

МІНІСТЕРСТВО ОСВІТИ І НАУКИ УКРАЇНИ
ПРИКАРПАТСЬКИЙ НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ
ІМЕНІ ВАСИЛЯ СТЕФАНИКА
КАФЕДРА АНГЛІЙСЬКОЇ ФІЛОЛОГІЇ

WORDPLAY
in the EFL Classroom

Навчально-методичний посібник

Івано-Франківськ
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Метою навчально-методичного посібника є привнесення у навчальний процес елементів гумору, збагачення словникового запасу та розвиток творчого і логічного мислення студентів, покращення їх вимови.

Посібник містить цікаву інформацію про різноманітні мовні ігри та засоби (загадки, ребуси, каламбури, скоромовки тощо), які можуть застосовуватися при вивченні англійської мови.

Матеріал запропонованого посібника можна широко використовувати у вищих навчальних закладах, на факультетах підвищення кваліфікації вчителів, а також для проведення факультативних занять у школах із поглибленим вивченням англійської мови.

CONTENTS

1. Unit I. Puns.....	4
2. Unit II. Tongue Twisters.....	7
3. Unit III. Anagrams.....	8
4. Unit IV. Riddles.....	11
5. Unit V. Palindromes.....	18
6. Unit VI. Clerihews.....	22
7. Unit VII. Rebuses.....	27
8. Unit VIII. Crossword Puzzles.....	29

Unit I. PUNS

Pun (also called *paronomasia*) – a humorous use of a word in such a way as to suggest different meanings or applications, or a play on words, as in the use of the word rings in the following nursery rhyme:

*Ride a cock-horse to Banbury Cross,
To see a fine lady upon a white horse;
Rings on her fingers and bells on her toes,
She shall have music wherever she goes.*

Common as jokes and in riddles, puns also may be used seriously, as in John Donne's "A Hymne to God the Father":

*Swear by thy selfe, that at my death thy sonne
Shall shine as he shines now, and heretofore;
And, having done that, Thou haste done;
I fear no more.*

This quatrain contains two puns, son / sun and done / Donne.

(From *Encyclopædia Britannica*)

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES:

- **Play upon words with the same spelling, the same sound, different meaning (homograph):**

1) "I love thee **still**," said the quiet husband to the chattering wife.

2) One day a painter, looking out of the window, saw an old countryman going by and thought the man would make a good subject for a picture. So he sent out his servant to tell the old man that his master would like to **paint** him. The old man hesitated and asked what the painter would pay him. The painter said he would give him a **pound**. The man still hesitated.

"Come on," said the painter, "it's an easy way to **earn** a pound."

"Oh, I know that," he answered. "I was only wondering how I should get the paint off afterwards."

3) Diner: Do you **serve** crabs here?

Waiter: We **serve** anyone – sit down.

4) – So you're just back from your holiday. Feel any **change**?

– Not a penny.

5) There will be little **change** in men's clothing this season; especially very little **change** in their pockets.

- **Play upon words with the same sound, different spelling, different meaning (homophone):**

1) A **piece** of music is always spelled *p-i-e-c-e*. **Peace** and music never go together.

2) Why is a fishmonger never generous? – Because his business makes him **sell fish**. (Cf. **selfish**)

3) She: You see, darling, this hat costs only twenty dollars. **Good buy**.

He: Yes, **good-bye**, twenty dollars.

4) There was a young girl, a sweet lamb,
Who smiled as she entered a tram;
After she had embarked,
The conductor remarked,
Your **fare**? And she said: "Yes, I am".

5) – What's the difference between a jeweler and a jailer?
– I don't know. What is the difference?
– One **sells watches** and the other **watches cells**.

6) **WHEN THE DYER DIES**

*The dyer dyes a while, then dies –
To dye he's always trying
Until upon his dying bed
He thinks no more of dyeing.*

- **Play upon phrases taken as a whole, in both their literal meaning (free combination of words) and figurative meaning (set phrases):**

1) – What have you got put away for a **rainy day**?
– An umbrella.

2) If your wife wants to learn to drive, don't **stand in her way**.

3) A young sailor came home on leave and said: "Dad, I need your help. I've got to **get something off my chest**."

"Oh," his father said, "tell me."

The sailor said, "I'm going to marry Joan, but I've got to **get this of my chest**." He opened his shirt and there on his chest was tattooed: "I love Fifi."

- **Play upon meaning of separate word-components of phrases:**

1) – What were you doing during the War?
– I was **doing time**.

2) The **best man** does not always get the bride.

• **Play upon grammatical and phonetic structures:**

1) Sergeant: Who likes **moving pictures**? (Most of the men eagerly step forward.) All right, you fellows carry the pictures from the basement to the attic.

2) – What has four legs and **flies**?

– I don't know.

– Your dinner table.

3) An angler was staying at an inn situated close to a river, which provided good fishing, and desirous of getting some bait, he said to the servant-maid:

– I say, girl, can I get **horse-flies** round here?

The girl looked wooden.

– Have you ever seen a **horse-fly** in these parts?

– No, sir, but I once saw a cow jump over a fence.

4) Professor: Name two pronouns.

Student: **Who? Me?**

5) A lady had just purchased a postage stamp.

– Must I **stick it on myself**?

– Positively not, madam. It will accomplish more if you stick it on the envelope.

6) – Waiter!

– Yes, sir.

– What's this?

– **It's bean soup**, sir.

– No matter **what it's been**. What is it now?

7) – Is a chicken **big enough to eat** when it's two weeks old?

– Of course not!

– Then how does it manage to live?

8) Teacher (paying a visit): Are your father and mother in, Morton?

Morton: They was in, but they is out.

Teacher: Why, Morton! "They was in!" "They is out!" Where's your **grammar**?

Morton: She's upstairs taking a nap.

Unit II. TONGUE TWISTERS

Tongue Twister – a word or group of words made difficult to articulate by a close sequence of similar consonantal sounds. Tongue twisters are often passed on for generations, becoming a rich part of folklore. Two widely known English-language twisters are “She sells sea shells beside the seashore” and one beginning “Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers”. Some are more difficult to enunciate – “The sixth sheik’s sixth sheep’s sick.”

Tongue twisters have been recommended for curing hiccups and for curing lisps and other speech defects. They are also used for testing the fit of dentures and for screening applicants for broadcasting positions.

(From *Encyclopædia Britannica*)

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES:

- 1) Betty and Bob brought back blue balloons from the big bazaar.
- 2) A big black bug bit a big black bear, made the big black bear bleed blood.
- 3) The hammer-man hammers the hammer on the hard highroad.
- 4) Little lady Lilly lost her lovely locket,
Lucky little Lucy found the lovely locket.
Lovely little locket lay in Lucy’s pocket,
Lazy little Lilly lost the lovely locket!
- 5) A pleasant place to place a plaice is a place where a plaice is pleased to be placed.
- 6) Give Papa a cup of proper coffee in a copper coffee cup.
- 7) Sarah saw a shot-silk sash shop full of shot-silk sashes as the sunshine shone on the side of the shot-silk sash shop.
- 8) Robert Rowley rolled a round roll round.
- 9) William always wears a very warm woollen vest in winter. Victor however will never wear woollen underwear even in the Wild West.
- 10) I thought a thought
But the thought I thought
Was not the thought
I thought I thought.
- 11) Pretty Kitty Creighton had a cotton batten cat. The cotton batten cat was bitten by a rat.
- 12) I cannot bear to see a bear bear down upon a hare.

