

• H I N T S •

• A N D •

• A N S W E R S •

• H I N T S •

A Small Change

Set A

Hint 1: The answers to the first five clues are ARCANA + V, AROUND + J, BUSHEL + S, LESLIE + P, and REIGN + O, in some order.

Hint 2: The answers to the second five clues are ADMITS + U, BLAMES + R, NONET + W, TRIAGE + M, and THINE + Z, in some order.

Set B

Hint 1: The answers to the first five clues are BOOMER + D, CRANIA + F, MACRON + Y, REALLY + G, and SECEDE + X, in some order.

Hint 2: The answers to the second five clues are ENTIRE + H, GEMINI + A, SOPHIA + B, RENEWS + T, and TUNIS + Q, in some order.

Following The Rules

The rules can be completed as follows:

Set A

1. A woman's name
2. An animal
3. A genre
4. A card game
5. A nationality
6. A tree
7. A word that frequently precedes the word you were just given, in a phrase
8. A man's name
9. A world capital—but then give your partner the country
10. A word that means "atmosphere"

Set B

1. A reference book
2. A pluralized body part
3. An adjective related to size
4. A musical instrument
5. Something associated with a baby
6. An item in a travel kit
7. Something on a keyboard (2 words)
8. An island
9. A word that means "possible"
10. A word that means "suspend"

• H I N T S •

Sounds Good To Me

1. The first word of the clue is MARKSMEN.
 2. The second word of the clue is ACTORS.
 3. The second word of the clue is PRESENT.
 4. The first word of the clue is CHOCOLATE.
 5. The last word of the clue is STATUES.
 6. The first word of the clue is EXPERIENCING.
 7. The third word of the clue is STUFF.
 8. The first word of the clue is VICE.
 9. The first word of the clue is ANGRY.
 10. The first word of the clue is NEARLY.
 11. The first word of the clue is CAUSE.
 12. The second word of the clue is ALLOWS.
-
- a. The first word of the clue is CLOSER.
 - b. The first word of the clue is ONGOING.
 - c. The first word of the clue is ORGANS.
 - d. The first word of the clue is PEOPLE.
 - e. The third word of the clue is SOMETHING.
 - f. The last word of the clue is CONGRESS.

Connections

The first trigram for each clue is given.

Set A

- A) TEX
- B) INS
- C) COM
- D) ELE
- E) APP
- F) SPA
- G) APA
- H) GOI
- I) TWE
- J) TRA

Set B

- 1) COU
- 2) THE
- 3) SMO
- 4) STR
- 5) HOR
- 6) THE
- 7) POL
- 8) BIN
- 9) OKC
- 10) VIR

• H I N T S •

Staircase

The clues for the first word of each landing are given.

Landing 1: This place

Landing 2: Move slowly

Landing 3: Subject of a sentence, generally

Landing 4: Block of hay

Landing 5: Sharpen, as a skill

The clues to the seven words reading down the long diagonal are:

- Area beyond the Pearly Gates
- Australian marsupial
- Become fewer in number
- Creamsicle color
- Hank, in *Finding Dory*
- Interjection akin to “grumble, grumble”
- Olympic event with rifles

These clues are *not* presented in order.

Name Game

In an order you must determine...

ALICE, ANNE, ANYA, CALEB, ELI, and ELLE match to:

- CH____L
- F____NE
- L____RD
- M____
- REP____D
- S____ACK

EMMA, ETHAN, GRACE, GRANT, HOPE, and IRA match to:

- DIL____
- DRA____
- FLA____
- M____E
- ORT____DIC
- SP____L

IRIS, IVAN, KARA, LEON, LIAM, and LINDA match to:

- ____TE
- B____LLEY
- CHAME____
- MIN____
- PAR____ENT
- SAT____T

• H I N T S •

Full Circles

The three pieces that belong to the first circle in each pair are given below.

