

There is no stopping coinages: new words and phrases appear with dazzling regularity. So how have you fared this year when it comes to keeping abreast of the changing English language? Our annual quiz will tell you whether you're wordly wise.

**Words of the year**

What are the current meanings of the following?

- 1. Kipper?** a. A smoked herring. b. A supporter of Ukip. c. Someone who has difficulty waking in the morning.
- 2. EVEL?** a. A superhero from another galaxy. b. Stopping Scots MPs for having a say on purely English matters. c. Part of a loom.
- 3. Haptic?** a. Technology that uses the sensations of touch. b. A brand of antiseptic cream. c. An extraterrestrial warrior in fantasy games.
- 4. Emoji?** a. A follower of "emo" music. b. Soft and pliant to the touch. c. Small image used to express emotions or ideas in electronic communications.
- 5. Face training?** a. A regime of physiognomical exercises. b. Intensive exercises for rock climbers. c. Tuition in maintaining your reputation.
- 6. Cheeky?** a. Insolent or impudent. b. Slightly naughty, but nice. c. Possessing pronounced buttocks.
- 7. Swatting?** a. Hitting a fly or other irritant. b. Making a hoax call sufficiently alarming to send a police swat team round to your victim. c. Working hard for your exams.
- 8. Fatberg?** a. Home of the world eating contest. b. Genetically modified lettuce. c. Large mass of congealed fat and sanitary products found in sewers.
- 9. Selfie stick?** a. An accessory used to assist in the taking of "selfie" photographs. b. A type of glue used to attach a passport photo to an application form. c. A cherished length of wood.
- 10. Mx?** a. A little Japanese sports car. b. Text abbreviation meaning "mix". c. A title used by those who do not wish to declare themselves male or female.

**Abbreviations, initialisms, textspeak**

What do the following mean?

- 1. FOGO. 2. ASL. 3. BFF. 4. TBF. 5. TL;DR. 6. Obvi. 7. TBH. 8. OP. 9. Inspo. 10. AFAIK.**

**The voice of youth**

What do these mean?

- 1. Bants. 2. Peng. 3. Creeper. 4. Brain fart. 5. Bae. 6. Janky. 7. Mint. 8. Pwnage. 9. Banging. 10. Peak.**

**All Greek to me**

Here are some foreign idioms. Where are they from, and what do they mean?

- 1.** There is no cow on the ice. **2.** To swallow grass snakes. **3.** When the crayfish whistles on the mountain. **4.** He who doesn't have a dog hunts with a cat. **5.** To be like cabbages in a snack. **6.** You've really shot the parrot! **7.** Did an elephant step on your ear? **8.** For an apple and an egg. **9.** The pussycat will come to the tiny door. **10.** It's no good eating cherries with him.

**Words of which year?**

The words in each group are first recorded in English in a single year. What was that year? The years are a century apart.

- Group 1:** contrasting; coolish; disembody; effrontery; egotist; frightening; good-looking; helpmate; outpatient; whisky.
- Group 2:** adland; articulacy; conurbation; headstand; lifestyle; narcissistic; puppeteer; scrummy; superstore; wino.
- Group 3:** ascension; bush; christening; cider; condition; corpse; humility; shearing; sling (n); tame (v).
- Group 4:** butter-fingered; chamber music; clitoris; dreamlike; gingham; hysterical; man-made; miscellaneous; raucous; twanging.
- Group 5:** cooper; gold-beater; heathenly; justiciary; notice (n); pamphlet; quarter-master; quayside; sapling; subscribe.
- Group 6:** ahoy!; bed linen; boost (v); bureaucracy; confetti; cyanide; gasworks; gnomie; metronome; uninspiring.
- Group 7:** affidavit; costermonger; doxy; gallop (v); lattice window; pentameter; rowing boat; Swiss; valuable; weatherboarding (n).

**Where did this word come from?**

English has absorbed vocabulary from all over the world. Where did these words come from?

- 1.** Ghoul. **2.** Mammoth. **3.** Booth. **4.** Demarcation. **5.** Loiter. **6.** Pariah. **7.** Bangle. **8.** Palaver. **9.** Gull. **10.** Pet.

**A-Z of Christianity**

What is or was the following?

- 1.** Abecedarian psalm. **2.** Biretta. **3.** Curialist. **4.** Ditheism. **5.** Epiclesis.



**He who doesn't have a dog hunts with a cat**

- 6.** Franklmoign. **7.** Gang Day. **8.** Hockday. **9.** Ichthus. **10.** Jocism. **11.** Kenosis. **12.** Limiter. **13.** Mozzetta. **14.** Naology. **15.** Ombrellino. **16.** Poimenics. **17.** Quadragesimal. **18.** Restorationist. **19.** Sacerdotal. **20.** Terna. **21.** Ubiquitarian. **22.** Visitor. **23.** Wilfridians. **24.** Xerophagy. **25.** Year's Mind. **26.** Zelator.


