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## TIDBITS PONDERS NAMES OF CARS

by Janet Spencer

Come along with Tidbits as we discover the stories behind how cars got their names!

### VOLKSWAGEN

\* In the 1930s in Germany, Adolf Hitler promoted the idea of the "Reichsautobahn," a system of limited-access highways that would facilitate mass troop movements and promote travel for the populace. To go along with the new highways, he promoted the production of a mass-produced car that would be easy to afford and quick to repair. Designed in part by Ferdinand Porsche (yes, THAT Porsche), it was dubbed the "Volkswagen" meaning "people's car."

It was also called the Käfer meaning "beetle" because of its rounded shape. Although the car went into production in 1945, the nickname of "Beetle" didn't become popular until the 1950s. The name "Beetle" was officially adopted by Volkswagen in 1968. The name has crossed into most languages. In France, it's the Coccinelle (ladybug); in Japan, it's the Bitoru (beetle); and in Russia it's the Zhuk (beetle).

In 1972, the 15 millionth Volkswagen Beetle was produced, surpassing the production record which had previously been held by the Ford Model T, making it the most popular car manufactured off a single platform of all time.

(cont on page 2)

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**A: A Rolls-Rice!**

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## NAMES OF CARS

(cont. from Front Cover)

### PORSCHE

\* Ferdinand Porsche was born in 1875. As a young adult, he worked for a coach-maker, where he excelled in mechanical engineering, pioneering the design of gas/electric hybrid motors. In 1906, he was hired by the Daimler company in Germany, maker of the Mercedes. He designed many improvements, but was rebuffed when he suggested manufacturing a smaller, sportier model of racing car. In 1934, Porsche went to work for Hitler designing the Volkswagen. When the operation was suspended due to World War II, he began designing war machines: tanks, artillery, and the Panzer. When the war ended, Porsche was arrested and imprisoned for being a war criminal. The German factories he oversaw used POWs as slave labor, often working prisoners to death. While he was incarcerated, his son, also named Ferdinand Porsche but nicknamed Ferry, took his father's design for a compact, sporty race car to a newly-formed Italian/Austrian auto manufacturer. The company founders not only ransomed the senior Ferdinand Porsche, but also became the first manufacturers of the Porsche 356. They turned out only 49 of the cars before quitting the project as being too expensive.

Ferry Porsche took one of the 356 models on a tour of German VW dealerships, taking paid orders in advance, then presented those orders at the VW plant in Stuttgart, Germany. Ferry thought he could probably sell about 1,500 of them. Instead, 78,000 Porsche 356s were manufactured over the next 17 years. His father was awarded a stipend for every VW Beetle sold, with over 21 million rolling off the assembly line, providing him with a comfortable income. Ferdinand Porsche died due to a stroke in 1951. Ferry carried on without him, dying at the age of 88 in 1998.

(cont on page 3)

April

# NAMES OF CARS

(cont. from, page 2)

## MERCEDES

The Latin word “merces” means “mercy.” Throughout Spanish cultures, the derivative “Mercedes” became a popular girl’s name, particularly because it was associated with the Virgin Mary. Emil Jellinek, a wealthy Australian entrepreneur, named his newborn daughter Mercedes in 1890.

Jellinek enjoyed driving and racing fine cars at a point in history when cars were first coming on the market, and racing was a brand-new sport. After ordering a Daimler, a car manufactured by Gottlieb Daimler, he became so enamored of the vehicle that he began selling them throughout Europe. To gain publicity, he also entered them in races—and nearly always won. He always painted his daughter’s name on the racing cars, and he and his racing team became known as “Monsieur Mercedes.”

Along the way, he offered Gottlieb Daimler plenty of advice on how to improve the car’s design. He then became a member of the company’s board. When he placed an order for 36 new vehicles for his European car dealership, he insisted that the newly revamped car be called the Mercedes, and this was done. The new model won all the races, garnering plenty of publicity. Sales went through the roof.

After Gottlieb Daimler died, his company eventually merged with another company run by an innovator named Karl Benz. The Mercedes-Benz has been a pinnacle luxury brand ever since.

## IT’S A FACT

In the 1970s, Volkswagen went through a phase of naming its new vehicles after different types of winds. Jetta is German for jet stream; Golf translates to gulf, referring to the Gulf Stream; Passat is short for passatwinde, the German word for trade wind; and Scirocco is a desert wind.

## JEEP

In 1940, the U.S. government approached car manufacturers, taking bids to produce a small 4-wheel-drive military vehicle. Ford won the contract, and began turning out “Model GP” short for “General Purpose.” It’s often claimed that the name for the “Jeep” sprang from the abbreviation “GP.” However, the word “jeep” appeared during World War I, before the vehicle was made, referring to any unproven recruit or untested vehicle.

Linguistic historians believe that the word Jeep actually came from a Popeye cartoon. In 1936, a cartoon depicts Popeye opening a gift sent from Olive Oyl’s uncle in Africa. Out pops an energetic critter, part dog, part cat, part bear.

