

100 Complimentary Short Word Puzzles for Students and/or Parents

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Alan Stillson is a retired mathematics professor and the author of numerous short word puzzle books.

Name Games - Find a name and a word that sound the same (like May and may or Jim and gym).

Example: _____ learned how to _____ knots in Boy Scouts.

Answer: **Ty** learned how to **tie** knots in Boy Scouts.

1. _____ used a hand-held _____ when he was making a speech during an assembly.

2. _____ had just two days to learn a new Christmas _____.

3. _____ stayed home from school because her temperature _____ above 99°.

4. _____ liked to _____ up his cup to the very top.

5. _____ runs two _____ every day.

Answers to Name Games:

1. **Mike** used a hand-held **mike** when he was making a speech during an assembly.
2. **Carol** had just two days to learn a new Christmas **carol**.
3. **Rose** stayed home from school because her temperature **rose** above 99°.
4. **Phil** liked to **fill** up his cup to the very top.
5. **Miles** runs two **miles** every day.

Homophones - Find two words that are spelled differently and sound the same (like here and hear).

Example: The toy boat with a red _____ was on _____.

Answer: The toy boat with a red **sail** was on **sale**.

1. After I sliced the pizza into _____ pieces, I _____ three of them.

2. The auto mechanic stubbed his _____ on a _____ truck.

3. _____ careful not to get a _____ sting.

4. There's _____ way my little brother would _____ the answer to this question.

5. The rams looked like they would _____ horns, _____ then they walked away from each other.

Answers to *Homophones*:

1. After I sliced the pizza into **eight** pieces, I **ate** three of them.
2. The auto mechanic stubbed his **toe** on a **tow** truck.
3. **Be** careful not to get a **bee** sting.
4. There's **no** way my little brother would **know** the answer to this question.
5. The rams looked like they would **butt** horns, **but** then they walked away from each other.

Beheadments - Lose the first letter (like *dare* and *are*).

Example: Every house on our _____ has a deadbolt _____ .

Answer: Every house on our **block** has a deadbolt **lock**.

1. I didn't _____ like looking at the electric _____ in the aquarium.

2. It would be _____ to go _____ skating with you.

3. The river may _____ up if another _____ falls into it.

4. Before my mom buys a loaf of _____, she'll _____ the label.

5. It will _____ you down when you put your bike into a _____ gear.

Answers to *Beheadments*:

1. I didn't **feel** like looking at the electric **eel** in the aquarium.
2. It would be **nice** to go **ice** skating with you.
3. The river may **clog** up if another **log** falls into it.
4. Before my mom buys a loaf of **bread**, she'll **read** the label.
5. It will **slow** you down when you put your bike into a **low** gear.

Curtailments - Lose the last letter (like *bunt* and *bun*).

Example: The _____ kept jumping to and _____.

Answer: The **f**rog kept jumping to and **f**ro.

1. It gave me a _____ to think I might have a _____ on my face.

2. The department store Santa remembered to bring his fake _____ and three-foot plush _____.

3. The way to find out how to make _____ of salmon is to look in the recipe _____.

4. The bus started to _____ on some ice during our _____ trip.

5. Mother thinks that if you take good _____ of a _____, it can last for ten years.

Answers to *Curtailments*:

1. It gave me a **scare** to think I might have a **scar** on my face.
2. The department store Santa remembered to bring his fake **beard** and three-foot plush **bear**.
3. The way to find out how to make **filet** of salmon is to look in the recipe **file**.
4. The bus started to **skid** on some ice during our **ski** trip.
5. Mother thinks that if you take good **care** of a **car**, it can last for ten years.

Two X Puzzles (make two words with X)

Example: The science ___ x ___ ___ was about animals that are now ___ x ___ ___ ___.

Answer: The science **e**xam was about animals that are now **e**xtingt.

1. If you ___ ___ ___ ___ x your grip on the ___ x, it may go flying out of your hand.

2. A ___ ___ x ___ ___ ___ ___ has ___ ___ x sides.

3. The Rio Grande can be seen from ___ ___ x ___ ___ and from New ___ ___ x ___ ___.

4. The technician was trying to ___ ___ x the x - ___ ___ ___ machine.

5. If you ___ ___ x shoe polish with floor ___ ___ x, you'll have a messy floor.

Answers to *Two X Puzzles*:

1. If you relax your grip on the ax, it may go flying out of your hand.
2. A hexagon has six sides.
3. The Rio Grande can be seen from Texas and from New Mexico.
4. The technician was trying to fix the x-ray machine.
5. If you mix shoe polish with floor wax, you'll have a messy floor.

Two J Puzzles (make two words with J)

Example: If dad accepts the new j _ _ offer, we'll have to move to New J _ _ _ _ .

Answer: If dad accepts the new j ob offer, we'll have to move to New J ersey.

1. People can _ _ j _ _ themselves if they're not careful with sharp _ _ j _ _ .

2. I opened a new j _ _ of strawberry j _ _ .

3. The _ _ j Mahal is one of the _ _ j _ _ attractions of India.

4. Kathy danced the Irish J _ _ for fifteen minutes, then took a j _ _ around the streets for an hour.

5. A trial by j _ _ _ is part of the American system of j _ _ _ _ .

Answers to *Two J Puzzles*:

1. People can injure themselves if they're not careful with sharp objects.
2. I opened a new jar of strawberry jam.
3. The Taj Mahal is one of the major attractions of India.
4. Kathy danced the Irish Jig for fifteen minutes, then took a jog around the streets for an hour.
5. A trial by jury is part of the American system of justice.

Wraparound Cities (find starting letter and direction)

Example: NEHTAS

Answer: ATHENS (NEHTAS - Read right to left and wrap)

1. AGOCHIC

2. TAESELT

3. UAWLIMEEK

4. TREALMON

5. COACAPUL

Answers to *Wraparound Cities*:

1. AGOCHIC = CHICAGO (AGOCHIC - read left to right and wrap)
2. TAESELT = SEATTLE (TAESELT - read right to left and wrap)
3. UAWLIMEEK = MILWAUKEE (UAWLIMEEK - read right to left)
4. TREALMON = MONTREAL (TREALMON - read left to right)
5. COACAPUL = ACAPULCO (COACAPUL - read left to right)

Wraparound Math Words (find starting letter and direction)

Example: **NECREPT**

Answer: **PERCENT** (NECRE**P**T - Read right to left and wrap)

1. **ALNUMER**

2. **ROFALUM**

3. **RESPHE**

4. **GLAARBE**

5. **NUHDERD**

Answers to Wraparound Math Words:

1. ALNUMER = NUMERAL (ALNUMER - read left to right and wrap)
2. ROFALUM = FORMULA (ROFALUM - read right to left and wrap)
3. RESPHE = SPHERE (RESPHE - read left to right)
4. GLAARBE = ALGEBRA (GLAARBE - read right to left)
5. NUHDERD = HUNDRED (NUHDERD - read right to left)

Thanksgiving (fill in missing letters)

Example: M _ Y F _ _ _ E _

Answer: MAYFLOWER

1. R _ A _ T T _ R _ _ Y

2. _ T U _ _ I _ G

3. _ I _ G R I _ S

4. P _ Y _ O U _ _ R _ _ K

5. _ A _ V E _ T

Answers to *Thanksgiving*:

1. **ROAST TURKEY**

2. **STUFFING**

3. **PILGRIMS**

4. **PLYMOUTH ROCK**

5. **HARVEST**

Presidents Day (fill in missing letters)

Example: M _ U N _ V _ R _ O N

Answer: MOUNT VERNON

1. C _ E _ _ Y T R _ _

2. _ M A _ C _ P _ T _ O _ P _ O C _ A M _ T I O _

3. _ A _ H E _ O _ O _ _ _ O U _ T R _

4. L _ _ C _ B _ _

5. C _ V _ L W _ _

Answers to *Presidents Day*:

1. **CHERRY TREE**
2. **EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION**
3. **FATHER OF OUR COUNTRY**
4. **LOG CABIN**
5. **CIVIL WAR**

HIDDEN NUMBERS

Find consecutive letters that spell out a number.

Example: AN OBOE IS PLAYED WITH TH REEDS = THREE

1. I WILL FEEL EVEN BETTER TOMORROW
2. I DON'T KNOW IF OUR ANSWERS ARE RIGHT
3. THE RAT COLLECTOR HAD SOME PRIZE RODENTS
4. THEY HAD A WIN IN EVERY HOMESTAND
5. DID QUEEN LATIFAH OUTWEIGH TINA TURNER?

Answers to *Hidden Numbers*:

1. I WILL FEEL EVEN BETTER TOMORROW = ELEVEN
2. I DON'T KNOW IF OUR ANSWERS ARE RIGHT = FOUR
3. THE RAT COLLECTOR HAD SOME PRIZE RODENTS = ZERO
4. THEY HAD A WIN IN EVERY HOMESTAND = NINE
5. DID QUEEN LATIFAH OUTWEIGH TINA TURNER? = EIGHT

HIDDEN COLORS

Find consecutive letters that spell out a color.

Example: AN OGRE ENTERED THE ROOM = GREEN

1. RICO RAN GEM STONES TO JEWELRY STORES
2. MARY'S LAMB ERASED HER PAPER
3. WITH GABE I GET A SOLID TEAM PLAYER
4. ITALIAN CHEFS LIKE BASIL VERY MUCH
5. VINCENT WAS CATCHING RAYS AT THE BEACH

Answers to *Hidden Colors*:

1. RICO RAN GEM STONES TO JEWELRY STORES = ORANGE
2. MARY'S LAMB ERASED HER PAPER = AMBER
3. WITH GABE I GET A SOLID TEAM PLAYER = BEIGE
4. ITALIAN CHEFS LIKE BASIL VERY MUCH = SILVER
5. VINCENT WAS CATCHINGG RAYS AT THE BEACH = GRAY

HIDDEN FRUITS

Find consecutive letters that spell out a fruit.

