

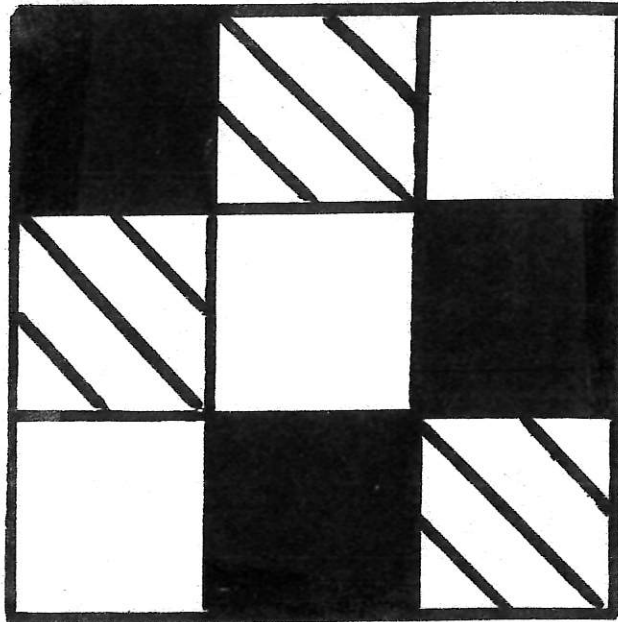
FOR MARTIN GARDNER A PUZZLE AND GAME

By Jeremiah Farrell

THE PUZZLE. The nine different letters in MARTIN GARDNER are used three times each in these nine words.

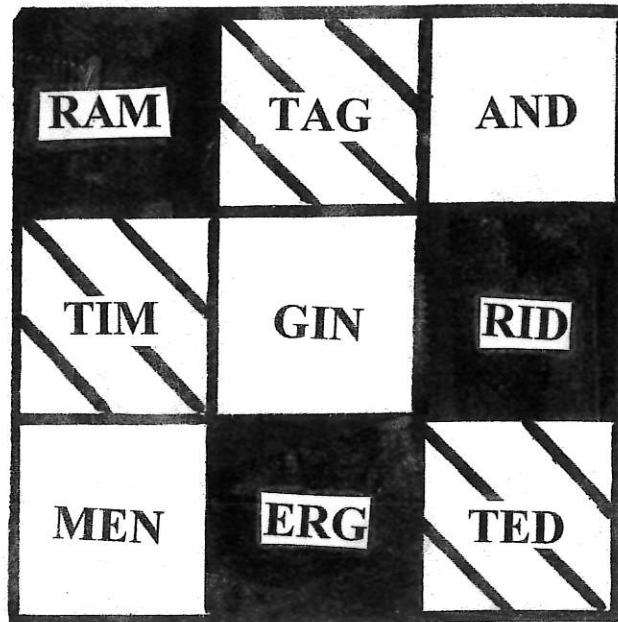
AND, ERG, GIN, MEN, RAM, RID, TAG, TED, TIM

Place the words in the 3x3 grid so that each row of three, each column of three and each color of three has a common letter.



THE GAME. Two players alternately select and keep from the letter AEIDGMNRT trying to win the game by forming one of the nine words in the puzzle. To be fair each player gets only four turns and if First does not win in four, Second is awarded the win. How should this be played?

ANSWERS. For the puzzle, one possible solution follows:



For the Game, First can start with any of the letters in the three sets. AEI, DGM, and NRT. These sets never occur together in any of the words. If Second takes a letter in the same set as First, First takes the last letter of that set and blocks Second's next play with a double threat and wins.

If Second takes in a different set, First wins by forcing Second to play in Second set.