A letter states that the creature is named Eugene, and that the only sound he can make is to repeat: “Jeep! Jeep!” Eugene the Jeep was magical, able to walk through walls and climb ceilings. It’s thought the vehicle got its name for its remarkable ability to go where no other vehicle dared tread, much like Eugene the Jeep.

## VOLVO

In 1907, Swedish inventor Sven Gustaf Wingquist revolutionized the manufacture of quality ball bearings, and the manufacture of quality ball bearings revolutionized industry. Wingquist founded a ball bearing company, Svenska Kullagerfabriken (“Swedish Ball Bearing Factory”), which was later abbreviated as SKF. When the firm needed to name their line of new, improved ball bearings, they turned to Latin. The Latin word “volvere” means “to roll” and “volvo” means “I roll.” This is the same root which “revolve” springs from, meaning “to roll again.” By the 1920s, the expanding firm turned to manufacturing sturdy cars that could withstand the harsh Scandinavian winters and rough roads. The vehicles also carried the Volvo moniker, as it was certainly fitting.

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**FLASH GORDON**  
BY JIM KEEFE 3-28  
CONTINUING: THE WAY IT BEGAN!  
FLASH GORDON, DALE ARDEN, AND DR. HANS ZARKOV CRASH-LAND ON AN ALIEN WORLD THREATENING EARTH'S EXISTENCE!

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UNITING UNDER FLASH'S LEADERSHIP, THE OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF MONGO RISE UP, BREAKING MING'S REIGN OF TERROR!

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ORIGIN STORY DEDICATED TO FLASH'S GREAT-GRANDFATHER, ALEX RAYMOND!  
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# PONG

Nolan Bushnell, studying electrical engineering at college, spent his summers working at an amusement park where he managed the arcade: a room full of pinball machines and coin-operated amusements. The popularity of these games impressed him.

Bushnell got a job in Silicon Valley in 1968, working for a computer company called Ampex. There, he met Ted Dabney, who was pioneering imaging and video technology in the earliest days of computer engineering.

In 1963, the first video game was invented. Called "Spacewar," it required the use of a behemoth of a computer. Computers were large, rare, and expensive at the time; only universities and labs had them. Bushnell, recalling his days in the arcade, wondered whether you couldn't shrink Spacewar enough to play it on a TV set instead of a computer. "If you could put a coin slot on it and put it into an arcade, you could make a fortune!" Dabney agreed. In their evenings and on weekends, they worked to devise a video game without the power, memory, or physical size of a computer.

Bushnell and Dabney hacked into the circuits of a standard black-and-white television to engineer their own version of Spacewar, creating a game called "Computer Space," which did not require a computer.

The game, though it was innovative and compact, didn't sell well. They sold about 1,500 units, which only encouraged them to try again. So they quit their jobs at Ampex and set up their own firm. They called their company Atari, a Japanese word derived from the Asian game "Go," meaning "to successfully strike a target." Then, fatefully, they hired their first employee.

Allan Alcorn, a UC Berkeley student, had a part-time job fixing TV sets. When Bushnell and Dabney hired him, they put him to work on a "test project" just to see if he had the skills they needed. Bushnell described the game he wanted: ping-pong on a TV.

It took Alcorn three months to invent the game called Pong. The first Pong game was played on a black-and-white Hitachi TV that Alcorn purchased for \$75.

Bushnell and Dabney were thrilled. In 1972, they built a case for it, welded a coin slot onto it, took it down to a friend's bar, and set it on a counter. A few days later, the bar owner called because the machine quit working. Investigating the problem, they found that the coin receiver was jammed with quarters.

They quickly turned out a dozen more machines. They sold 2,500 in 1973, then 8,000 in 1974, topping out at 35,000. Each machine brought in up to \$40 per day, four times as much as a pinball machine.

In 1975, Atari teamed up with Sears to debut the first home-based Pong game. They sold 150,000 units for \$98 each that Christmas.

Atari expanded: Super Pong, Ultra Pong, Doubles Pong. When Bushnell decided he needed a version of Pong that could be played solo, he hired a couple of computer whizzes, Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak, and the result was a brick-bashing game called Breakout. In 1977, Atari released the Atari 2600, a cartridge-based game system that became the longest-running console in history.

Pong is considered to be the world's first video game. Atari kicked off the entire video game industry, which was estimated to be worth around \$200 billion in 2021. Bushnell later went on to found Chuck E. Cheese.

April 19th, 2026

## CryptoQuote answer

It is wise to direct your anger towards problems, not people; to focus your energies on answers, not excuses.

