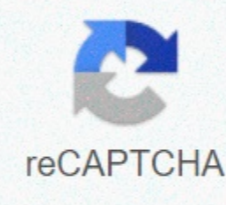




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Healthy crossword puzzle answer

Crosswords are a traditional part of many daily newspapers. Since 1913, when Arthur Wynne published the first crossword puzzle in the world of New York, puzzlers around the world have rejoiced in these head-scratching games [source: Short history of crossword puzzles]. And there's more to crosswords than fun? some studies have shown that regular puzzle solving such as crossword puzzles or Sudoku can help improve your memory, and may even reduce the mental decline of the elderly [source: Christie]. Crosswords are also a great way to improve your vocabulary and general knowledge. Some crossword puzzles are simple, but some certainly aren't. The New York Times Sunday crossword is one of the hardest out there, and it's not for the faint of heart. But don't despair - there are a lot of tricks out there that can help turn you into a master puzzle. Remember, the harder the puzzle, the more satisfying it is when you fill the final square. Ad Ready to Dive In? Read on for the top 10 tips for solving crossword puzzles. Contents crosswords are a bit like spiderwebs; each answer is linked to others nearby to form a woven network of letters. Pulling in a series of letters affects everyone else, too. Most crosswords are naturally divided into different groups of up and down clues, linked to the other groups by larger responses. With this in mind, working through the puzzle one cluster of columns at a time - as opposed to going through all the passing clues at once, followed by all the below clues - is a good strategy. Every word you fill out will help solve others around it. Advertising In some cases, crossword puzzle crafters will draw from other languages for their answers. But how will you know if the answer is in English or something? You're going to have to rely on the evidence to tell you. If the wording of the indication refers to a particular city or country, or if part of the indication is in a foreign language, this is a fairly sure indicator that your answer should be in the same language [source: Sayles]. Few crossword lovers are really fluent in the languages most commonly found in clues, but a basic knowledge of articles, verbs and personal titles in some of the most common languages will go a long way. French, Spanish, German and Latin are particularly popular with puzzle crafters. Advertising A popular strategy for test-taking is to go through all the questions and skip over what you don't know. And although it's not multi-choice, you can do the same with crossword puzzles - fortunately, be rated at the end. Don't spend too much time ripping your hair out over an item you just can't crack. Go easy, because this strategy comes with a bonus: filling in the answers you know will provide letters for those you don't have. Where Where under the possibilities important, especially for indications where more than one answer could be applied. Advertising Are you stuck with an unfinished puzzle and a rotating head? Don't let it stress you out - crosswords are meant to be provocative, but they're also supposed to be fun. It's perfectly okay to leave for a while. If you're not competing in the American crossword tournament, there's no time limit, so don't go crazy trying to complete the puzzle for your lunch time. Sometimes the best thing you can do is take a break and clear your mind. Come back to it later, and you may be surprised at what's jumping out at you. Advertising happens to all of us. If you look at a word enough, it suddenly seems wrong - even if it's a word you've been writing right since high school. So it wouldn't be very strange to discover a spelling error between your answers, would it? Putting an E before an I instead of the other way around can throw off the other clues in this particular part of the puzzle. There will also be times when the answers first come from a language such as Arabic or Russian, whose alphabets are completely different from the Latin alphabet used by most Western countries. As a result, there are often a number of acceptable misspellings for these translated words. In these cases, the indication will usually include an interstitial var to indicate that there are more than one established way to spell that word. Advertising Is there a puzzle element giving you extra trouble? Does he have a question mark at the end? In the world of crossword puzzles, a question mark element means that this item requires a second look. Usually, this piece of punctuation is an indication that the clue itself is a game for words, as opposed to a simple question that requires an answer or a fill-in-the-blank [source: Sayles]. So the most obvious answer probably isn't the right one. Think of all possible concepts of indication: You can always ruminate on it while you go to other parts of the puzzle. Advertising Many crosswords have a title that provides some insight into the subject of the puzzle. And, whether or not the puzzle has a title, it will almost always have a theme. Throughout the puzzle, the author will scatter answers that link back to the subject. These responses will usually be longer and contain more than one word. Often, the clues will be a game on the subject, so the link may not be immediately obvious. Still, keeping the subject or title in mind as you go through the clues can provide some insight to lead you in the right direction. Let's say a shovel, a shovel. But does that mean we're going to call the shovel a shovel or a paper suit? Some words have not only one or two meanings, but several. If a part of the puzzle doesn't come together, and one of the items could have been from one answer, try it all out. In particular, be on the lookout for words with multiple meanings in the question mark indications mentioned earlier. Composers and puzzle authors are a sneaky bunch; They'll use multiple meanings to throw would-be solvers off the scent. Thinking outside the box, both literally and figuratively, will help you finish the job. Advertising Are you waffling between more than one possible answer, or maybe just taking a stab in the dark? There will always be times when you think you know what the answer is, but you can't be 100% sure. Are you taking a risk and writing in your guess or not? If the answer to the question intersects with yet another maybe-is-maybe-not indication, skip it for now. Writing in the wrong answers can lead you to mislead, especially if you are one of the brave souls who prefer to do the puzzle in the pen. Instead, rely on the answers you know are right to lead you back to safe ground. Advertising There's no shame in relying on a reference book. Some of the main benefits of crossword puzzles are the expansion of your own knowledge and vocabulary. If you've solved all the bottom clues in a cluster, but one of the resulting answers is not a term you're familiar with, pull your trusty Oxford English Dictionary off the shelf. You will either learn that the word is correct and add something new to your jargon, or you will discover that some of your answers below need review. Other reference books, such as a treasure or encyclopedia, are just as useful. After all, if you knew every crossword answer without even trying, it wouldn't be so much fun - and you wouldn't have a new nugget of trivia to bandy about at cocktail parties. For more information about crossword puzzles and other games, see the links on the next page. Get comfortable and let's test your knowledge of strange castles, crazy big numbers and embargo snack foods. American crossword tournament website. (March 15, 2010) crossword.com/BlankCrosswordPuzzleTemplate.com. Crossword strategies. (March 17, 2010) Nancy. Staying Sharp: Electronic games and exercises to combat memory loss. EverydayHealth.com 18 September 2008. (March 17, 2010) Patrick, dir. Wordplay. The Weinstein Company. 2006. (March 23, 2010)Jensen, Sik Campon. A brief history of crossword puzzles. American crossword tournament website. Feb. (March 15, 2010) York Wordplay: The Crossword Blog of the New York Times. (March 16, 2010) English Dictionary. (March 24, 2010) Philip J. Free help in solving crossword puzzles. Puzzle. Phrase dictionary. (March 19, 2010) crossword puzzle.com/tips.asp An indication will always be written in the same part of the speech as the answer. Check for clues that require answers that result in S, ED, EST, or ING. Often these endings can be penciled in (but not always). Checking the intersections of these responses can help verify the expiration correlation. For example, if both the diagonal and the downward indicator are plural for two replies cross-referenced with the last letter, chances are that the letter is 'S'. Foreign words will be marked directly, Friend: Fr. = AMI or indirectly, Friend, in France. Abbreviated responses are reported directly, Whistlestop (Abbr.) = STA or indirectly with an abbreviated word as part of the indication, RR stop = STA. These cluing conventions are the accepted rule for American-style puzzles. Do you know the names of the items from their symbols? Todd Helmenstine Crosswords are not only fun, but can be a good way to practice spelling unknown words, such as the names of items in the periodic table. The clues for this printable crossword are the symbols for the first various items. The next page provides a reply key for the crossword. Page.

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