the following words have in common?

AGUA
EASE
EAVE
LAM
LOT
PONG
RAW
YEN

Match up each word or phrase with its "definition."

FLEETING MASSEUSE TEST TUBE
WORKCAMP YUGOSLAV ZIBELINE

- Collection of rear ends
- Company by the river in Egypt
- Line of trucks
- Mr. Fieri, too
- Nickname for a worker on Santa's graveyard shift
- Takes actor Rockwell to court

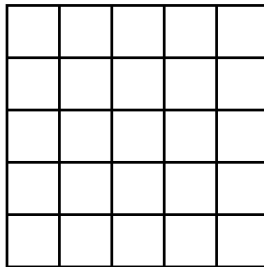
zibeline
noun | ZIB-uh-leen
a soft lustrous wool fabric with mohair

boustrophedon
noun | BOO-struh-FEE-dahn
lines written in alternating directions

Here's a 5x5 boustrophedon:

LEFT/RIGHT
1 Beauty's love
2 Hi
3 African country renamed in 1997
4 Oh so manly
5 Person from Malmö

UP/DOWN
1 Clowns
2 Word after "killer" or "blue"
3 Tea party guest of note
4 Takes a chance
5 Many crosswords have one



You can place the same letter three times into each letter string to make a common word. For example, you could place a C three times into ELETI to make ECLECTIC.

GUIBE
SOCEE
OENTU
UPENE
AENUM
OSESE

eclectic
adjective | ih-LEK-tik
drawing or drawn from varied sources

sleuth
verb | SLOOTH
to search for information

I'm thinking of a five-letter word, with five different letters. Below are six clues to my word. I'll tell you how many letters each clue word has in common with my word. Can you figure out my word?

SOLID 1
DELAY 1
PATIO 1
BEATS 1
QUART 2
STRAY 3

Take a five-letter word. Put ROWEL somewhere within it. You can then insert a space into the resulting ten-letter string, separating it to make two animals.

What five-letter word will accomplish this?

rowel
verb | ROWEL
to vex or trouble

hark back

verb HAR-k-BAK
to return to or remember (something)

If you enter a dog's brain in order to control the sounds he makes, that would be a BARK HACK. Can you use the clues to match the silly answers in the first list with the 4 4 phrases they're based on, clued in the second list?

Bluish-greenish poetry
Catch former Senator Bob committing a crime
Displayed fish eggs
Exchanged the uneaten part of an apple for cash
Give your enemies a job
Like the beans in some burritos
Prison for a religious brother

1973 hit for The Edgar Winter Group
Live; occurring right at that moment
Inflamed blister near the mouth
It's attached to a hydrant
Nickname for Oklahoma and Kansas during the Depression
Tour of various towns and cities, by a political campaign or a musical act
Unwanted stuff delivered by the post office

Each of these five analogies is missing its last word. Each analogy uses a different wordplay trick. Can you figure out each trick and match the answers, below, to their analogies?

BEACH : TREE :: SOARED : ??
CARROT : RUST :: SEASON : ??
SENT : TENNESSEE :: LENS : ??
SPACER : SUMMARIES :: PUPILS : ??
WISCONSIN : DOMAINS :: NORTH CAROLINA : ??

AQUAMAN
HAIR GEL
MISTAKE
SENSELESS
WEAPON

syllogism

noun SIL-uh-jiz-um
deductive reasoning

circumvent

verb i-ser-kum-VENT
to manage to get around by ingenuity

Enter the answers to clues 1-7 across the rows. As you'll see, those answers cause a PROBLEM, reading down. Circumvent that problem with the answers to the second set of clues.

- 1 Hate
- 2 Unfog a windshield
- 3 Cashews alternative
- 4 Late-night guy Stephen
- 5 Very large rock
- 6 Goddess of the harvest
- 7 Pleasing musical effect

Now circumvent the problem:

- Death
- Group of ants
- "Leaps" go-with
- More agile
- Nearly
- Sahara, for one
- Trickier, as a puzzle

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| 1 | | | | P | | | |
| 2 | | | | R | | | |
| 3 | | | | O | | | |
| 4 | | | | B | | | |
| 5 | | | | L | | | |
| 6 | | | | E | | | |
| 7 | | | | M | | | |

ephemeral

adjective i-luh-FEM-uh-rul
lasting a very short time

Each of the following words can be matched up to one of the letters below, according to a rule you must determine.