— William Ward

## SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Tickle; 2. Always
3. Steer; 4. Umbra

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Page 4



The Great Salt Lake in northern Utah is the largest inland body of salt water in the Western Hemisphere and one of the saltiest inland bodies of water in the world. This landlocked lake is up to 10 times saltier than the oceans. Average ocean salinity is 3.5%. The saltiest parts of the Great Salt Lake average around 28% salt. It's so salty it never freezes over completely. It's the largest lake west of the Mississippi River, and the 34th largest lake in the world.

As big as it is, the Great Salt Lake is a tiny remnant of the ancient freshwater lake that once covered about 25% of Utah during the Pleistocene Epoch. Lake Bonneville was nearly 1,000 feet (300 m) deep. Around 14,500 years ago, a breach in a sandstone wall at Red Rock Pass, Idaho, allowed the entire lake to drain catastrophically in one of the planet's largest flash floods. All that was left was a shallow lake, a fraction of the original size, so low and so flat that it had no outlet. This is called a "terminal lake," and the Great Salt Lake is the 8th largest in the world.

The three rivers that now feed freshwater into the Great Salt Lake, the Bear, Weber, and Jordan, also bring dissolved minerals, primarily salt, which constantly accumulate. The only way water ever leaves the lake is through evaporation. It's estimated that about 1.1 million tons of minerals are added to the lake each year.

River water and other small streams account for about 66% of the water in the lake. The rest comes from rain and from springs.

Nearby, the Bonneville Salt Flats, left behind by the draining of Lake Bonneville, are so large, flat, and smooth that they have become an automobile raceway, the site of many trials for world land-speed records.

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During the wettest years in the 1980s, the surface area reached a high of 3,300 square miles (8,500 km<sup>2</sup>). Due to drought and diversion of river water for agriculture, the surface area dropped to a record low of 888 square miles (2,300 km<sup>2</sup>) in 2022. Keep in mind that Lake Bonneville stretched about 20,000 square miles (51,000 km<sup>2</sup>) and was once about the same size as Lake Michigan. The fresh- and salt-water wetlands, mudflats, and shorelines surrounding the lake provide critical habitat for millions of migratory birds, with up to 12 million birds from 339 species visiting annually. About 360,000 acres of wetlands surrounding the lake account for about 75% of Utah's wetlands. This provides a wide variety of ecosystems for innumerable plants, invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals. The only things that live in the water are specialized algae, a species of brine shrimp, and the larvae of a type of fly. The lake is famous for its flies, sometimes numbering 370 million per mile of shoreline, providing food for the many birds.

The lake sports around 10,000 miles (16,093 km) of shoreline, but because it is so shallow with gently sloping shores, small variations in the water level greatly affect the extent of the shoreline. The water level can fall and rise dramatically between wet and dry years.

A 30-mile-long (48 km) causeway cuts across the lake, initially built for a rail line. This divides the lake into two parts, with minimal water mixing. Because the lake's main tributaries enter from the south end of the lake, that end is several inches deeper than the north part of the lake, and much less salty.

Should the lake ever go dry, it would be an environmental catastrophe.

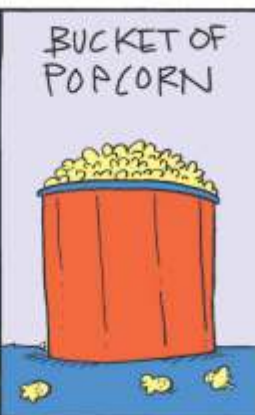
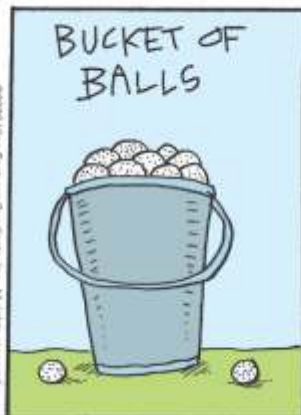
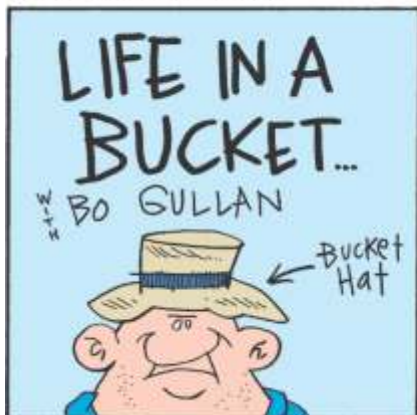
April 19th, 2026

**King Crossword**  
*Answers*  
 Solution time: 21 mins.

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



Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas



**THIS WEEK'S CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS**

William Shakespeare	04/26/1564
Samuel Morse	04/27/1791
Lionel Barrymore	04/28/1878
Bernie Madoff	04/29/1938
Kirsten Dunst	04/30/1982
Calamity Jane	05/01/1852
Catherine the Great	05/02/1729

**TIDBITS**



**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) You can easily handle your tasks this week, thanks to your high-energy levels that never seem to run down. But pace yourself, Lamb, for a demanding week ahead.



**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) With the arts dominant this week, you might want to pick up any creative projects that you've neglected. Meanwhile, a workplace situation benefits from some fresh insight.