II. ANAGRAMS

ANAGRAM – the transposing of the letters of a word or group of words to produce other words that possess meaning, preferably bearing some logical relation to the original. The construction of anagrams is of great antiquity. Their invention is often ascribed without authority to the Jews, probably because the later Hebrew writers, particularly the Kabbalists, were fond of them, asserting that “secret mysteries are woven in the numbers of letters.” Anagrams were known to the Greeks and Romans, although known Latin examples of words of more than one syllable are nearly all imperfect. They were popular throughout Europe during the Middle Ages and later, particularly in France, where a certain Thomas Billon was appointed “anagrammatist to the king.”

The making of anagrams was an exercise of many religious orders in the 16th and 17th centuries, and the angelical salutation “Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum” (“Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee”) was a favourite base; it was transposed to hundreds of variations, as, for example, “Virgo serena, pia, munda et immaculata” (“Virgin serene, holy, pure, and immaculate”). Among other anagrams is that from Florence Nightingale into “Flit on, cheering angel.” The pseudonyms adopted by authors are often anagrams. In the 20th century, anagrams frequently have been used in crossword puzzles, in both the clues and the solutions.

(From *Encyclopædia Britannica*)

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES:

• **Short anagrams:**

- 1) A decimal point – I’m a dot in place
- 2) A gentleman – Elegant man
- 3) Alec Guinness – Genuine class
- 4) Astronomer – Moon starrer
- 5) Circumstantial evidence – Can ruin a selected victim
- 6) Clint Eastwood – Old west action
- 7) Contaminated – No admittance
- 8) Creative – Reactive
- 9) Debit card – Bad credit
- 10) Discriminator – Doctrinairism
- 11) Dormitory – Dirty room

- 12) Election results – Lies! Let's recount
- 13) Funeral – Real fun
- 14) Intoxicate – Excitation
- 15) Listen – Silent
- 16) Margaret Thatcher – That great charmer
- 17) Mel Gibson – Big melons
- 18) Mother-in-law – Woman Hitler
- 19) Orchestra – Carthorse
- 20) Paternal – Parental
- 21) Payment received – Every cent paid me
- 22) Postponed – Stopped? No.
- 23) President Boris Yeltsin – Endless insobriety trip
- 24) Protectional – Lactoprotein
- 25) Punishment – Nine Thumps
- 26) Replays – Parsley
- 27) Resistance – Ancestries
- 28) Ronald Wilson Reagan – Insane Anglo Warlord
- 29) Schoolmaster – The classroom
- 30) Slot machines – Cash lost in 'em
- 31) Statue of Liberty – Built to stay free
- 32) The Aristocracy – A rich Tory caste
- 33) The countryside – No city dust here
- 34) The earthquakes – That queer shake
- 35) The eyes – They see
- 36) The Morse code – Here come dots
- 37) The public art galleries – Large picture halls, I bet
- 38) Twelve plus one – Eleven plus two
- 39) Victoria, England's Queen – Governs a nice quiet land
- 40) Western Union – No wire unsent
- 41) William Shakespeare – I am a weakish speller (or) I like Mr. W.H. as a pal, see? (or) We all make his praise

• **Long anagrams:**

1) To be or not to be: that is the question; whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune... > *In one of the Bard's best-thought-of tragedies our insistent hero, Hamlet, queries on two fronts about how life turns rotten.*

2) To be or not to be: that is the question; whether 'tis nobler in the

mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, or to take arms against a sea of troubles and by opposing, end them? > 1. *Is a befitting quote from one of Shakespeare's greatest tragedies? But why won't Hamlet's inspiring motto toss our stubborn hero's tortuous battle for life, on one hand, and death, on another? 2. I wrote all of Shakespeare's plays, and the wife and I got together, did most of his sonnets for our entertainment. But tormentors oft attribute that our brash quotes as being bogus. O! no! no! no!*

3) "That's one small step for a man; one giant leap for mankind." *Neil Armstrong* > *A thin man ran... makes a large stride... left planet... pins flag on moon... on to Mars!*

• **Anagram poems:**

The Little Boy and the Old Man

Shel Silverstein

Said the little boy, "Sometimes I drop my spoon."

Said the old man, "I do that too."

The little boy whispered, "I wet my pants."

"I do that too," laughed the little old man.

Said the little boy, "I often cry."

The old man nodded, "So do I."

"But worst of all," said the boy, "it seems

Grown-ups don't pay attention to me."

And he felt the warmth of a wrinkled old hand.

"I know what you mean," said the little old man.

The Tot and the Elder

Olin Foblioso & Billy Foblioso

The tiny tot went: "When I eat I mess up."

The elder replied: "O, that makes two of us."

"I soil myself," went the tot with shame

And the elder added: "O, I do the same."

On the tot told him: "I sob a lot."

"O, not only you," answered gramps to the tot.

"And what's totally bad," the tiny tot told,

"I think mom and dad don't love me at all."

While grandpa simply, pitifully smiled,

Then said: "O, I understand, my child."

Unit IV. RIDDLES

Riddle – a deliberately enigmatic or ambiguous question requiring a thoughtful and often witty answer. The riddle is a form of guessing game that has been apart of the folklore of most cultures from ancient times. Western scholars generally recognize two main kinds of riddle: the descriptive riddle and the shrewd or witty question.

The descriptive riddle usually describes an animal, person, plant, or object in an intentionally enigmatic manner, to suggest something different from the correct answer. “What runs about all day and lies under the bed at night?” suggests “A dog,” but the answer is “A shoe.” The description usually consists of one general and one specific element. The general element stands first and is to be understood metaphorically. Thus, in this English rhyming riddle

*Little Nancy Etticoat
In a white petticoat
And a red nose:
The longer she stands
The shorter she grows*

a girl seems to be described. The second element, to be understood literally, appears to contradict the first. Nancy Etticoat grows shorter the longer she stands because she is a lighted candle. An apparently late development is the use of puns: e.g., “What’s black and white and red all over?” – “A newspaper,” in which both “red” and “all over” are to be understood also in the sense of “read” and “everywhere,” respectively.

Descriptive riddles deal with appearance, not function. Thus, an egg is “A little white house without door or window,” not something to eat or something from which a chicken hatches. Paradoxical riddles provide descriptions in terms of action. Common examples of these are: “What grows bigger the more you take from it?” – “A hole”; and “The man who made it did not want it; the man who bought it did not use it; the man who used it did not know it” – “A coffin.”

Descriptive riddles are universal, but they rarely occur in folktales or ballads. An unusual example of one in a folktale is that asked by the Sphinx, the monster that terrorized the Boeotian Thebans of ancient Greece: “What has one voice, and walks on four legs in the morning, two at noon, and three

in the evening?" The answer was given by Oedipus: "A man, who crawls on all fours in infancy, walks on two feet when grown, and leans on a staff when aged."