Set A

1a: (E / QU) - (L / E) - (W / E)

2a: (C / HA) - (I / L) - (PT / DH)

3a: (G / L) - (I / NS) - (R / T)

4a: (P / C) - (PC / K) - (R / N)

5a: (LA / R) - (P / L) - (SC / R)

6a: (AN / MA) - (I / EM) - (N / I)

Set B

1a: (E / G) - (O / O) - (T / PI)

2a: (A / A) - (C / OR) - (R / E)

3a: (A / CH) - (A / I) - (E / N)

4a: (G / O) - (T / E) - (U / E)

5a: (A / I) - (G / MS) - (RI / TO)

6a: (D / I) - (N / E) - (O / E)

Four Minus One

Set A

Page 1:

- The first puzzle's first word begins with J.
- The second puzzle's first word begins with P.
- The third puzzle's first word begins with M.
- The fourth puzzle's first word begins with CY.

Page 2:

- The first puzzle's first word begins in space 10.
- The second puzzle's first word begins with W.
- The third puzzle's first word begins in space 4.

Set B

Page 1:

- The first puzzle's first word begins with C.
- The second puzzle's first word begins with S.
- The third puzzle's first word begins with D.
- The fourth puzzle's first word begins with ST.

Page 2:

- The first puzzle's first word begins with D.
- The second puzzle's first word begins with F.
- The third puzzle's first word begins in space 1.

• H I N T S •

Hybrids

- The answers to the first five clues require the words BRATS, DREAM, NEIGH, PAINE, and TRIBE, in some order.
- The answers to the five clues starting with “Concertgoers, say” require the words AUDIT, MANIA, PARSE, SHINE, and STUBS, in some order.
- The answers to the five clues starting with “Deep and thoughtful” require the words CAN DO, GUEST, PROOF, SLING, and SNOUT, in some order.

Rows Garden

The correct pairs of clues for each row are shown here.

Set A

- B Chocolate-covered treats
Adopts an attitude
- C It brings up the rear (2 words)
They’re often covered in shingles
- D Stairway handholds
Cerebral
- E Scramble the letters
They’re caused by overactive pigment cells
(2 words)
- F Many a science-fiction weapon
Notable science-fiction weapon
- G They’re clumsy
Some fringe decorations

Set B

- B They get out of jail early
Establish, as an elusive fact (2 words)
- C Ice cream, brownies, etc.
Agreements
- D Give to charity
Like rude remarks
- E One who makes the grade
Shade of reddish-brown
- F One half of table salt
Expanded, as a bruise
- G Long throwing weapon
Bill Watterson, notably

• H I N T S •

The Finish Line

Hint 1: Each previous puzzle answer can be modified in the same way to make a silly two-word phrase that matches a clue formed by pairing up a beginning from one solver and an ending from the other.

Hint 2: Insert three letters to each answer to make the new phrase.

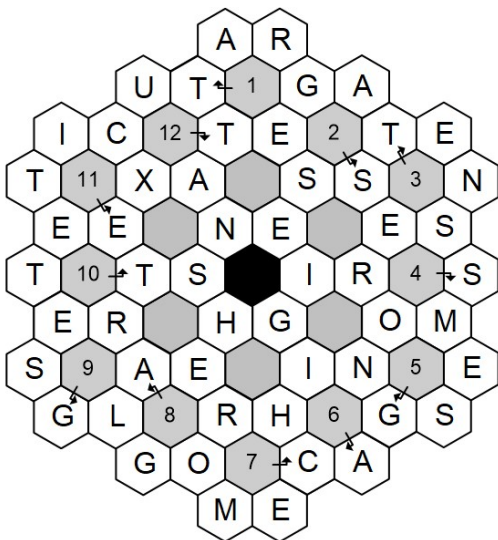
Hint 3: Read these three-letter sets down the page to get the final answer to The Social Distancing Puzzles.

• ANSWERS •

A Small Change

- ADMITS + U = STADIUM
- ARCANA + V = CARAVAN
- AROUND + J = ADJOURN
- BLAMES + R = MARBLES
- BUSHEL + S = BLUSHES
- CRANIA + F = AFRICAN
- ENTIRE + H = NEITHER
- GEMINI + A = IMAGINE
- LESLIE + P = ELLIPSE
- MACRON + Y = ACRONYM
- NONET + W = NEWTON
- REALLY + G = ALLERGY
- REIGN + O = IGNORE
- RENEWS + T = WESTERN
- SECEDE + X = EXCEEDS
- SOPHIA + B = PHOBIAS
- THINE + Z = ZENITH
- TRIAGE + M = RAGTIME
- TUNIS + Q = SQUINT

The unused letters can be rearranged to spell NICKEL.