**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Music helps replenish your energy levels. Press play and put your phone on Do Not Disturb if you must. However, a live concert could prove more rewarding, especially if you go with a very special someone.



**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Close friends reach out to help perk up your lagging social life. A workplace situation also eases, leaving you time to do more fun things by week's end.



**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) A revelation clears up a perplexing job-related problem. Some changes will have to be made, which no doubt, will have to meet the Big Cat's roaring approval. Good luck!



**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Reaching out to someone in need is the noble thing to do. But try to restrain the temptation to add a lecture to your good deed, no matter how well intended.



**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) There could be another tough challenge to face before the month is over. But all your hard work is winning you lots of important recognition from your peers.



**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Keeping to your work schedule could prove difficult with some personal distractions. Best advice: Stay with it. There'll be time later for socializing.



**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Jumping hurdles this week might be vexing for most, but not for the sage Sagittarian who recognizes that meeting a challenge can open up opportunities.



**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) More obstacles might be thrown in your path as you try to finalize a new agreement. But the sure-footed Goat ignores the stumbling blocks and stays the course.



**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) We know the Water Bearer takes pleasure in giving to others. But why not let someone else enjoy the experience, too, by accepting an offer of help.



**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) You might find that you need to ease up on your hectic schedule this week. Don't fret about it. It could be helpful to take a break and replenish your energy supply.



**BORN THIS WEEK:** You have a way of finding practical solutions to complex problems, and you do it with grace.

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**HOCUS-FOCUS** BY HENRY BOLTINGOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Brush is longer. 2. Painted area on fence is larger. 3. Shirt is longer. 4. Man has more hair. 5. Window is larger. 6. Exit is smaller.

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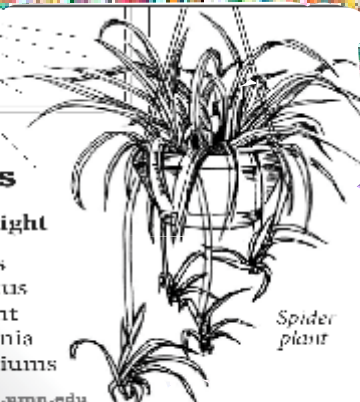


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**The Garden Bug**

**Light needs for plants**

Low light	Medium light	High light
Peace lily	Asparagus fern	Cactus
Snake plant	Boston fern	Hibiscus
Philodendron	Spider plant	Ti plant
English ivy	Jade plant	Gardenia
Diffenbachia	African violet	Geraniums



*Spider plant*

Source: extension.umn.edu

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**TIDBITS QUOTE**

"Everything in life is somewhere else, and you get there in a car."

~ E.B. White



\* **On April 27, 1521**, Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan was killed during a tribal skirmish on Mactan Island in the Philippines. Earlier in the month, he had met with the local chief on the Philippine island of Cebu, who, after converting to Christianity, had persuaded the Europeans to assist him in conquering a rival tribe on a neighboring island. During the ensuing conflict, Magellan was hit by a poisoned arrow and left to die by his retreating fellow fighters.

\* **On April 28, 1953**, inventor Howard Ross received a patent for a useful, if rather curious, garment called a "double coat," with an outer layer that could be extended to cover two people at a time in athletic stadiums when it rained.

\* **On April 29, 1991**, paroled felon Rodney King led police on a high-speed chase through the streets of Los Angeles County before eventually surrendering. Drunk and uncooperative, he resisted arrest and was beaten by three police officers who didn't know they were being filmed by a nearby citizen. Upon release to the press, the video triggered outrage around the country and started a national debate on police

\* **On April 30, 1977**, more than 2,000 protesters carrying signs saying, "Split Wood, Not Atoms" and "Go Fishing, Not Fission" occupied the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant construction site in New Hampshire. More than half were taken into custody in what became one of the largest mass arrests in U.S. history.

\* **On May 1, 1958**, the United States celebrated its first Law Day after President Eisenhower announced the observance to honor the role of law in the country's creation. Three years later, Congress followed suit by passing a joint resolution establishing May 1 as Law Day.

\* **On May 2, 1972**, after serving nearly five decades as FBI director, J. Edgar Hoover died, leaving the agency without the administrator who'd turned it into an efficient crime-fighting machine.

\* **On May 3, 2007**, shortly before her fourth birthday, Madeleine McCann of Rothley, England, disappeared during a family vacation at a resort in southern Portugal. Despite an international search, she remains missing.

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**TIGER**



by BUD BLAKE

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 Roadside excavation  
 Bronze metal winner  
 Top  
 Not quite there  
 Building floor

Solve each row by replacing one letter from the answer above or below and scrambling to make a new word. When complete, the top and bottom words will have no letters in common.