Lacking a generic name in English, shrewd or witty questions are classed with riddles. They are of ancient origin. A classical Greek example that has been widely translated is "What is the strongest of all things?" – "Love: iron is strong, but the blacksmith is stronger, and love can subdue the blacksmith."

Shrewd questions may be classified by subject and form. Those dealing with letters of the alphabet, words, and symbols are generally statements calling for interpretation: e.g., "ICUR YY 4 me" ("I see you are too wise for me"); "What is in the middle of Paris?" – "R"; "Spell 'dry grass' with 3 letters?" – "Hay." The influence of the classroom in such riddles (sometimes called "catch riddles") is clear.

Questions such as "What is the difference between ... and ...?" or "Why is ... like ...?" usually contain puns and are probably modern. Such catch questions as these seem to be known only in Western cultures.

(From *Encyclopædia Britannica*)

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES:

- **Funny English poetry riddles:**

- 1) I strike each hour.
But don't forget:
You must not strike me,
My good friend!
(A clock)
- 2) I go at night and all the day,
But I never go away.
(A clock)
- 3) I have a face,
I have a little hand,
I have a big hand,
My face is white,
My hands are black,
I have no feet,
I can run. What am I?
(A clock)
- 4) I have no legs,
But I can run.

I have no tongue
 But I tell everyone:
 "Time to start work!"
 "Time to go to bed!"
 "Time to get up again,
 You, sleepy-head!"

(An alarm clock)

- 5) It's not very big,
 But it hangs in the middle of the room.
 In the daytime nobody wants it,
 But at night everybody needs it.

(A lamp)

- 6) This is a house
 With one window in it,
 Showing films
 Nearly every minute.

(A TV set)

- 7) I have legs – one, two, three, four
 But I cannot walk across the floor.

(A chair)

- 8) If you want to get rid of dust,
 Then I'm surely an absolute must.
 From every corner and every hook
 I'll suck it out by hook and by crook.

(A vacuum cleaner)

- 9) The funny fellow is on the watch,
 He doesn't sleep by day,
 He stands in our garden
 And frightens birds away.

(A scarecrow)

- 10) What goes up and down at the same time?

(A staircase)

- 11) What has two arms and four legs?

(A chair)

- 12) What is white when it is dirty and black when it is clean?

(A blackboard)

- 13) Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,

Humpty Dumpty had a great fall;
 Three score men and three score more
 Could not place Humpty Dumpty as he was before.

(An egg)

- 14) The outside is a shell,
 The inside is meat,
 It grows on a tree,
 And is good to eat.

(A nut)

- 15) Thirty white horses upon a red hill,
 Now they tramp, now they champ,
 Now they stand still.

(The teeth)

- 16) Hick-a-more, Hack-a-more,
 On the kitchen floor;
 All the horses, all the men,
 Couldn't drive Hick-a-more, Hack-a-more,
 Off the kitchen floor.

(Sunshine)

- 17) Old mother Twitchett had but one eye,
 And a long tail which she let fly,
 And every time she went over a gap,
 She left a bit of her tail in a trap.

(A needle and thread)

- 18) Higher than a house,
 Higher than a tree –
 Oh, whatever can that be?

(A star)

- 19) I went to the wood and got it,
 As I brought it home, I looked at it,
 The more I looked at it,
 The less I liked it,
 I brought it home
 Because I couldn't help it.

(A thistle)

- 20) I know a little creature
 In a green bed,

With softest wrappings
 All round its head.
 When it grows old,
 It is hard and cannot feel,
 So they take it to the mill,
 And grind it into meal.

(Corn)

• **Some other riddles:**

1) Find the 9-Gram Marbles Riddle

There are ten bags containing marbles. Each bag has at least 10 marbles in it. Nine of the bags contain only marbles weighting 10 grams each. One of the bags contains only marbles weighing nine grams each. Each bag has a different number of marbles in it. All of the marbles look exactly the same.

The riddle is how can you know which bag has the nine-gram marbles if the only device allowed to be used is a weighing scales which you can use only once?

2) The 41st President Riddle

President Clinton is listed as our 41st president, but only 40 men have held the office.

Why?

3) Father / Son Riddle

A man while looking at a photograph said, "Brothers and sisters have I none. That man's father is my father's son."

Who was the person in the photograph?

4) Date Riddle

What happened in 1961 that will not happen again for over 4000 years?

5) Numbers Riddle

A man wanted to enter an exclusive club but did not know the password that was required. He waited by the door and listened. A club member knocked on the door and the doorman said, "twelve." The member replied, "six" and was let in. A second member came to the door and the doorman said, "six" The member replied, "three" and was let in. The man thought he had heard enough and walked up to the door. The doorman said, "ten" and the man replied, "five." But he was not let in.

What should have he said?

6) The Loser Wins Riddle

A sheik announced that a race would decide which of his two sons

would inherit all his wealth. The sons were to ride their camels to a certain distant city. The son whose camel reached the city last would be given all the sheik's wealth.

The two sons set out on the journey. After several days of aimless wandering, they met and agreed to seek the advice of a wise man. After listening to the wise man's advice, the two sons rode the camels as quickly as possible to the designated city.

What was it that the wise man told the two sons? They did not agree to split the wealth, and their father's decree would be followed.

7) Which First Riddle

You are in a cold house in the winter. It is dark. You have one match. There is a candle and there is a wood-burning stove.

Which do you light first?

8) Drying Riddle

What is it that gets wetter when it dries?

9) Philosopher's Clock Riddle

It is an old logic puzzle. One philosopher had a clock, which he had forgotten to wind up. He had no other clock, watch, radio, TV, phone or any other device telling the time. So when his clock stopped he went to a friend, stayed there the whole night and when he came home, he knew the right time.

How could he know?

10) Masters of Logic Riddle (Dots)

Three masters of logic wanted to find out, who is the wisest one. So they invited the grand master, who took them into a dark room and said: "I will paint each one of you a red or a blue dot on forehead. When you walk out and you will see at least one red point, hands-up. Who says what colour is the dot on his own forehead as first, wins." Then he painted only red dots on every one. When they went out everybody had their hands up and after a while of killing thinking one of them said: "I have a red dot on my head."

How could he be so sure?

11) Masters of Logic Riddle (Hats)

The two losing masters wanted a riposte, and so the grand master showed 5 hats, two white and three black. Then he said: "I will turn off the light and put each of you a hat on a head and I hide the other hats. When I turn on the light you will have equal chances to win. Each of you will see the hats of the two others, however not his own. The first one saying the colour of his hat

will win." Then before he could turn off the light, one of the masters (the same one again) guessed, what the colour of his hat will be.

What hat should it has been and how did he know?

12) Masters of Logic Riddle (Stamps)

Eat this. The grand master takes a set of 8 stamps, 4 red and 4 green, known to the logicians, and loosely affixes two to the forehead of each logician so that each logician can see all the other stamps except those 2 in the moderator's pocket and the two on her own head. He asks them in turn if they know the colours of their own stamps: A: "No." B: "No." C: "No." A: "No." B: "Yes."