**Answers will appear in the 2 January issue**

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# CHRISTMAS PUZZLES / PRIZE ACROSTIC / devised by Martin Redfern

Enter answers to the 26 clues A-X in the appropriate columns of the vertical grid, transferring the individual characters of each answer to the corresponding squares of the horizontal grid. When

completed, the horizontal grid displays a single extended quotation, and the lines to the left of the horizontal grid and across the top of the vertical grid display the author and source of that quotation.

A 76	B 287	C 3	D 9	E 62	F 266	G 270	H 155	I 249	J 68	K 261	L 295	M 73	N 169	O 20	P 35	Q 223	R 168	S 95	T 41	U 200	V 136	W 170	X 93	Y 42	Z 11	
A 5	B 158	C 255	D 153	E 7	F 146	G 179	H 22	I 25	J 97	K 88	L 239	M 52	N 59	O 224	P 150	Q 306	R 180	S 182	T 226	U 63	V 13	W 203	X 145	Y 189	Z 219	
A 296	B 230	C 191	D 84	E 212	F 319	G 193	H 267	I 53	J 105	K 27	L 314	M 115	N 126	O 301	P 194	Q 109	R 96	S 222	T 305	U 151	V 102	W 291	X 328	Y 149	Z 49	
A 36	B 45	C 277	D 243	E 250	F 8	G 163	H 57	I 254	J 236	K 18	L 54	M 201	N 85	O 86	P 278	Q 183	R 38	S 21	T 120	U 4	V 117	W 186	X 160	Y 268	Z 94	
A 128	B 245	C 50	D 79	E 16	F 251	G 326	H 98	I 122	J 152	K 83	L 106	M 137	N 218	O 28	P 262	Q 244	R 298	S 229	T 67	U 14	V 154	W 23	X 190	Y 24	Z 320	
A 309	B 113	C 228	D 99	E 311	F 195	G 207	H 232	I 196	J 192	K 167	L 276	M 124	N 294	O 323	P 210	Q 90	R 240	S 135		U 78	V 217	W 138	X 31	Y 327	Z 209	
A 69	B 10	C 334	D 225	E 285	F 161	G 58	H 107	I 119	J 206	K 324		M 331	N 159	O 165	P 181	Q 142		S 56		U 271	V 247	W 242	X 246		Z 272	
A 241	B 140		D 330	E 258	F 300	G 132	H 130	I 82	J 44	K 114		M 237	N 19		P 61	Q 174				U 111	V 46	W 302	X 17		Z 173	
A 43			D 118	E 72	F 51	G 252	H 335	I 257	J 221			M 188			P 303	Q 256				U 275	V 91		X 199		Z 336	
A 184			D 26	E 265	F 175	G 6	H 248	I 176	J 116			M 304			P 123	Q 274				U 313	V 260		X 273		Z 101	
A 148			D 290	E 215	F 279	G 315	H 40	I 321	J 338			M 29			P 234	Q 198				U 125	V 297		X 310		Z 164	
A 339			D 55		F 293	G 103	H 329		J 77			M 227			P 70	Q 208				U 238	V 60		X 65		Z 64	
A 143			D 178		F 162	G 280	H 286		J 322			M 263			P 89	Q 325				U 288	V 80		X 110		Z 74	
A 87			D 259		F 121	G 340	H 216		J 15			M 104			P 202	Q 284				U 333	V 316		X 47		Z 235	
A 264			D 134		F 312	G 147	H 187		J 269			M 12			P 166	Q 66				U 211	V 185		X 214		Z 131	
A 108			D 299			G 213	H 81		J 133			M 156			P 253	Q 1				U 231	V 233		X 129		Z 33	
			D 71			G 75	H 308		J 281			M 282			P 220	Q 157				U 37	V 337		X 292		Z 283	
			D 317			G 34	H 144		J 307			M 100			P 112	Q 127				U 172	V 32				Z 139	
			D 204				H 289		J 171						P 332	Q 48					V 197					
							H 177		J 30						P 2	Q 92										
							H 205								P 141	Q 318										
																Q 39										