Clue from the book of Michael Palmer  
 See more at [www.spot5puzzle.com](http://www.spot5puzzle.com)

02625

## SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦♦

♦ Easy   ♦♦ Medium   ♦♦♦ Difficult

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**Are You Ready for Some Fun?!**  
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**Elks Lodge Friday Night Bingo**  
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**Games Start 1:00 pm**  
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**Snack Bar Open Both Days!!**

## Weekly SUDOKU

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 3-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦

♦ Moderate   ♦♦ Challenging  
 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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## GO FIGURE!

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	-	+	=	7				
+		+	+					
	+	÷	=	1				
÷		+	-					
	+	×	=	35				
=		=	=					
11		15		4				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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## Even Exchange

by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an L, you get LMASTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

1. Raucous crew	_____ I' _____	Address, Dame Smith	_____ G _____
2. Rigid	_____ I _____	Shepherd's stick	_____ A _____
3. Deep red gem	_____ N _____	Artist's left	_____ R _____
4. Ornate	W _____	Iguana or peccary	I _____
5. Converse	_____ R _____	Trial	_____ N _____
6. Address field	_____ A _____	Goofy	_____ I _____
7. Shaver's foam	_____ H _____	Second mentioned	_____ T _____
8. Hamburger	_____ R _____	Heartbeat	_____ I _____
9. Largest city in Idaho	T _____	Callus and clamor	N _____
10. Mom or Dad	_____ R _____	Copyright	_____ I _____

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**SCRAMBLERS**

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!



“How lovely! I guess these are my \_\_\_\_\_ years, too!”

Mug  
CAPUTE [ ]

Flat  
NOPER [ ] [ ]

Grand  
REGAL [ ] [ ]

Bubble  
DEMO [ ] [ ]

**TODAY'S WORD**

[ ]

Here's a "trickledown" puzzle. The rules are simple; you merely change one letter on each line to make a new word and continue until you reach the final word.

EXAMPLE: COAT    ANSWER: COST  
                  =            COST  
                  =            CASE  
                  =            VASE

Now, try this one. Remember, there may be more than

**TWICE**

**SPANS**


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**WORD SPIRAL**

S	T	
		R
I		H

Fill in the missing letters to reveal the nine letter word that starts at one of the four corners and moves clockwise around the perimeter before ending in the center.  
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**KNIGHT MOVES**

N	G	U
T		I
N	N	S

Unlock the power of chess to find the eight-letter word of the day. Choose your starting letter carefully, then move around the square in a one by two fashion to get to the next letter.

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**FEAR**    
**KNIGHT**  
DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

- IKT
- KATNEL
- IGDNE
- CDTU
- NERGIC
- ♥ODN
- ♥AKEL
- ♥ASKLC
- ♥ALG
- GLEDKE
- SECTA
- ♥ADLE

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Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to keep all twelve strings together.

**CryptoQuip**

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: Y equals S

MOX MT TVFX EMCVXY MT  
JZHXI HGZH PZOR HRSXY  
LMWDC GZFX DXZIOXC ZEMWH  
ER JZHLGVON "YXYZPX YHIXXH":  
DZSX XIOVX.

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# Fun Fact

The most popular snack foods in America include Heinz Ketchup, M&Ms, Kit Kat bars, Snickers candy bars, Tostitos chips, Cheerios cereal, Hershey's chocolates and Lay's potato chips.

Source: yougov.com

**CRIM and BIAR IT**

"I've been a model prisoner. ... I model for 'Prison Wear Daily!'"

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 Check out area events page at:  
[www.nwcotidbits.com](http://www.nwcotidbits.com)



## Lacquerware

Picnics are a favorite way to celebrate the spring weather. But most of us wouldn't pack ours in a box like this one, which sold for \$2,560 at an auction by Nye & Company. This five-tiered lacquer picnic box was made in Japan in the 18th century. It was probably for a wealthy family whose crest graces the top. Today, it is a work of art, and similar Japanese lacquer picnic boxes appear in museum collections around the world.



Lacquerware has been made in Japan for thousands of years, with the earliest examples dating to 7000 to 5500 B.C. Elaborate decorating styles emerged by the eighth century. Over the next few hundred years, artists developed techniques incorporating multiple lacquer colors and inlaid materials like shell, ivory, mother-of-pearl, or metal foils or powders.

This picnic box features a mother-of-pearl inlay and a lacquer technique called nashiji, in which gold or silver flakes are scattered into layers of translucent lacquer while it is still wet. In English, this technique and similar methods used in European decorative arts are called aventurine, after the gemstone it resembles.

\*\*\*  
**Q**• I have some antique handwritten documents and would like to know their value.

They are an invoice dated April 1795 for supplies aboard the Brig Lydia, a memo written and signed by Booker T. Washington on Leland Hotel of Chicago letterhead dated June 25, 1896, and a December 1852 framed stanza of "A Psalm of Life" written by Henry W. Longfellow.