Following The Rules

Set A

1. PANE → TERI
2. ALMANAC → LLAMA
3. ARTERIES → SATIRE
4. SMALL → BIG → BRIDGE
5. SITAR → BRITISH
6. CRADLE → CEDAR
7. BRUSH → SCRUB
8. SPACE BAR → ABE
9. ARUBA → ACCRA → GHANA
10. VIABLE → VIBE

Set B

1. ROMANCE → ALMANAC
2. TERI → ARTERIES
3. LLAMA → SMALL
4. SATIRE → SITAR
5. BRIDGE → CRADLE
6. BRITISH → BRUSH
7. CEDAR → SPACE BAR
8. SCRUB → ARUBA
9. ABE → VIABLE
10. GHANA → HANG

The two-letter bits that make up VIBE and HANG can be rearranged to spell BEHAVING.

Sounds Good To Me

1. MARKSMEN SHOOT AT IT = TARGET
2. WHERE ACTORS PERFORM IN THE THEATERS = STAGES
3. FUTURE, PRESENT, AND PAST, IN GRAMMAR = TENSES
4. CHOCOLATE AND MARSHMALLOW CAMPFIRE TREATS = SMORES
5. MANY GARDEN STATUES = GNOMES
6. EXPERIENCING PAIN = ACHING
7. SHINY METAL STUFF ON A CAR = CHROME
8. VICE-PRESIDENT UNDER BILL CLINTON = AL GORE
9. ANGRY LOOKS = GLARES
10. NEARLY FALL OVER = TEETER
11. CAUSE ENTHUSIAM IN = EXCITE
12. IT ALLOWS YOU TO PAY LESS TO THE GOVERNMENT = TAX CUT

- a. CLOSER TO THE SKY = HIGHER
- b. ONGOING TELEVISION PROGRAM = SERIES
- c. ORGANS ON A VALENTINE'S DAY CARD = HEARTS
- d. PEOPLE IN HOUSTON AND DALLAS = TEXANS
- e. PLACE WHERE SOMETHING BEGINS = ORIGIN
- f. ONE HALF OF OUR CONGRESS = SENATE

The middle word of the grid is NEIGHS.

• ANSWERS •

Connections

Set A

- A) TEXT MESSAGES
- B) INSTAGRAM PHOTOS
- C) COMMUTER RAIL
- D) ELECTRIC CALCULATOR
- E) APPOINTMENT VIEWING
- F) SPACE INVADERS AND MS. PAC-MAN
- G) A PAIR OF TIN CANS AND SOME STRING
- H) GOING TO SINGLES BARS
- I) TWENTY-FOUR HOUR NEWS CYCLES
- J) TRANSISTOR RADIO

Set B

- 1) COUNTING ON YOUR FINGERS
- 2) THE LATEST IPHONE
- 3) SMOKE SIGNALS
- 4) STREAMING MUSIC APPS
- 5) HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE
- 6) THE TOWN CRIER
- 7) POLAROID CAMERAS
- 8) BINGE-WATCHING NETFLIX AND HULU
- 9) OKCUPID, TINDER, OR GRINDR
- 10) VIRTUAL REALITY HEADSET

The proper connections, from the old-fashioned to the modern, are: A-3, B-7, C-5, D-1, E-8, F-10, G-2, H-9, I-6, J-4. Drawing the lines properly leaves Q, A, and I in one puzzle, and U, N, and T in the other. The answer to the puzzle is QUAIN T.