- A.** "One of the ----- the French in place of a state religion" (Ambrose Bierce) (6,5,5)
- B.** East German ahead of time, we hear, at stately home (8)
- C.** Set Lent exercise irritates (7)
- D.** "First of all the Georgian silver goes, and then all that nice furniture that used to be in the saloon -----" (Harold Macmillan) (4,3,10,2)
- E.** "And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and -----; and the third part of the ships were destroyed" (Revelation, AV) (3,4,4)
- F.** "Where do ----- for not reading so many books?" (Karl Kraus) (1,4,3,3,4)
- G.** "Thou -----! -----! ----- sweet! Thou grand!" (Rodgers and Hart) (5,4,5,4)
- H.** "Not only is there no God, ----- on weekends" (Woody Allen) (3,3,7,1,7)
- I.** "Love not me for comely grace, For my pleasing eye or face, Nor for

- any -----, No, nor for my constant heart" (John Wilbye) (7,4)
- J.** "The ----- that never come to pass, the old have reminiscences of what never happened" (Saki) (5,4,11)
- K.** Real City confusion over basic learning level (8)
- L.** "Unhappily, Imogen got up and phoned Mrs ----- again. And against the odds, there was some news. Susan, at last, had phoned home" (Jill Paton Walsh) (6)
- M.** "I wasted time, and -----" (*Richard III*) (3,4,4,5,2)
- N.** "You cleared the ground for it; it took ----- and filled the land" (Psalms, RSV) (4,4)
- O.** Prescribes frocks (6)
- P.** "Ye have transgressed; and make you a -----: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" (Ezekiel, AV) (3,5,3,1,3,6)
- Q.** "He went back -----, waving his wild tail, and walking by his wild lone" (Rudyard Kipling) (7,3,3,4,5)

- R.** Jeer cruelly at court outcast (6)
- S.** America Online accommodates love spray (7)
- T.** Country transport plane (5)
- U.** "A thing well ----- languages" (John Dryden) (4,4,2,3,2,3)
- V.** "While an author is yet living, we estimate his powers by his -----; ----- when he is dead, we rate them by his best" (Samuel Johnson) (5,11,3)
- W.** Commanding officer saw red after bad dog turned up (8)
- X.** "Poor Henry [James], he's spending eternity wandering round and ----- and the fence is just too high for him to peep over" (W. Somerset Maugham) (5,1,7,4)
- Y.** Sailing boat comes about around Early English room for manoeuvre (6)
- Z.** "Tis a long way further than Knighton, A quieter place than Clun, Where ----- and lighten And little 'twill matter to one" (A.E. Housman) (8,3,7)

	1 Q	2 P	3 C	4 U	5 A	6 G	7 E	8 F	9 D	10 B	11 Z	12 M	13 V	14 U	15 J	16 E	17 X	18 K	19 N	20 O	21 S	22 H	23 W
24 Y	25 I	26 D	27 K	28 O	29 M	30 J	31 X	32 V	33 Z	34 G	35 P	36 A	37 U	38 R	39 Q	40 H	41 T						
42 Y	43 A	44 J	45 B	46 V	47 X	48 Q	49 Z	50 C	51 F	52 M	53 I	54 L	55 D	56 S	57 H	58 G	59 N	60 V	61 P	62 E			
63 U	64 Z	65 X	66 Q	67 T	68 J	69 A	70 P	71 D	72 E														
73 M	74 Z	75 G	76 A	77 J	78 U	79 D	80 V	81 H	82 I	83 K	84 D	85 N	86 O	87 A	88 K	89 P	90 Q	91 V	92 Q	93 X	94 Z	95 S	
96 R																							
97 J	98 H																						
99 D	100 M	101 Z	102 V	103 G	104 M	105 J	106 L	107 H	108 A	109 Q	110 X	111 U	112 P	113 B	114 K	115 M	116 J	117 V	118 D	119 I	120 T	121 F	122 I
123 P	124 M	125 U	126 N	127 Q	128 A	129 X	130 H	131 Z	132 G	133 J	134 D	135 S	136 V	137 M	138 W	139 Z	140 B	141 P	142 Q	143 A	144 H	145 X	
	146 F	147 G	148 A	149 Y	150 P	151 U	152 J	153 D	154 V	155 H	156 M	157 Q	158 B	159 N	160 X	161 F	162 F	163 G	164 Z	165 O	166 P	167 K	168 R
	169 N	170 W	171 J	172 U	173 Z	174 Q	175 F	176 I	177 H	178 D	179 G	180 R	181 P	182 S	183 Q	184 A	185 V	186 W	187 H	188 M	189 Y	190 X	
	191 C	192 J	193 G	194 P	195 F	196 I	197 V	198 Q	199 X	200 U	201 M	202 P	203 W	204 D	205 H	206 J	207 G	208 Q	209 Z	210 P	211 U		
	212 E	213 G	214 X	215 E	216 H	217 V	218 N	219 Z	220 P	221 J	222 S	223 Q	224 O	225 D	226 T	227 M	228 C	229 S	230 B	231 U	232 H	233 V	
	234 P	235 Z	236 J	237 M	238 U	239 L	240 R	241 A	242 W	243 D	244 Q	245 B	246 X	247 V	248 H	249 I	250 E	251 F	252 G	253 P	254 I		
	255 C	256 Q	257 I	258 E	259 D	260 V	261 K	262 P	263 M	264 A	265 E	266 F	267 H	268 Y	269 J	270 G	271 U	272 Z	273 X	274 Q	275 U	276 L	
	277 C	278 P	279 F	280 G	281 J	282 M	283 Z	284 Q	285 E	286 H	287 B	288 U	289 H	290 D	291 W	292 X	293 F	294 N	295 L	296 A	297 V		
	298 R	299 D	300 F	301 O	302 W	303 P	304 M	305 T	306 Q	307 J	308 H	309 A	310 X	311 E	312 F	313 U	314 L	315 G	316 V	317 D	318 Q	319 F	
	320 Z	321 I	322 J	323 O	324 K	325 Q	326 G	327 Y	328 X	329 H	330 D	331 M	332 P	333 U	334 C	335 H	336 Z	337 V	338 J	339 A	340 G		

**PRIZES** This year we are offering an £80 book token, or the equivalent in wine or port, to the sender of the first correct solution opened on Friday 8 January 2016. Each of the five runners-up can choose either a £30 book token or the equivalent in wine or port. Photocopies will be accepted. The editor's decision is final. Post your entries to: **Acrostic, The Tablet, 1 King Street Cloisters, Clifton Walk, London W6 0GY.** The answers and the winners' names will appear in The Tablet on Saturday 16 January 2016.

**SUDOKU**

Level: Moderate

Solution to the 28 November 2015 puzzle

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

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

Each 3 x 3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. The solution will appear in the 2 January 2016 issue.

**Do you run a reading group in your parish?**

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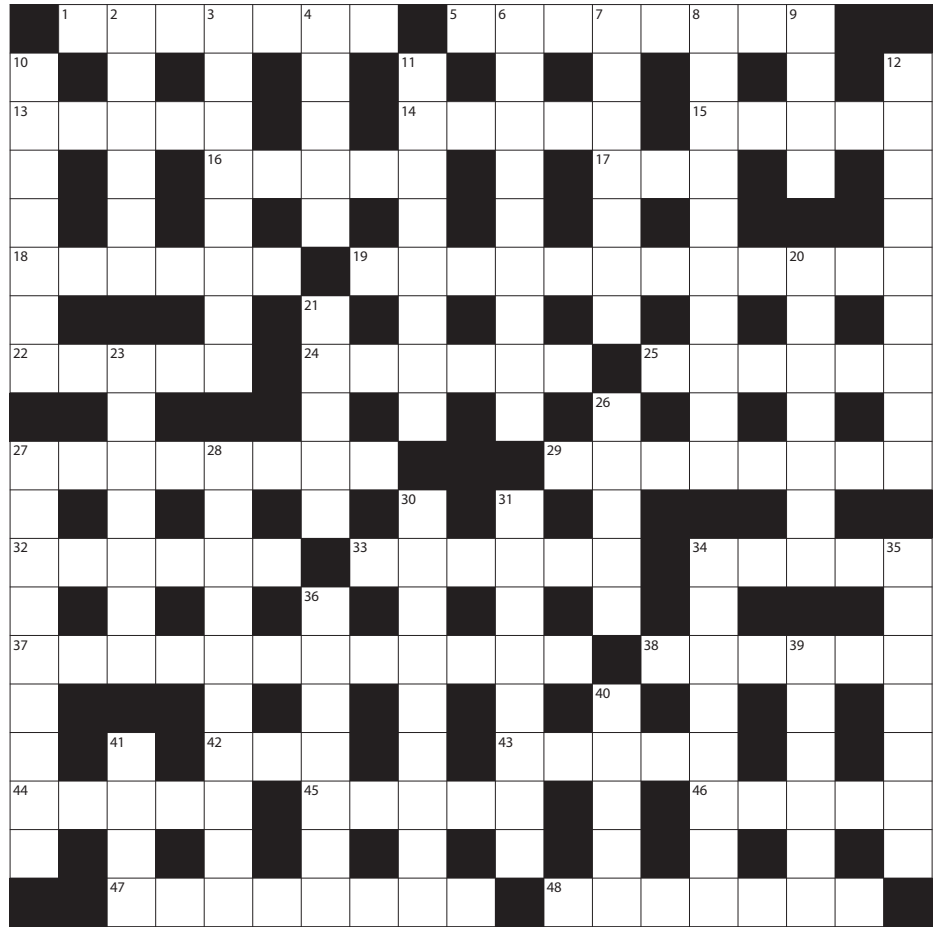