**A**• The most valuable antique documents are the ones signed by famous historical figures or associated with major events. Your documents, signed by Booker T. Washington and Henry W. Longfellow, certainly qualify. Dr. Washington (1856-1915) is one of the most significant educators in American history. In 1881, he founded the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, a school that provided academic and vocational training for African American students and served as its first principal and president. Documents with his signature can be worth about \$250 to \$500. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, author of epic poems like "The Song of Hiawatha" and "Evangeline," was 19th-century America's most beloved poet. He was a celebrity in his own time, and his cultural impact is still felt today. Handwritten, signed stanzas of poems by Longfellow can be worth about \$500.

Your invoice is a little more difficult to value; it may be worth anywhere from about \$50 to \$200. For more information, you may want to contact a dealer or auction house specializing in autographs, antiquarian books, or historical Americana.

**TIP:** Dirty lacquer can be cleaned with a paste of flour and olive oil.

\*\*\*

## CURRENT PRICES

Glass-contemporary, vase, globular, iridescent, white pulled loops, label. Pele's Glass, Hawaii, 5 x 7 inches, \$50.

Sampler, alphabet, numbers, multiple geometric borders, multicolor, linen, signed, dated, frame, Maria Blake, 1817, 15 x 13 inches, \$280.

Bookends, cat, stylized, back arch, tail raised, head turned, round eyes, rectangular base, copper, Walter von Nessen, Chase Brass & Copper Co., 7 1/2 x 4 inches, \$800.

\*\*\*

For more collecting news, tips and resources, visit:

[www.Kovels.com](http://www.Kovels.com)

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# Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

\* Most volcanoes spit out magma, ash and gas when they erupt, but a few rarer ones have been known to eject diamonds.

\* The longest recorded burp lasted one minute and 13 seconds.

\* Some German nursing homes use fake bus stops as a way to round up patients with Alzheimer's or dementia who seek to return home via public transportation. A staff member approaches and lets them know that the bus will be late, then invites them inside to wait more comfortably.

Within a short time, the incident is typically forgotten.

\* Bald himself, Hippocrates recommended a treatment consisting of pigeon droppings, opium, beetroot, horseradish and spices to cure hair loss. No, it wasn't successful.

\* The wood frog can hold its urine for up to eight months.

\* The Cannabis Cup is the largest marijuana festival in the world, featuring music, food and comedy, as well as awards for best new product, hash, glass, booth and seed company.

\* Due to their rare appearance, blood oranges were once considered an exclusive delicacy reserved for royalty.

\* Some libraries and museums loan out taxidermied animals as teaching aids.

\* For decades, Iceland maintained one of the strictest naming regimes in the world through the Icelandic Naming Committee, which reviewed applications to ensure personal names complied with Icelandic grammar and cultural tradition.

\* Folks with less nose hair have a higher risk of developing asthma.

\* In 2018, six medical professionals each swallowed a LEGO minifigure head to determine whether it could pass without medical intervention, and how long it would take. (In case you're wondering, it was in an average of 1.7 days.)

\* Shaquille O'Neal missed 5,317 free throws over the course of his career.

\* \* \*

Thought for the Day: "The happiness of your life depends upon the quality of your thoughts."

~ Marcus Aurelius

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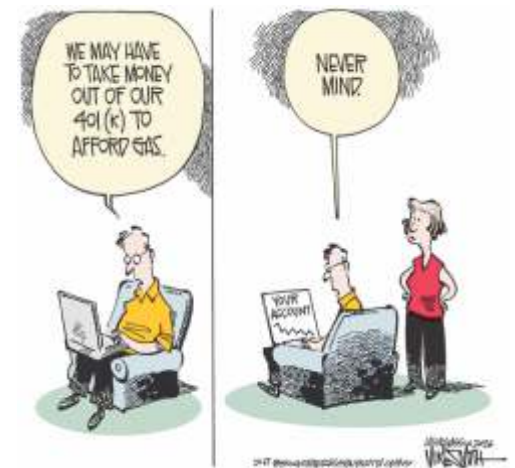
**TIDBITS ONE MORE FACT**

In 1911, Masujiro Hashimoto founded the Kwaishinsha Motor Car Works in Tokyo to become Japan's first car manufacturer (now called Nissan). Three main investors were named Den, Aoyama, and Takeuchi. The initials from their names were used in the name of a car: the DAT. The pronunciation in Japanese meant "to dash like a rabbit." When a smaller version of the car was named the DAT-son (son of Dat) now the Datsun.

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## TOP 10 MOVIES

1. **The Super Mario Galaxy Movie** (PG) Brie Larson, Virginia Dare Jelenic
  2. **Project Hail Mary** (PG-13) Ryan Gosling, Sandra Hüller
  3. **The Drama** (R) Zendaya, Robert Pattinson
  4. **Hoppers** (PG) Piper Curda, Bobby Moynihan
  5. **Reminders of Him** (PG-13) Maika Monroe, Tyriq Withers
  6. **A Great Awakening** (PG-13) John Paul Sneed, Jonathan Blair
  7. **They Will Kill You** (R) Zazie Beetz, Myha'la
  8. **Ready or Not 2: Here I Come** (R) Samara Weaving, Kathryn Newton
  9. **Dhurandhar The Revenge** (NR) Ranveer Singh, Akshaye Khanna
  10. **Undertone** Nina Kiri, Adam DiMarco
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Here's what to watch and where to watch it for the week of April 20, 2026.