What are the colours of her stamps, and what is the situation?

13) Headbands Riddle

Three white men were taken captive by a hostile Indian tribe. The chieftain was willing to let them go so he took them to a tepee, where there was no light. He put one headband on each head of them (he had 3 white and 2 red -- so 2 headbands were not used). Then they went out in a queue so that each man saw the headband of those standing in front of him (the first one did not see any head band, the second one saw the first one's head band, and the third one saw the head bands of the two others). If somebody had said the colour of his headband, they all would have been free. After a quiet while one of them said: "My headband is..."

What colour was his headband? And how would you reason it?

14) Christmas Tree Riddle

There were 4 angels on a Christmas tree (besides other froufrou). Two had a blue aureole and two yellow, however none of them can see behind his head. Angel A is on the highest place and he can see angels B and C, which hang below him. Below hangs angel B that can see only angel C under him. Angel C can't see anybody, because angel D hangs under a twig (nobody can see him and he can not see anyone either).

Which one of them will be the first to guess, what his aureole is?

Unit V. PALINDROMES

Palindrome – a word, number, sentence, or verse that reads the same backward or forward. The term derives from the Greek *palin dromo* (“running back again”).

Examples of word palindromes include “civic,” “madam,” “radar,” and “deified.” Numerical palindromes include sequences that read the same in reverse order (e.g., 1991), as well as those that can be read upside down and backward (e.g., 1961). Examples of sentences include “Able was I ere I saw Elba” and “Lewd did I live & evil I did dwell.” Examples of verse include (in Latin) “Roma tibi subito motibus ibit amor” and “Signa te, signa temere me tangis et angis.” Some persons have refined upon the palindrome and composed verses each word of which is the same read backward as forward – for instance, that of William Camden:

*Odo tenet mulum, madidam mappam tenet
Anna
Anna tenet mappam madidam, mulum tenet,
Odo*

The following is still more complicated, as it can be read in four ways – upward and downward as well as backward and forward:

S A T O R
A R E P O
T E N E T
O P E R A
R O T A S

This Latin palindromic square, which was found on a Roman wall in Cirencester, Eng., and in Pompeii, Italy, may be translated: “Arepo the sower holds the wheels with care.” As late as the 19th century it was graven on amulets and charms and laid upon pregnant women to ensure safe delivery. Like the sign of the fish (an acrostic: Greek *ichthys*, “fish,” happens to have the first letters of the Greek words for Jesus Christ, God’s son, Saviour), the

square may have been used to identify fellow Christians in the days of persecution, for its letters form a cross with the word *tenet* and can be arranged in the cross

```

      P
      A
      T
      E
      R
P A T E R N O S T E R
      O
      S
      T
      E
      R
  
```

with four letters remaining: *A*, *O*, *A*, and *O*. These, placed at the extremities, can represent alpha and omega. Though some, because of the early date of the eruption that destroyed Pompeii (AD 79), suggest a Jewish origin, the threefold Christian symbols, cross, prayer, and quotation, seem to confute them; moreover, the letters of the square can be rearranged to spell *Oro Te, Pater; oro Te, Pater; sanas*: "I pray to thee, Father. Thou healest." Thus the palindrome, now merely a game, had a serious beginning.

(From *Encyclopædia Britannica*)

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES:

• Palindromic Phrases:

- 1) Adam, I'm Ada!
- 2) A dog, a pan, a pagoda.
- 3) Ah, Satan sees Natasha.
- 4) A man, a plan, a canal, Panama.
- 5) A Toyota! Race fast, safe car. A Toyota.

- 6) Delia sailed, Eva waved, Elias ailed.
- 7) Dennis and Edna sinned.
- 8) Do geese see God?
- 9) Eva, can I pose as Aesop in a cave?
- 10) Eva, can I stab bats in a cave?
- 11) He lived as a devil, eh?
- 12) Madam, I'm Adam.
- 13) Marge lets Norah see Sharon's telegram.
- 14) Naomi, did I moan?
- 15) Neil! An alien!
- 16) Nella risks all: «I will ask Sir Allen.»
- 17) No lemons, no melon.
- 18) No mists or frost, Simon.
- 19) No, it is open on one position.
- 20) No, it is opposition.
- 21) Norma is as selfless as I am, Ron.
- 22) Now Eve, we're here, we've won.
- 23) Now, sir, a war is won!
- 24) Red rum, sir, is murder.
- 25) Rise to vote, Sir.
- 26) Satan, oscillate my metallic sonatas.
- 27) Sex at noon taxes.
- 28) Sh! Tom sees moths.
- 29) Sir, I'm Iris.
- 30) Stab bats.
- 31) Stella won no wallets.
- 32) Stop, Syrian, I see bees in airy spots.
- 33) Sums are not set as a test on Erasmus.
- 34) Too far, Edna, we wander afoot.
- 35) Too hot to hoot.
- 36) Trade life defiled art.
- 37) Was it Eliot's toilet I saw?
- 38) We seven, Eve, sew.
- 39) Won't lovers revolt now?

• **A rather long palindrome (but not the longest one):**

A man, a plan, a caret, a ban, a myriad, a sum, a lac, a liar, a hoop, a pint, a catalpa, a gas, an oil, a bird, a yell, a vat, a caw, a pax, a wag, a tax, a nay, a ram, a cap, a yam, a gay, a tsar, a wall, a car, a luger, a ward, a bin, a woman, a vassal, a wolf, a tuna, a nit, a pall, a fret, a watt, a bay, a daub, a tan, a cab, a datum, a gall, a hat, a fag, a zap, a say, a jaw, a lay, a wet, a gallop, a tug, a trot, a trap, a tram, a torr, a caper, a top, a tonk, a toll, a ball, a fair, a sax, a minim, a tenor, a bass, a passer, a capital, a rut, anamen, a ted, a cabal, a tang, a sun, an ass, a maw, a sag, a jam, a dam, a sub, a salt, an axon, a sail, an ad, a wadi, a radian, a room, a rood, a rip, a tad, a pariah, a revel, a reel, a reed, a pool, a plug, a pin, a peek, a parabola, adog, a pat, a cud, a nu, a fan, a pal, a rum, a nod, an eta, a lag, an eel, a batik, a mug, a mot, a nap, a maxim, a mood, a leek, a grub, a gob, a gel, a drab, a citadel, a total, a cedar, a tap, a gag, a rat, a manor, a bar, a gal, a cola, a pap, a yaw, a tab, a raj, a gab, a nag, a pagan, a bag, a jar, a bat, a way, a papa, a local, a gar, a baron, a mat, a rag, a gap, a tar, a decal, a tot, aled, a tic, a bard, a leg, a bog, a burg, a keel, a doom, a mix, a map, an atom, a gum, a kit, a baleen, a gala, a ten, a don, a mural, a pan, a faun, a ducat, a pagoda, a lob, a rap, a keep, a nip, a gulp, a loop, a deer, a leer, a lever, a hair, a pad, a tapir, a door, a moor, an aid, a raid, a wad, an alias, an ox, an atlas, a bus, a madam, a jag, a saw, a mass, an anus, a gnat, a lab, a cadet, an em, a natural, a tip, a caress, a pass, a baronet, a minimax, a sari, a fall, a ballot, a knot, a pot, a rep, a carrot, a mart, a part, a tort, a gut, a poll, a gateway, a law, a jay, a sap, a zag, a fat, a hall, a gamut, a dab, a can, a tabu, a day, a batt, a waterfall, a patina, a nut, a flow, a lass, a van, a mow, a nib, a draw, a regular, a call, a war, a stay, a gam, a yap, a cam, a ray, an ax, a tag, a wax, a paw, a cat, a valley, a drib, a lion, a saga, a plat, a catnip, a pooh, a rail, a calamus, a dairyman, a bater, a canal – Panama.