**Across**

- 1 & 5 Across:** The Lord be with you (7,8)
- 5 See 1 Across**
- 13** Coastal town of the Scottish Highlands with historic associations with St Ninian (5)
- 14** Polyphonic choral composition such as Palestrina's *Hodie Christus Natus Est* (5)
- 15** "Fast by an ----- bleezing finely" (Burns: "Tam o' Shanter") (5)
- 16** Bell, fire or clock! (5)
- 17** "Des ---", a place to live having appealing features (3)
- 18** Country where the national greeting of Merry Christmas is "Priciegus Ziemassvētkus" (6)
- 19** One of the gifts brought by 2 Down for the newborn Holy Infant (12)
- 22** Nationality of president and his brother visited by Pope Francis three months ago (5)
- 24** The 29 December is an appropriate day for performing this Jean Anouilh play? (6)
- 25** Seafaring author and German king (III) who led an army in the Crusades (6)
- 27** A paid post with little or no work involved (8)
- 29** Saxon northern boundary of Holy Roman Empire and part of modern German state (8)
- 32** ----- *Fideles*, original of *O Come All Ye Faithful* (6)
- 33** State of Germany, once an electorate of the Holy Roman Empire (6)
- 34** "Make straight his -----"; the voice of one crying in the wilderness (5)
- 37** Novel by 48 author, the title referring to "Amy" (6,6)
- 38** "Pax -----", long period of empire peace begun by Emperor Augustus (6)
- 42** Item usually of a pair in seasonal sport (3)
- 43** A friend in Mexico (5)
- 44** The father of Methuselah, great-grandfather of Noah (5)
- 45** Relating to a Frankish people and a law limiting accession to French crown to males (5)
- 46** Monkish apparel of use on chimneys? (5)
- 47** Relating to the stars (8)
- 48** One of the ghosts in Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* (7)

**Down**

- 2** Where Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar came from in the carol (6)
- 3** Relating to SJ founder or patristic father of Antioch (8)
- 4** Pope ----- (VIII) canonised St Philip Neri and built Castel Gandolfo (5)
- 6** See 41 Down
- 7** A passage sung or spoken at the beginning of Mass; first of the Propers of the Mass (7)
- 8** Nature of pattern for game of O's and X's (5-5)
- 9** Collective reference to men of 2 Down (4)
- 10** Salutation heralding the Nativity and the sacred uniqueness of Mary (7)
- 11** Blessed Anne Catherine -----, German nun, mystic and stigmatist (8)
- 12** Rogier van --- -----, fifteenth-century Dutch painter of religious works including several of the Nativity (3,6)



- 20** Saint founder of the Order of Premonstratensians (7)
- 21** "The holly bears - ----, as bitter as any gall" (*The Holly and the Ivy*) (1,4)
- 23** Richard Rodney -----, composer, died 24 December 2012, chamber works include *Winter Music* (7)
- 26** City and archdiocese in the Far East (5)
- 27** They work with horses and looked after Christ's birthplace? (9)
- 28** See 39 Down
- 30** Girl's name, derivative of the divinely sent messenger of the Annunciation (9)
- 31** English saint, "Apostle of the Germans", effectively originator of the Christmas tree (8)
- 34** Required etiquette in diplomatic and formal situations (8)
- 35** Nationality of Franciscan St Junípero Serra, canonised September 2015 (7)
- 36** One who gives counsel (7)
- 39 & 28** Down: It once stood in Royal David's city in the carol (1,5,6,4)
- 40** Character instrumental to Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*? (5)
- 41 & 6** Down: Name given to Apostles James and John by Our Lord ("Boanerges") (4,2,7)

**Solution to the 28 November crossword, No. 488**

**Across:** 1 Offers; 5 Dream; 8 Trope; 9 Avenger; 10 Rude; 11 Sarajevo; 13 Sneer; 14 Summa; 19 Ashenden; 21 At me; 23 Madras; 24 Mason; 25 Naiad; 26 Easter. **Down:** 2 Flodden; 3 Edes; 4 Shamal; 5 Daedalus; 6 Eagle; 7 Margot; 8 Tern; 12 Reinhard; 15 Matisse; 16 Salmon; 17 Semite; 18 Bein; 20 Hedge; 22 Imps. **Winner:** Pearse Bergin, of Nenagh, County Tipperary, Ireland.

**Answers in the 2 January issue**