H	E	R	E																					
C	A	V	E	D																				
O	M	E	N	S																				
	M	A	D	E																				
		C	L																					
			I	N	C	H																		
			B	E	B	O	P																	
			A	L	I	A	S																	
				M	Y	T	H																	
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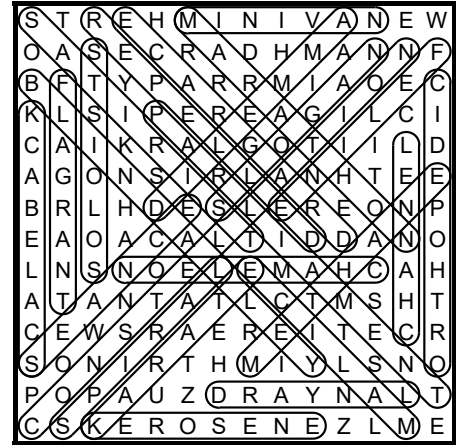
Staircase

The connections between the landings have the letters CL, LO, OM, and MP. The answer to the puzzle is CLOMP.

• ANSWERS •

Name Game

B(LINDA)LLEY	(MARA)THON
CHAME(LION)	M(ETHAN)E
CH(ANNE)L	MIN(IVAN)
CON(STELLA)TION	ORT(HOPE)DIC
DIL(EMMA)	PAR(LIAM)ENT
DRA(G RACE)	REP(ELLE)D
F(ELI)NE	SAT(IRIS)T
FLA(GRANT)	S(CALE B)ACK
(KARA)TE	(SEAN)CE
KE(ROSE)NE	S(LOGAN)
L(ANYA)RD	SO(LOIS)T
M(ALICE)	SP(IRA)L



The leftover letters spell "The word HAYRICK is the answer to this puzzle."

Full Circles

1a: YELLOW SQUEEZE BOTTLE TOPPING = MUSTARD

1b: CHESSBOARD KNIGHT RELIGIOUS NEIGHBOR = BISHOP

2a: CAPTAIN AMERICA HANDHELD ACCESSORY = SHIELD

2b: WEIGHTY OBJECT HOLDING SAILBOATS = ANCHOR

3a: KITCHEN PANCAKE TURNING UTENSIL = SPATULA

3b: IMAGINARY CREATURE BREATHING FLAMES = DRAGON

4a: POPCORN NUGGET BEFORE COOKING = KERNEL

4b: ADJECTIVE DESCRIBING MONKEY GEORGE = CURIOUS

5a: LANDSCAPE RARELY FEATURING RAINSTORMS = DESERT

5b: CRIMSON LIQUID INSIDE EVERYONE = BLOOD

6a: ANCIENT WOODEN MATHEMATICS DEVICE = ABACUS

6b: NOISEMAKER REFEREES FREQUENTLY UTILIZE = WHISTLE

The answer to the puzzle is SHARDS.

• ANSWERS •

Four Minus One

Set A

- JEFFERSON, LINCOLN, ROOSEVELT (Mount Rushmore: WASHINGTON)
- PARSLEY, SAGE, THYME ("Scarborough Fair:" ROSEMARY)
- McCARTNEY, STARR, LENNON (The Beatles: HARRISON)
- CYAN, YELLOW, BLACK (Printer colors: MAGENTA)
- SAMANTHA, MIRANDA, CARRIE ("Sex and the City:" CHARLOTTE)
- WANDS, SWORDS, CUPS (Tarot's Major Arcana: PENTACLES)
- LEONARDO, DONATELLO, RAPHAEL (Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: MICHELANGELO)

Set B

- COLORADO, ARIZONA, UTAH (Four Corner states: NEW MEXICO)
- SPADES, CLUBS, DIAMONDS (Card suits: HEARTS)
- DOROTHY, BLANCE, ROSE ("The Golden Girls:" SOPHIA)
- STRINGS, WINDS, BRASS (Instrument types: PERCUSSION)
- DOROTHY, SCARECROW, TIN MAN ("The Wizard of Oz:" COWARDLY LION)
- FRESHMAN, JUNIOR, SENIOR (School classes: SOPHOMORE)
- ALTO, TENOR, BASS (Voices: SOPRANO)

The shared puzzle contains the seasons: SUMMER, SPRING, AUTUMN. The answer is WINTER.