Unit VI. CLERIHEWS

Clerihew – a light verse quatrain in lines usually of varying length, rhyming *aabb*, and usually dealing with a person named in the initial rhyme.

This type of comic biographical verse form was invented by Edmund Clerihew Bentley, who introduced it in *Biography for Beginners* (1905) and continued it in *More Biography* (1929) and *Baseless Biography* (1939). The humour of the form lies in its purposefully flat-footed inadequacy: in addition to clumsy rhythm and rhyme, the verse's treatment of the subject is either off the mark or totally beside the point, as though it were the work of a reluctant schoolchild. Clerihews are written as four-line verses of two rhyming couplets, the first line almost invariably ending with the name of the subject:

*After dinner, Erasmus
Told Colet not to be "blas'mous"
Which Colet, with some heat
Requested him to repeat.*

The number of accents in the line is irregular, and one line is usually extended to tease the ear. Another requisite of the successful clerihew is an awkward rhyme, as in Bentley's "Aeschylus":

*"Steady the Greeks!" shouted Aeschylus.
"We won't let such dogs as these kill us!"
Nothing, he thought, could be bizarrer than
The Persians winning at Marathon.*

Another example is Bentley's "Cervantes":

*The people of Spain think Cervantes
Equal to half-a-dozen Dantes:
An opinion resented most bitterly
By the people of Italy.*

(From *Encyclopædia Britannica*)

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES:

- **Clerihews from *Biography for Beginners* (by Edmund Clerihew Bentley):**
*The art of Biography
Is different from Geography.
Geography is about maps,
But Biography is about chaps.*

.....

Sir Christopher Wren
 Said, "I am going to dine with some men.
 If anyone calls
 Say I am designing St. Paul's."

.....

Sir Humphrey Davy
 Abominated gravy.
 He lived in the odium
 Of having discovered sodium.

.....

John Stuart Mill,
 By a mighty effort of will,
 Overcame his natural bonhomie
 And wrote "Principles of Economy."

.....

What I like about Clive
 Is that he is no longer alive.
 There is a great deal to be said
 For being dead.

.....

Edward the Confessor
 Slept under the dresser.
 When that began to pall,
 He slept in the hall.

.....

Chapman & Hall
 Swore not at all.
 Mr Chapman's yea was yea,
 And Mr Hall's nay was nay.

- **Some other Bentley's clerihews:**
The meaning of the poet Gay

*Was always as clear as day,
While that of the poet Blake
Was often practically opaque.*

.....

*I doubt if King John
Was a sine qua non.
I could rather imagine it
Of any other Plantagenet.*

.....

*Dante Alighieri
Seldom troubled a dairy.
He wrote the Inferno
On a bottle of Pernod.*

- **Funny poetry for children:**

*Our art teacher, Mr. Shaw,
Really knows how to draw.
But his awful paintings
Have caused many faintings.*

.....

*N'Sync
Stink.
Their music hurts my ears.
I much prefer Britney Spears.*

.....

*The enemy of Harry Potter
Was a scheming plotter.
I can't tell you what he's called; I'd be ashamed
To name "he who must not be named."*

- **Philosophical clerihews (by Ronald de Sousa):**

*Epicurus
wasn't curious:
All his leisure
was devoted to pleasure.*

.....

*When Lucretius
Got facetious,
He'd shout: "The Atom
Will get 'em!"*

.....

*When Aristotle
Took to the bottle
He could scarcely pursue
An end in view.*

.....

*If Cato
Had met Plato,
He'd have cried: "EEK!
An Ancient Greek!!!"*

.....

*When Abelard
Ate too much lard
He'd ask Heloise
To give him a squeeze*

.....

*René Descartes
Brought thinking to a fine art
Anyone who cogitates:
"Ergo sum!"
Can't be too dumb.*

.....

*Baruch de Spinoza
Had a girlfriend named Rosa
While he didn't deny it
He kept quiet.*

.....

*David Hume,
We can safely assume,
Thought Natural Laws
A lost cause.*

.....

*In the end Gottlob Frege
Got vaguer und vaguer
Till even the names of
His friendz
No longer made zenz.*

.....

*When Wittgenstein
Had too much wine
Bertie's set
Thought him rather wet*

.....

*When Jacques Lacan
Sat on the can
Pearls of Wisdom would drop
With a gentle Plop*

• **Some more clerihews (by Michael Curl):**

*Alexander Selkirk
Was too grand for hotel work.
He informed a maid
That he was monarch of all he surveyed.*

.....

*E. C. Bentley
Mused while he ought to have studied intently;
It was this muse
That inspired clerihews.*

Unit VII. REBUSES

Rebus – the representation of a word or syllable by a picture of an object: the name of which resembles in sound the represented word or syllable. Several rebuses may be combined – in a single device or successively – to make a phrase or sentence. Literary rebuses use letters, numbers, musical notes, or specially placed words to make sentences. Complex rebuses combine pictures and letters. Rebuses may convey direct meanings, especially to inform or instruct illiterate people; or they may deliberately conceal meanings, to inform only the initiated or to puzzle and amuse.

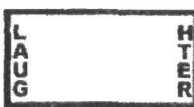
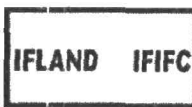
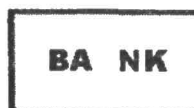
An early form of rebus occurs in picture writings, where abstract words, difficult to portray, were represented by pictures of objects pronounced the same way. These are common in Egyptian hieroglyphs and early Chinese pictographs. Rebus pictures were used to convey names of towns on Greek and Roman coins or names of families in medieval heraldry and for instructional symbols in religious art and architecture. In the Far East, especially in China and Korea, rebus symbols were commonly employed to carry auspicious wishes.

In Europe, literary rebuses often appeared on family mottoes, personal seals, ciphers, bookplates, and ultimately in games or riddles. A familiar English rebus is the debtor's "IOU," for "I owe you."

Popular in the United States after the mid-19th century were rebus picture puzzles in which the indicated addition or subtraction of letters in illustrated words produced another word or name. Such picture riddles have been widely used in advertising promotional contests.