- ON NOW: "FROM" (Season 4) - MGM +
  - 20-April: "Funny AF with Kevin Hart" (Season 1) - Netflix
  - 20-April: "Kevin" (Season 1) - Prime Video
  - 22-April: "This is a Gardening Show" (Season 1) - Netflix
  - 22-April: "Criminal Record" (Season 2) - Apple TV
  - 23-April: "Half Man" (Limited Series) - HBO Max
  - 23-April: "Stranger Things: Tales from '85" (Season 1) - Netflix
  - 23-April: "Running Point" (Season 2) - Netflix
  - 24-April: "Marty Supreme" (R) - HBO Max
  - 24-April: "Nikki Glaser: Good Girl" (Comedy Special) - Hulu
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- \* Putting in your spring garden? To keep your nails from developing a dirt problem, use this classic tip: Rake your nails over a bar of soap. It "seals" the gap underneath, and later when you wash your hands, the soap slips right out, no need to spend time scrubbing out the dirt!
- \* Add these to the list of items to eliminate the odor of cooking cabbage: a heel of bread, a whole walnut or a pinch of baking soda.
- \* Love beans but trying to save a little money? Don't be intimidated by dry beans. Just rinse them and chuck them in the slow cooker. Add water according to package directions and cook on low for up to eight hours. After they are cooled, you can bag them in zip-top bags and freeze them for easy use later.
- \* If you keep a couple of crackers in your sugar jar, they will keep the sugar from caking.
- \* If you or your kids have trouble drifting off to sleep, try this aromatherapy trick: Spray sheets with a diluted lavender essential oil. Lavender is classic for sleep time.
- \* "To make the most handy long handled garden [tool, do this right now: Lay the tool on the ground (it can be a hoe, rake, whatever you use most) and, using a tape measure, mark out feet and inches with a permanent marker right on the handle. Now, when you go to put plants in the ground, you can space them out perfectly by laying down your tool along the planting line." -- C.O. in Arkansas

**TIDBITS GOES LONG.....**

August Horch needed a name for his newly minted line of cars. In German his last name means "listen" so a friend of his suggested he use the Latin translation of his last name: Audi.



Send your tips to:

Now Here's a Tip  
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**Americanisms**



"There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature."  
 — Rachel Carson

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# VETERAN'S ★POST★ by Freddy Groves

## Additional Education Benefits

Have you been using your veterans educational benefits? Are you running out of time because you're coming to the end of the standard 36 months of benefits you received? Because of two new rulings, you might be one of a million veterans who are eligible for an additional 12 months. The rulings in question (*Rudisill v. McDonough* and *Perkins v. Collins*) say that certain veterans could get more education benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill and the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Adding 12 months of benefits will bring you up to 48 months. It started two years ago when the Supreme Court decided that, under one of the rulings, veterans who had more than one qualifying period of service (one for the Montgomery GI Bill and another for the Post-9/11 GI Bill) were eligible to combine them for 48 months of benefits. Then, last year, the appeals court decided that veterans with only one qualifying period of service could get benefits under both the Montgomery GI Bill and the Post-9/11 GI Bill programs.

Here is how it's going to work:

\* You no longer need to pick one program over the other and be limited to 36 months.

\* The VA is looking at eligibility under both of the ruling for any veteran who used benefits after August 2018 and who now has less than three months of benefits remaining or a veteran who was enrolled during the last six months.

\* Then, the VA is looking at veterans under one of the rulings to see if additional benefits are available. They're starting by automatically approving the standard 36 months of benefits. Those veterans who are eligible for the additional time will be told.

\* If you're new to filing for education benefits, download VA Form 22-1990 ([www.va.gov/forms/22-1990](http://www.va.gov/forms/22-1990)) to either apply or ask to change an existing benefit. Family members can scroll down to Form 22-1990e and use that form. If you've previously filed for education benefits, download Form 22-1995 ([www.va.gov/forms/22-1995](http://www.va.gov/forms/22-1995)) to ask for any changes.