Hybrids

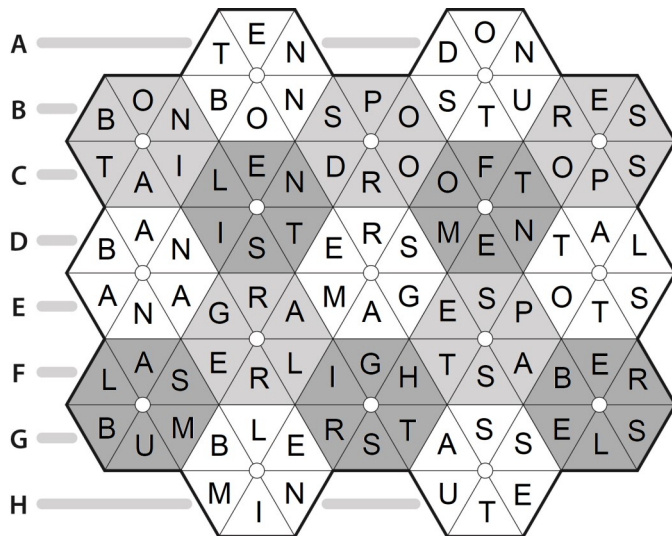
- PAINE + CLONE = PINE CONE
- BRATS + HEIST = BRASHEST
- TRIBE + TANKS = TIBETANS
- NEIGH + TOWEL = NIGHT OWL
- DREAM + ATTIC = DRAMATIC
- AUDIT + HENCE = AUDIENCE
- SHINE + WEAVE = SINE WAVE
- MANIA + CURSE = MANICURE
- STUBS + ON ICE = SUBSONIC
- PARSE + NATAL = PARENTAL
- PROOF + SOUND = PROFOUND
- GUEST + HALTS = GESTALTS
- SNOUT + HERON = SOUTHERN
- CAN DO + PRIED = CANOPIED
- SLING + EERIES = LINGERIE

The dropped letters, reading down the columns, spell the clue phrase A TREE THAT SOUNDS LIKE THE SEASHORE. The answer to this puzzle is BEECH.

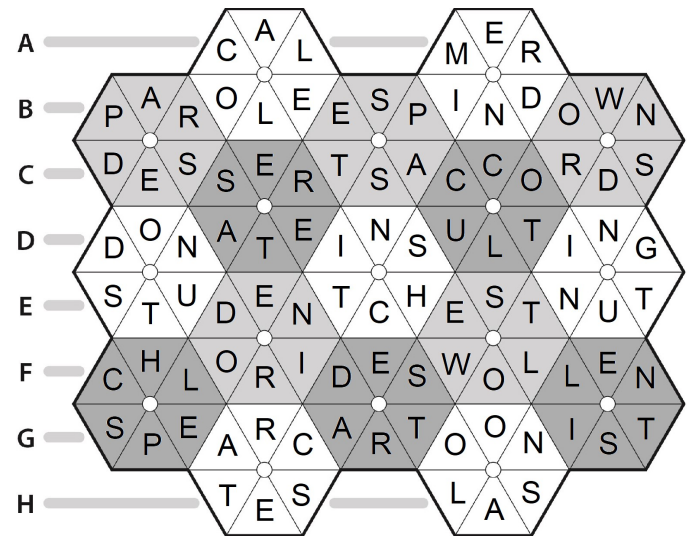
• ANSWERS •

Rows Gardens

Set A



Set B



The three duplicated blossoms are DONUTS, PASTES, and SILENT. Properly moving these to the smaller blossoms reveals the answer to the puzzle, TULIPS.

The Finish Line

The answers, in order, are:

TULIPS
BEHAVING
NICKEL
CLOMP
HAYRICK
SHARDS
NEIGHS
WINTER
QUAINT
BEECH

By adding three letters (and a space) to each of these, you can create a phrase that answers one of the matched pair of clues:

TUBE CLIPS (Fasteners that hold shut toothpaste containers)
BEAU SHAVING (Boyfriend using a razor)
NICE YOKEL (Pleasant countryside resident)
CLOUD IMP (Mischief maker who lives in the sky)
HAYDN TRICK (Bit of magic from composer Joseph)
SHARK NODS (Scary sea creature silently agrees)
NEW THIGHS (Freshly unwrapped upper legs)
WINE HATER (One who is unlikely to visit Napa Valley)
QUAIL FONT (Typeface that looks like a small bird)
BEEF ITCH (Allergic reaction caused by hamburger)

The letters you add spell out the final answer: BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT.