

Answers and Solutions (Current Issue)

Solution to "Riddles of the Alphabet" (page 56)

- (1) The letter I (in visible, never out of sight).
- (2) Maryland, abbreviated "Md." (= M.D.).
- (3) Because it is the center of light.
- (4) SMILES, for there is a MILE between the first and last letters.
- (5) N R G (= Energy).
- (6) Washington, abbreviated "Wash." (= Wash!).
- (7) Pennsylvania, abbreviated "Pa." (= pa).
- (8) (The) ALPHABET.
- (9) O I C U R M T (= Oh, I see you are empty!).
- (10) In the time of Noah (= no A), before U (= you) and I (= I) were born. (Accordingly, there were only two vowels, E and O.)
- (11) Because a B (= bee) follows it.
- (12) Because it is the capital (= capital letter) of France.
- (13) Massachusetts, for it always has mass (it is abbreviated "Mass.").
- (14) The letter M.
- (15) Because you cannot make a horrid loud noise without it, whereas all the other vowels are inaudible (= in audible).
- (16) The letter V (gravity).
- (17) The letter E.
- (18) "What do the letters Y-E-S spell?"
- (19) Chicago has always begun with C, and end has always begun with E.
- (20) ISLAND. Read our statement again, more carefully!

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Solution to "The Word Watchers' Test" (page 57)

1. ABSTEMIOUSLY. Includes all six of our vowels, arranged alphabetically.
2. ANIMATIVE. Cancel the first and last letters and read the ones left backwards, and you have the word VITAMIN, certainly a product intended to be *animative*.
3. ARCHSAINT. A symbol of good; rearrange the letters, and you have ANARCHIST, a symbol of evil.
4. AWING. Pronounced "awé-ing," the word is a verb; pronounced "uh-wing," it's an adjective meaning "flying, fluttering."
5. BACCALAUREATE. The consonants of this word are arranged in alphabetical order.
6. BLOODGUILT. Consonants and vowels alternate, but in pairs.
7. CAUSAL. The word means "arising from a cause." Switch the two middle letters, and you have CASUAL, meaning "occurring by chance, without purpose or cause."
8. DECIMAL. You can rearrange the 7 letters of this word to spell at least 7 other words and names: CADMIEL, CAMELID, CLAIMED, DECLAIM, MALICED, MEDALIC, and MEDICAL.
9. DELIVER. Read it backwards, and you have REVILED.

10. DERMATOGLYPHICS. A name for the study of fingerprints, it is one of the longest words in which no individual letter is used more than once.
11. DUOLITERAL. The five vowels A, E, I, O, U appear in reverse-alphabetical order in this comparatively short word.
12. EQUATION. A short word using all 5 vowels (A, E, I, O, U).
13. INDIANANS. Start at the end and lop off one letter at a time as you go along; you will always remain with a complete word: INDIANAN, INDIANA, INDIAN, INDIA, INDI (genitive of "Indus" in astronomy), IND, IN, I.
14. INTESTINES. The last five letters duplicate the first five letters, but in a different order.
15. LACERATED. Write the word in the form of a square, and you have six simple words, three across and three down:

L	A	C
E	R	A
T	E	D

16. McKNIGHTS. One of the longest words (a pluralized surname) employing only one vowel.
17. MIAOUED. A short word containing the five vowels in a solid cluster.
18. NEGLECTING. Delete the "C" and rearrange the remaining letters into NEGLIGENT: both words mean "neglectful."
19. QUEENSPORT. A 10-letter Canadian place name including the eight consecutive letters from N to U.
20. ROTATOR. A palindrome, reading the same backward as forward.
21. SHOULDER-STRAP. You can divide the term into three consecutive words unrelated to it either in meaning or in pronunciation: SHOULD, ERST, RAP.
22. SPARKLINGS. Cancel one of the inside letters of this word, always leaving a complete word, until only the first and last letters remain: SPARKINGS, SPARINGS, SPRINGS, SPRIGS, SPIGS, SIGS, SIS, SS.
23. SPOON-FEED. The letters of this word are arranged in reverse-alphabetical order.
24. SWEET-TOOTHED. This word features three consecutive pairs of like letters (EE, TT, OO).
25. YOU. Its pronunciation is identical with that of a word—EWE—with which it does not share even a single letter!

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Solutions to Problems in First of the "Letters to the Editor" (page 58)

Problem 1:

AREAS	RAGES	SNARE	URASE
BARES	HARES	AROSE	AVERS
CARES	RAISE	SPARE	WARES
DARES	RAKES	REARS	RAXES
ERASE	RALES	SEARS	YEARS
FARES	MARES	STARE	RAZES

Problem 2:

JUMPY	THEIR	NEIGH	NIGHT
COILS	KITED	FIGHT	
GATES	VOTER	BIGHT	

WORD WAYS