(From *Encyclopædia Britannica*)

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES:




PAWALKRK

DAY L8 DOLLA

GEAR GE^{AR}

SITTING
WORLD

& BETTER 
& BETTER

 SECRET
SECRET
SECRET

print

HERRING


WORLD

A POINT
A POINT

PEN_{sword}

CONTRACT

YOU DESERVE TODAY

F F
I R
E E

I 
NY.

Unit VIII. CROSSWORD PUZZLES

Crossword Puzzle—a popular form of word puzzle. A crossword puzzle consists of a diagram, usually rectangular, divided into blank (white) and cancelled (black, shaded, or crosshatched) squares. This diagram is accompanied by two lists of numbered definitions or clues, one for the horizontal and the other for the vertical words, the numbers corresponding to identical numbers on the diagram. Into each of the blank squares of the diagram a certain letter of the alphabet is to be inserted, forming the words fitting the numbered definitions or clues. The words cross each other, or interlock, which gives the puzzle its name.

The first crosswords appeared in England during the 19th century. They were of an elementary kind apparently derived from the word square, a group of words arranged so the letters read alike vertically and horizontally, and printed in children's puzzle books and various periodicals. In the United States, however, the puzzle developed into a serious adult pastime. The first modern crossword puzzle was published on Dec. 21, 1913, in the New York *World's* Sunday supplement, *Fun*. It appeared as only one of a varied group of mental exercises, but it struck the fancy of the public. By 1923, crosswords were being published in most of the leading American newspapers, and the craze soon reached England. Soon almost all daily newspapers in the United States and Great Britain had a crossword feature of some kind. The Sunday Times of London ran perhaps the best-known puzzle.

Crosswords in various forms are found in almost every country and language. Scholars have even gone so far as to make them for Latin. Advocates claim the puzzles are both a pastime and an interesting means of improving the vocabulary. Though the majority of puzzles have the form of symmetrical patterns of shaded or blacked-out squares within a rectangle, there are many variations. These include: (1) an asymmetrical scattering of squares; (2) a plain diagram with no squares canceled and the ends of words marked simply by a thick line; (3) pictorial designs, either in outline containing the diagram or in line inside the diagram, or a combination of both; and (4) diagramless puzzles, with no squares cancelled and no word ends marked.

The general type of crossword has also been subject to variation. Some puzzles employ abstruse definitions, puns, and anagrams. A number of words in one puzzle may bear upon some announced theme, such as music, sports, literature, or geography. Many of the puzzles in this category are quite difficult. Again, some clues will be omitted altogether but a direction given that

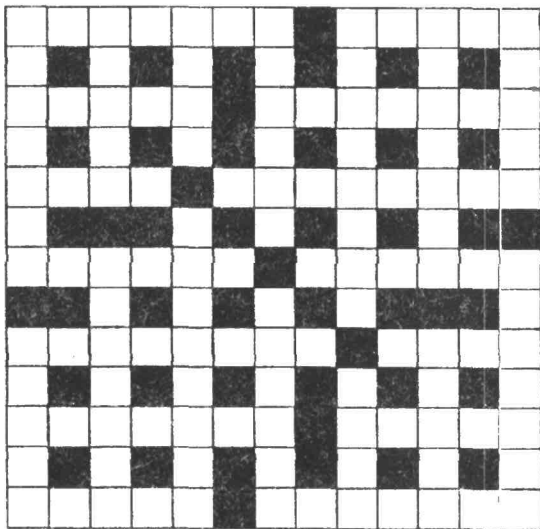
the words thus neglected belong to a particular class: jewels, for example, or words in a quotation. Sometimes every word will have some given prefix, suffix, or part in common, and only the rest of the word will actually fill the spaces in the diagram: (rat)ion, (rat)chet, etc.; unc(tion), cap(tion), etc.; qu(it)e, cr(it)ic, etc. Lester Markel, Sunday editor of *The New York Times*, insisted that puzzles appearing in that paper contain words linked to the news. Harold T. Bers, an advertising writer and puzzle constructor, devised the internal-clue crossword, in which the theme of the puzzle emerges gradually as successive definitions are solved: filling in "pussyfoot," "caterwaul," "kittenish" – together with an overall title "catalog" – would reveal the feline theme.

(From *Encyclopædia Britannica*)

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES:

1) Alpha-Cross:

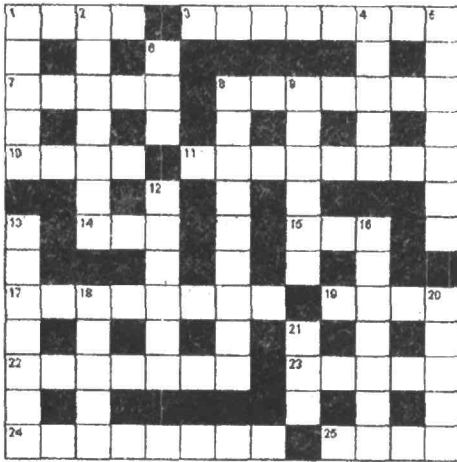
The first letter of each answer is written next to its clue in alphabetical order. Can you find the words and then fit them correctly into the grid?



C. Stringed instrument (5), C. Parody (7), C. Remarks (8), D. Compulsory force (6), E. Without difficulty (6), E. Guess (8), I. Lit (7), I. Adult insect (5), I. Huge (7), Flightless New Zealand bird (4), L.

Skulking (7), M. Partsong for two or three voices (8), M. Intended (5), M. Imitates with derision (5), N. Countries (7), N. Approaches (5), N. Cosy retreat (4), O. Unpaid (5), P. Keyboard instrument (5), R. Glow (7), S. Mariners (7), S. Feudal Japanese warrior (7), S. Part of a play (5), S. Slumbering (8), S. Blemish (4), S. Phases (6), T. Pub (6), T. Ballet skirt (4)

2) Catch-Words:



Down: 1. The patience of a ___ (5), 2. ___ keepers (7), 4. ___ and effect (5), 5. A man of ___ (7), 6. To and ___ (3), 8. Count your ___ (9), 9. Keep on the straight and ___ (6), 12. The third ___ (6), 13. Ladies and gentlemen, raise your ___ (7), 16. ___ pink (7), 18. Cat and ___ (5), 20. Who ___ wins (5), 21. ___ and downs (3)

Across: 1. Better ___ than sorry (4), 3. A ___ retreat (8), 7. The ___ circle (5), 8. A beggar's ___

(7), 10. ___ and us (4), 11. A last minute ___ (8), 14. ___ stoops to conquer (3), 15. ___ of order (3), 17. ___ glances (8), 19. The ___ test (4), 22. Cups and ___ (7), 23. ___ bear (5), 24. A ___ in the cupboard (8), 25. ___ and evens (4)

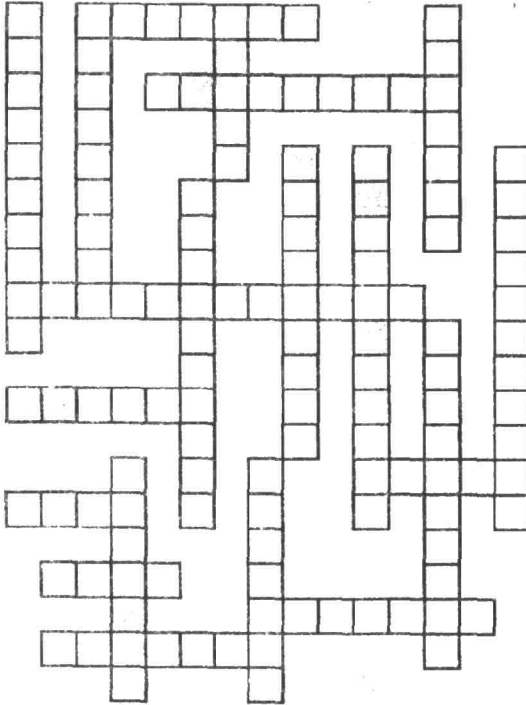
3) Search-Word:

This puzzle is a combination word-search and crossword. There are no clues or two-letter words. Just reveal the hidden words by blocking out the incorrect letters. The completed pattern will be symmetrical. Use this fact to help you decide which letters to leave in which ones to leave out.