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- 04/27 Morse Code Day
- 04/28 Pay It Forward Day
- 04/29 Zipper Day
- 04/30 International Guide Dog Day
- 05/01 National Frequent Flyers Day
- 05/02 Scurvy Awareness Day



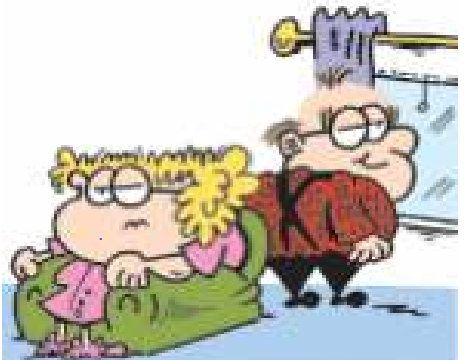
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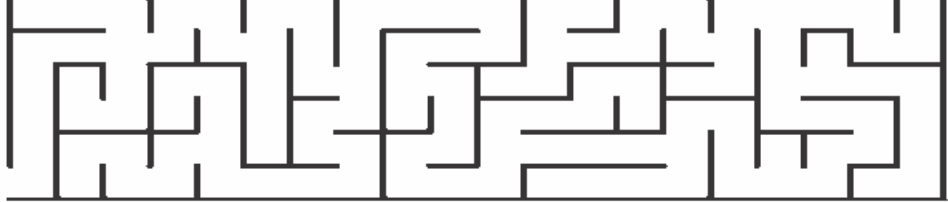
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## Kids' Maze Answer In May 3rd Issue



# Avoiding Cognitive Decline



Scroll around the internet to look for ideas about avoiding cognitive decline, and you'll find a wide variety of suggestions and studies. One thing many of them agree on, however, is the value of playing games.

UCLA has it narrowed down to four types in particular. Brain training games came in at the top of their list after they did a review of studies about improving cognitive function. Brain games were found to help with our ability to plan and focus, to remember information we hear, to recall information and to help with information processing speed. Crossword puzzles, next on the list, have value even if we only do them once a month. But more often has a greater impact.

Number puzzles, it is said, can have a powerful impact on memory, reasoning and attention. Again, the more often you do them, the greater the result.

Last on their list is three-dimensional video games (such as Super Mario). Memory improved after only playing for two weeks.

But the various universities and research groups don't all agree. Columbia University concluded that crossword puzzles were better than computer video games for memory function. One study that went on for years determined that training for brain processing speed still had benefits decades later.

To be considered: Even if you don't have any signs of cognitive decline, starting early to keep ahead of it is no doubt valuable. And since the studies don't agree about which method is best, perhaps we should sample among all of them. A crossword puzzle per day, some time spent on computerized games, working on cognitive brain games for a few hours each week, joining others to work on a jigsaw puzzle, playing chess or mahjong or even solitaire ... surely it all adds up, right?

It's never too late to start.

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# Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



# Kina Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	
11			12	13				14				
15				16				17				
18				19		20		21				
			22		23		24			25	26	27
28	29	30				31		32				
33					34		35		36			
37				38		39		40				
41					42		43					
			44			45		46		47	48	49
50	51	52			53		54		55			
56					57				58			
59					60					61		

- ACROSS**
- 1 Soak (up)
  - 4 "Nova" channel
  - 7 South Pacific nation
  - 11 Crouch
  - 13 Ump's call
  - 14 Tehran's country
  - 15 Rights org.
  - 16 Peyton's brother
  - 17 Dweeb
  - 18 Spars
  - 20 Boast
  - 22 Prom outfit
  - 24 TV detective Remington
  - 28 Shirt parts
  - 32 Flynn of film
  - 33 Frankfurt fellow
  - 34 Cleaning cloth
  - 36 Fine cotton
  - 37 "Shake —" (Taylor Swift hit)
  - 39 "Be serious!"
  - 41 More of a snoop
- DOWN**
- 43 Hosp. scan
  - 44 Inert gas
  - 46 Accord
  - 50 Pizzazz
  - 53 Bro, maybe
  - 55 Half a sextet
  - 56 Actress Falco
  - 57 — tizzy (worked up)
  - 58 Lingerie fabric
  - 59 Beloved
  - 60 A gazillion years
  - 61 Park — -joon of "The Marvels"
- DOWN**
- 1 Con job
  - 2 Killer whale
  - 3 Buddies
  - 4 "The Raven" writer
  - 5 Future tulip
  - 6 Mixes up
  - 7 Crime-solving aids
  - 8 Rage
  - 9 Pickle holder
  - 10 Hoosier st.
  - 12 Crunchy candy bar
  - 19 Minivan alternative
  - 21 Consumed
  - 23 Gen- — (baby boomer s kid)
  - 25 One of HOMES
  - 26 — Linda, Calif.
  - 27 Mideast airline
  - 28 Tibia's place
  - 29 Jared of "Panic Room"
  - 30 Cupid's alias
  - 31 Droop
  - 35 Tiara jewel
  - 38 Service charge
  - 40 Capote nickname
  - 42 Wartime riveter
  - 45 Boy, in Barcelona
  - 47 Showy flower
  - 48 Scrabble piece
  - 49 Singer Ono
  - 50 Last letter in London
  - 51 Chemical suffix
  - 52 Actress Long
  - 54 Prohibit

Answer in the May 3rd Issue



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