

THESE AND THOSE

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This word puzzle is based on pairs of words which are identical except that in one position they have different letters. Examples could be *hearse* and *hoarse*, or *these* and *those*. A single clue contains definitions for both words of the pair, and the solver has to put the two differing letters where indicated in a crossword-type grid. When all the clues are solved, the grid will be made up entirely of reasonably common words. The clues are not cryptic or deliberately obscure, as finding the word pair can be hard enough; also, the word length is given as a little help.

Here is an example –

Grid squares 1,2 6 letters ‘Charts for finding fruit’
Answer GRAPHS and GRAPES letters for grid are H and E, in squares 1 and 2.

The puzzle can be tricky for the compiler for two reasons. Firstly, pairs of words for some letter pairs are rare or even non-existent, especially vowel/consonant combinations; and secondly, if one tries to find a word pair to yield, say, H and E as above, one’s mind automatically starts thinking of words where H and E appear together, rather than in separate words. However, that’s my problem. Meanwhile, try the small grid below;-

| | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | | 7 | | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |

- | | | |
|-------|-------------|--|
| 1,2 | (4 letters) | Put the knife into a celebrity |
| 3,7 | (4 letters) | Not able to walk well, this young animal |
| 4,5 | (5 letters) | Star sign that loses water |
| 6,9 | (6 letters) | Road to get your own back for what was done to you |
| 8,13 | (5 letters) | Less pits |
| 10,11 | (6 letters) | On fire with crop infection |
| 12,13 | (5 letters) | Come to a halt, not being fresh. |

Answers are on a separate page where solutions to the two other word-pair problems from the May issue can also be found.