O	R	D	E	R	E	D	S	P	E	B	B	L	E	S
A	B	A	M	E	V	R	G	R	Y	E	D	E	H	T
S	E	M	A	P	H	O	R	E	J	A	N	G	E	R
I	O	A	E	U	B	N	V	C	N	C	X	E	F	E
S	I	G	H	T	A	E	L	E	P	H	A	N	T	S
L	M	E	K	A	J	H	G	D	G	H	J	D	L	S
A	D	D	N	B	A	D	G	E	M	B	U	S	M	F
L	M	B	N	L	V	I	R	N	T	I	W	A	N	U
L	P	S	E	E	W	A	F	T	E	R	U	O	W	L
O	B	Y	V	D	R	G	M	N	B	T	M	P	M	N
C	O	N	C	E	R	N	E	D	N	H	Y	E	N	A
A	M	O	N	A	B	O	M	I	B	D	V	N	M	U
T	U	N	E	S	H	S	E	N	S	A	T	I	O	N
E	H	Y	G	E	H	I	J	E	H	Y	G	N	M	T
D	I	M	P	L	E	S	N	D	E	S	I	G	N	S

4) Criss-Cross:

Can you fit the words correctly into the grid? The letters in the grey boxes will spell out another word.



4 letters: BABE, JAWS

5 letters: ALIEN,
EVITA

6 letters: GHANDI

7 letters: DIE HARD,
MIRACLE, MONSTER,
NETWORK, TITANIC,
TWISTED

9 letters: DAREDEVIL,
SPARTACUS, SPIDER-
MAN

10 letters:
CASABLANCA,
SEABISCUIT,
UNFORGIVEN

11 letters: MYSTIC
RIVER, PRETTY
WOMAN

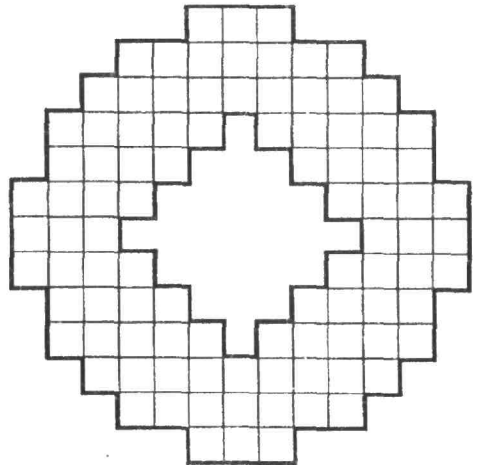
12 letters: COLD
MOUNTAIN

5) Word Wheel:

Can you fit the words correctly into the grid?

3 letter words: BIT, DIP,
EEL, EYE, INN, ISM, LEE,
RAY

4 letter words: ARUM,
ATOM, BRIM, DICE, DIET,
FIAT, LURE, METE, POND,
PRIM, RAVE, SEAL, SILL,
SPAR, TAXI, THEM



5 letter words: DATUM, DEITY, FATAL, LEVER, MERIT, MOVER, SERUM, SPITE

7 letter words: MARSHAL, MIRACLE, REVELRY, SPINOFF

9 letter words: LUXURIATE, PERENNIAL, PERIMETER, RETALIATE

6) In-Verse:

See if you can place the underlined words correctly into the grid.

Followers of the Game

by Duncan MacKellar

Loyalty and commitment,

Dedication to the sport.

Win or lose we won't refuse,

To render our support.

Distance is no object,

We get there just the same.

We live the dream to lift our tear

To victory and fame.

We want to see ability,

Courage, strength and style.

Flair and skill, an iron will,

Artistry and guile.

We have the expectation

To be winners on the day.

We raise a cheer or shed a tear,

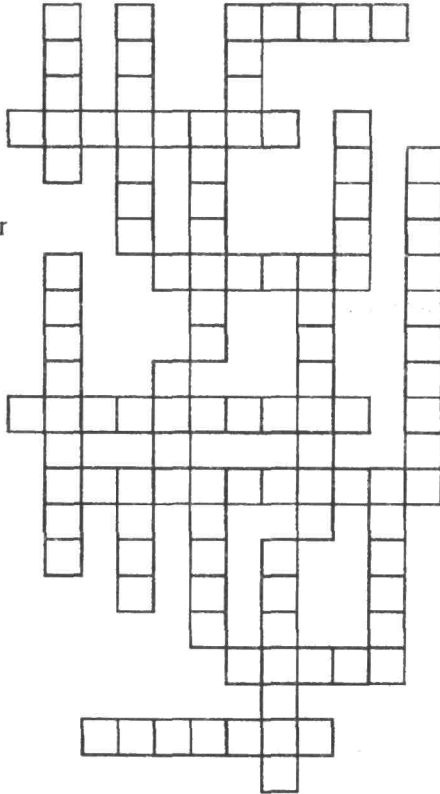
Depending on the play.

With pride and admiration,

We chant the hallowed name.

Stand or fall, we give our all,

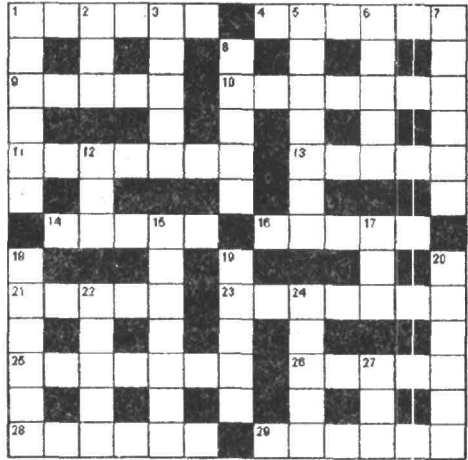
We're followers of the game.



7) True or False Crossword:

In this crossword there are two clues for each word. Can you work out which is true and which is false?

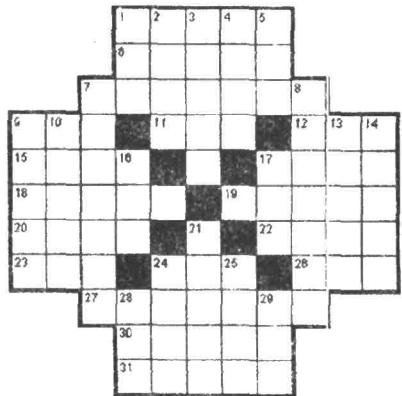
Down: 1. Tanned / Pale (6),
2. Large / Small (3), 3. Ice hut /
Wooden hut (5), 5. Usual /
Unusual (7), 6. Perfect / Imperfect
(5), 7. Get longer / Get shorter
(6), 8. Continue / Discontinue (5),
12. Noise / Quiet (3), 15. Orderly
/ Disorderly (7), 17. Mammal /
Insect (3), 18. Part of the foot /
Part of the eye (6), 19. Wide /
Narrow (5), 20. Lets in / Lets out
(6), 22. Larceny / Charity (5),
24. Captured / Released (5),
27. Something / Nothing (3)



Across: 1. People in general / Personal (6), 4. Have no ambition / Strive
for success (6), 9. Lawful / Unlawful (5), 10. Sincere / Insincere (7),
11. Inside / Outside (7), 13. Synthetic material / Natural material (5),
14. Main meal / Light meal (5), 16. Started / Finished (5), 21. More / Less
(5), 23. Proved / Disproved (7), 25. Action / Inaction (7), 26. Excitement /
Boredom (5), 28. Assail / Defend (6), 29. Children / Grownups (6)

8) X-Word:

Down: 1. Uncooked (3),
2. Panache (4), 3. Narrow street (5),
4. Young horse (4), 5. Deuce (3),
7. Particular (7), 8. Soldier (7),
9. Book of maps (5), 10. Jostle (5),
13. Crown-like headdress (5), 14. Go
in (5), 16. Insane (3), 17. Fuel (3),
21. Undefined (5), 24. Precipitation
(4), 25. Melody (4), 28. To the rear of
a ship (3), 29. Singular (3)

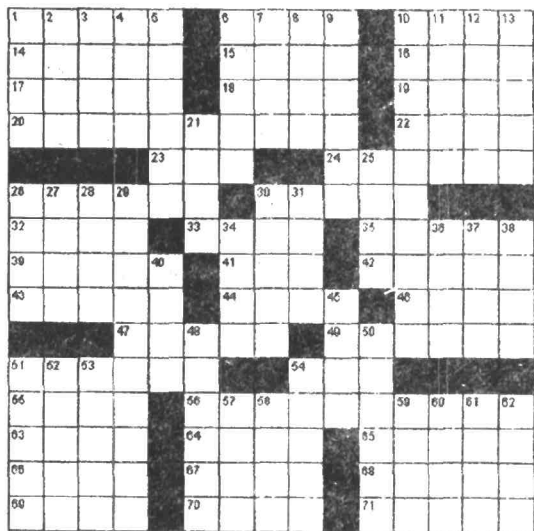


Across: 1. Respond (5), 6. Permit (5), 7. Long-winged songbird (7), 9. Small snake (3), 11. Mesh (3), 12. Consumed (3), 15. Those people (4), 17. Smile (4), 18. Limited anaesthetic (5), 19. Unit of weight for precious stones (5), 20. Zealous (4), 22. Father (4), 23. Expanse of water (3), 24. Was seated (3), 26. Paddle (3), 27. Lassitude (7), 30. Discovered (5), 31. Thick woollen fabric (5)

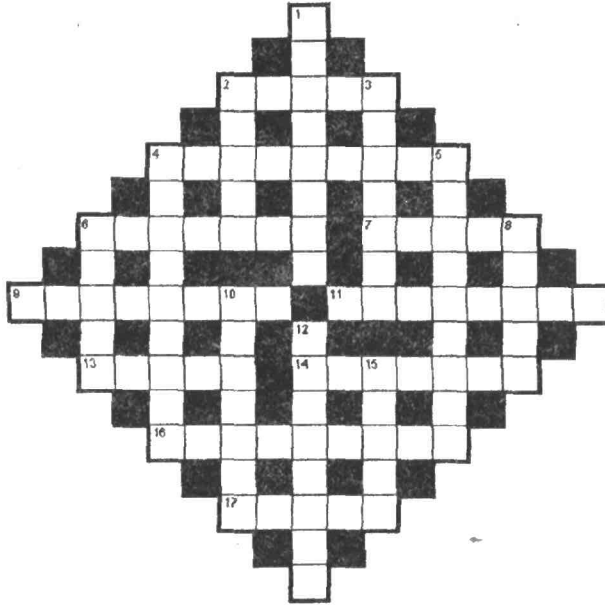
9) Big Crossword:

ACROSS: 1. Laughs, 6. A powdery food starch, 10. Biblical first man, 14. Avoid, 15. Sicken with sweetness, 16. Played on horseback or in the water, 17. A type of tooth, 18. Lines, 19. Not amateurs, 20. Not often, 22. Excessively abundant, 23. Gist, 24. Constructs, 26. A type of hododendron, 30. Abraham's wife, 32. Wan or pallid, 33. A disastrous destiny, 35. Gossiper, 39. Unforeseen obstacles, 41. Metric unit of area, 42. Escargot, 43. Lofty nest, 44. 10 10 10 10, 46. Levee, 47. Technicians (abbrev.), 49. Australian, 51. Pace, 54. L, 55. A rich soil of sand and clay, 56. Standardized, 63. Genus of the dogfish, 64. Snare, 65. Love intensely, 66. Air intake, 67. Repose, 68. A magical spirit, 69. Nature of being, 70. Catch sight of, 71. Chieftain

DOWN: 1. Prefix indicating half, 2. Door-to-door cosmetic company, 3. 50%, 4. Hebrew month, 5. Calm, 6. Scour, 7. Found in some skin lotions, 8. Long formal dress, 9. A marine mollusk, 10. Catches, 11. An order of classical Greek architecture, 12. Airborne, 13. A leader of the Israelites, 21. University square, 25. Beams, 26. A vaulted recess on a building, 27. Wacky, 28. Winged, 29. Valid, 30. Open skin infections, 31. Ends a prayer, 34. Solemn promise, 36. Negatives, 37. A male figure in Polynesian mythology, 38. Downwind, 40. Sow, 45. Hall, 48. Middle (British spelling), 50. Loss by evaporation or leakage, 51. Thrall, 52. Books, 53. Downpours, 54. Not full, 57. Mineral-bearing rocks, 58. Coarse file, 59. Anagram of «Diem», 60. Area, 61. A Great Lake, 62. Bambi was one



10) Diamond Crossword:

**Down**

1. Ambled (8)
2. Large deer (5)
3. Extremely ugly (7)
4. Souvenirs (9)
5. Of the highest quality (9)
6. Student (5)
8. Graded (5)
10. Occupiers paying rent (7)
12. Eye specialist (8)
15. Foe (5)

Across

2. Glee (5)
4. Cognition (9)
6. Be earlier in time (7)
7. Happen (5)
9. Contrary (8)
11. Set apart (8)
13. Compare (5)
14. Make believe (7)
16. Nostalgic feeling (9)
17. Piquant (5)