Example: SOME FOLKS FIND AN AFTERNOON NAP PLEASANT = APPLE

1. SHE HELPED HER GRANDPA PAY A BILL
2. WHEN I WATCH AN OPERA I SING ALONG
3. SOMETIMES WE SHIP LUMBER OVERSEAS
4. SUPERMAN GOT MORE PUBLICITY THAN BATMAN
5. THE INVENTOR OF SCOTCH TAPE ACHIEVED WEALTH

Answers to *Hidden Fruits*:

1. SHE HELPED HER GRANDPA PAY A BILL = PAPAYA
2. WHEN I WATCH AN OPERA I SING ALONG = RAISIN
3. SOMETIMES WE SHIP LUMBER OVERSEAS = PLUM
4. SUPERMAN GOT MORE PUBLICITY THAN BATMAN = MANGO
5. THE INVENTOR OF SCOTCH TAPE ACHIEVED WEALTH = PEACH

SHAPES (2-DIMENSIONAL AND 3-DIMENSIONAL)

Zap 5 letters so remaining letters spell out a shape.

Example: CHAIR ICICLE = **C H A I R** **I C I C L E** = CIRCLE

1. SEQUEL AIRED
2. STRIPE AND GLEN
3. SCOUR BASE
4. ONE COAT WAGON
5. PAY RATE MIXED

Answers to *Shapes*:

1. S E Q U E L A I R E D = SQUARE

2. S T R I P E A N D G L E N = TRIANGLE

3. S C O U R B A S E = CUBE

4. O N E C O A T W A G O N = OCTAGON

5. P A Y R A T E M I X E D = PYRAMID

LANGUAGES

Zap 5 letters so remaining letters spell out a language.

Example: ENDING RELISH = **E N D I N G** **R E L I S H** = ENGLISH

1. SOLAR THING
2. HIS PLAN IS HOT
3. GAMER MAGNET
4. COMMAND CARING
5. RUBS SIX HANDS

Answers to *Languages*:

1. S O L A R T H I N G = LATIN
2. H I S P L A N I S H O T = SPANISH
3. G A M E R M A G N E T = GERMAN
4. C O M M A N D C A R I N G = MANDARIN
5. R U B S S I X H A N D S = RUSSIAN

SOUPS

Zap 5 letters so remaining letters spell out a type of soup.

Example: STORM PASTOR = S **T O R M** P **A S T O R** = TOMATO

1. CHIP BACK BEND
2. COHORT WADERS
3. GAZE PAST CHOPS
4. MAIN MEN STRONGER
5. MULLS HER GROOM

Answers to *Soups*:

1. **C H I P B A C K B E N D = CHICKEN**
2. **C O H O R T W A D E R S = CHOWDER**
3. **G A Z E P A S T C H O P S = GAZPACHO**
4. **M A I N M E N S T R O N G E R = MINESTRONE**
5. **M U L L S H E R G R O O M = MUSHROOM**

Animals (find the one-word animal from the ending letters)

Example: AFFE = GIR**AFFE**

1. HANT

2. DILE

3. ZEE

4. PARD

5. UTAN

Answers to *Animals*:

1. HANT = ELEPHANT
2. DILE = CROCODILE
3. ZEE = CHIMPANZEE
4. PARD = LEOPARD
5. UTAN = ORANGUTAN

U.S. National Parks (find the one-word park from the ending letters)

Example: ITE = YOSEM**ITE**

1. ONE
2. DES
3. CIER
4. PIC
5. OOD

Answers to *U.S. National Parks*:

1. ONE = YELLOWSTONE
2. DES = EVERGLADES
3. CIER = GLACIER
4. PIC = OLYMPIC
5. OOD = REDWOOD

FAMOUS AUTHORS - Fill in the missing vowels, separate into first and last name, and find the authors.

Example: CHRLSDCKNS = CHARLES DICKENS

1. RNSTHMNGWY

2. GTHCHRST

3. MRYSHLLY

4. WLLMSHKSPR

5. JHNSTNBCK

Answers to *Famous Authors*:

1. RNSTHMNGWY = ERNEST HEMINGWAY
2. GTHCHRST = AGATHA CHRISTIE
3. MRYSHLLY = MARY SHELLY
4. WLLMSHKSPR = WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
5. JHNSTNBCK = JOHN STEINBECK

PLACES IN CALIFORNIA - Fill in the missing vowels,
separate into two words, and find the places in California.

Example: BVRLYHLLS = BEVERLY HILLS

1. SNDG
2. LCTRZSLND
3. SNTMNC
4. DTHVLLY
5. LSNGLS

Answers to *Places in California*:

1. SNDG = SAN DIEGO
2. LCTRZSLND = ALCATRAZ ISLAND
3. SNTMNC = SANTA MONICA
4. DTHVLLY = DEATH VALLEY
5. LSNGLS = LOS ANGELES