Although transpositions -- the rearrangement of letters in one word to form another -- lie near the core of logology, few word puzzles are based on them. Most often, one is given a list of words and words and asked to find their transposed forms. It doesn't take very long to do this unless the words are lengthy or rare (although the transpositions of CHESTY and SUTURE are surprisingly difficult to find).

A more challenging puzzle asks the reader to ascertain both words in the transposition, by embedding them as blanks in a sentence (The National Puzzlers' League has long employed this method in verse form). However, context can be provided by picture as well as by word. Consider the pair of illustrations below:

The right-hand picture suggests Christmas, or NOEL, and the left-hand one shows the head of a LEON (the Spanish word for lion, keyed by the map at upper left).

On the following two pages, six more pairs of picture transpositions are given for the reader to work out. All involve simple words of eight or fewer letters. Although none of them are multilingual, some words involve activities rather than the objects performing them. The answers can be found in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.
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