APPEAR
CHERUB
EPHEMERAL
FLAMBE
PHONY

D L R
X Y

propitious

adjective | pruh-PISH-us
likely to have or produce good results

This puzzle will "produce good results."
Add a letter to each word below,
scramble the letters, and you'll get a
word that means "good" (or even
better than good).

GEAR
BURPS
SPINDLE
REMOVALS
FLOUNDER
OUTSPENDS

The same two letters can go into each
pair of blanks to make a common
word. For example, ON would go into
C _ _ D _ _ E to make CONDONE.

E _ _ M _ _ K
W _ _ T _ _ R
L _ _ I _ _ T
B _ _ S _ _ K
A _ _ A _ _ A

condone

verb | kuh-DOHN
to treat a wrong as harmless or trivial

millefleur

adjective | mee-FLER
having a pattern of small flowers

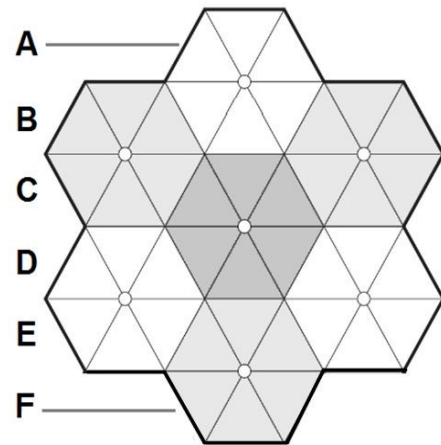
Clues A - F will give you a word for each row of this grid. Use
those words to help place the seven six-letter "blooms," which
can start anywhere on a given flower and can go clockwise or
counterclockwise.

ROWS

A: Actor Mineo
B: Classic game featuring "Cavity
Sam"
C: Chaotic places
D: Primitive farmers might pray to
them (2 words)
E: Taking in air
F: Spanish cheer

BLOOMS

- Activities
- _ _ _ bonds
- Creaks, groans, etc.
- Despite the fact
- Detest
- Hair ointment
- Wedding places



Below are ten-letter words that have been divided
into two-letter pieces. One piece is a duplicate and
has been removed. For example, ABOMINABLE
would be presented as AB IN LE OM.

Can you figure out which bigram to use twice and
restore all the words?

AG IC OM TR
AL EN OM PH
AN ES IA TH
AT SQ ST UE
CE EN EX LL
CH IL IN LA
DI ER SH WA
EP ER ST SI
FE ND RE UM
ME NT RE TI

If you resuscitate the answers to these clues...

- Affirmative responses
- Despise
- React to yeast
- Reduced-prices event

...you'll get these new answers:

- Book part
- Refrigerator drawer
- Some evergreens
- Ticket reseller

How do you resuscitate the first set of answers to get
the second set?

abominable

adjective | uh-BAY-muh-nuh-bul
worthy of hatred or disgust

resuscitate

verb | rihs-SUSS-uh-tayt
to bring back to a conscious state

skav-un-jer
noun | SKAV-un-jer
one that collects or salvages junk

- A word that contains two Vs, but does not start with V?
- A word that contains a Z, and if you change that Z to X, you get a new word?
- A two-word phrase where both words contain the same three-letter sequence? (The two words in the phrase should be different.)
- A word that contains (but does not begin or end with) a four-letter color?
- A food that can be anagrammed into an animal?
- Two words that rhyme but which have no letters in common?

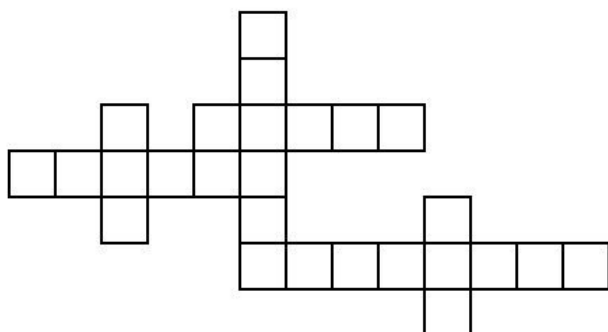
| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| 5 | | | | 6 |
| 7 | | | | |
| 8 | | | | |
| | 9 | | | |

6. Demon drinks

a usually minor malfunction

one of two approximately equal parts
noun | MOY-uh-tee

TURBO



- Archer's accessory
- Areas between high cliffs
- Excessive sentimentality
- Photographs, slangily
- Preoccupied with the nitty-gritty details in one's field
- Purse
- You and I

adjective | KUM-PEN-dee-us
concise and comprehensive