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TIDBITS® SHOPS AT AMAZON.COM

by Janet Spencer

When Jeff Bezos quit his job as a Wall Street hedge fund executive and started the company out of his garage in 1995, it was just a simple bookstore. He didn't actually have any books on hand, but when orders came in, he would find the book, buy it, and re-sell it at a profit. Little did he know the heights of success his business would grow to. Keep reading to find out just how high those heights reached!

IN THE BEGINNING

- The first book that ever sold on Amazon was titled "Fluid Concepts and Creative Analogies." It was purchased by John Wainwright, a friend of Bezos' only employee, Shal Kaphan. The sale was made on April 3, 1995. Previously, the only books they had sold were run through the system as tests. Later an Amazon building was named after Wainwright to honor his purchase.
- Bezos first wanted to call the company "Cadabra" as in "abracadabra" until his lawyer pointed out that it sounded too much like "cadaver." "Amazon" was chosen as a name not only because it served as an iconic goal – to become the largest river of books in the world – but also because it started with the letter "A" putting it near the top of alphabetical search engines.
- A third choice, Relentless.com, still takes you straight to Amazon. (cont)



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Americanisms



"He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life."
— Muhammad Ali

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AMAZON.COM (cont)

- Amazon's logo shows a smile stretching from A to Z, underscoring the name and signifying that "the company is willing to deliver everything to everyone, anywhere."
- During the company's first year in business, Bezos hired a series of mobile billboards to drive by various Barnes & Noble locations, displaying the question, 'Can't find that book you wanted?' along with Amazon's website.
- Barnes & Noble sued Amazon in 1997, alleging the slogan 'Earth's Largest Bookstore' was false. The case was settled out of court, but Amazon still used the slogan.
- Although Barnes & Noble operates 585 storefronts across all 50 states, Amazon still outsells them, and did in fact become Earth's largest bookstore.
- The first year that Amazon turned a profit was 2004. Today, Amazon is the world's fourth largest public firm by revenue, after Walmart, Saudi Arabia's oil and gas company Aramco, and China's State Grid Corporation.
- Amazon employs nearly 1 million full and part-time people in the U.S. Amazon is the second largest private employer in the nation, with only Walmart employing more. Worldwide, there are 1.6 million Amazon employees. There are also some 750,000 mobile robots assisting in the network of Amazon warehouses worldwide, shuttling products to workers, reading barcodes, and issuing directions.
- Amazon.com averages 1.67 billion visits every month, more than any other e-commerce site.
- As of 2022, Amazon had captured about 37% of the e-commerce market, with Walmart, Apple, and eBay each capturing 6% or less.
- Amazon.com consistently ranks near the top of the list of the most visited websites in the U.S., although Google, YouTube, and Facebook usually outrank it. (cont)



Now here's a tip!

by Jo Ann Derson

- "Technology can be really helpful, especially if you have very little storage area for papers. I had a trustworthy neighborhood teenager come over and help me scan in all my important documents. I have everything on flash drives and have given copies to appropriate people. She showed me how to scan a copy of warranty receipts so I can find the information I need quickly if I have an electronic item or appliance break down." -- T.L. in Massachusetts
- D.B. in Minnesota has this to share: "When you are going fishing and only bringing a couple of lures, use an old, empty pill container. Holds well and you won't get poked!"
- Oranges are wonderful treats and full of delicious fiber and vitamin C. Save your peels and stash them in a net bag hanging from your rearview mirror for just a day or two. As they dry, they give off the best smell.
- Need to take pills daily? Set a reminder on your cellphone. Most have alarm functions, and it works!
- "This tip is from my babysitter. She gives small children two 'get out of bed free' tickets at bedtime. If they get out of bed, say, for one last drink of water, etc. (we parents know these are stalling tactics), they have to give her a ticket. If they still have a ticket unused when they fall asleep, she will leave a prize with their parents for the morning." -- M.J. in New Mexico

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



REALLY? YOU JUST EMAILED ME A FACETIME REQUEST TO SEE WHAT I WANT FOR DINNER?

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AMAZON.COM (cont)

- Amazon alone offers over 12 million different products, not including books and other media. When third-party vendors are included in the count, over 353 million products are available. Just over 60% of Amazon's revenue comes from third-party sellers.
- Things that you cannot purchase on Amazon include full-size homes, automobiles, any meat from China, tobacco, lottery tickets, fireworks, and live animals, among others.
- There are currently 110 Amazon fulfillment centers in the U.S. Add to that another 75 spread across the rest of the planet. These centers average 800,000 square feet (74,322 square meters) in size.
- The Amazon fulfillment center in Phoenix, Arizona, occupies 1.2 million square feet (111,483 square meters), equal to 28 football fields. Employees at such large warehouses walk miles per shift.
- About 200 million people have an Amazon Prime subscription. These subscribers are spread out across the 27 countries where Amazon Prime is available, with around 150 million in the U.S. It's been estimated that between 60 and 70% of American adults are members of Amazon Prime.
- Prime members spend an average of \$110 on Amazon each month, but non-members spend only \$38 per month.
- Amazon has over 300 million active users globally. Of those, an average of 197 million use Amazon at least once a month. Over two-thirds of consumers prefer using their desktop computers to make purchases. The Amazon mobile app comes in second place. Trailing in last place are the voice-activated devices such as the Amazon Echo, Dot, and Alexa.
- Amazon's income jumped by 37.6 percent in 2020, largely because the pandemic changed shopping habits.

(cont)

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Holidays & Observances This Week

3/24	Palm Sunday
3/25	National Medal of Honor Day
3/26	Spinach Day
3/27	World Theatre Day
3/28	Barnum & Bailey Day
3/29	Good Friday
3/30	World Bipolar Day

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

5			3	2			4
	9		6				3
		4			8	1	
	1				9		5
		7	1				9
6				8		2	
	7			4			6
4					5	9	
		3	9				8

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Door is taller. 2. Footbox is moved. 3. Man is walking away is moved. 4. Dormer is moved. 5. Ladder rung is missing. 6. Line in wallway is moved.

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AMAZON.COM (cont)

- The most popular products on Amazon are electronics. Gaming systems including the Nintendo Switch and the PS5, laptop computers, and headphones such as AirPods are consistent best-sellers. They are followed by wearables (clothes, shoes, and jewelry), home and kitchen, beauty and personal care, and finally books.
- The first Kindle e-book reader sold out in 5 hours. Released in the U.S. on November 19, 2007, it sold out despite the \$399 price tag. At the time, all it did was read e-books. There were about 90,000 e-books available at the time. Successive generations of Kindle readers expanded its abilities, and now the platform offers features similar to any Android-type device. Today there are over 12 million e-books available for use on Kindle. Although Amazon still reigns supreme as the world's largest seller of books, it now sells more e-books than paper books.
- Amazon now receives 66,000 orders per hour and ships out 1.6 million packages daily, not including third-party sellers.
- Out of the 195 countries in the world, Amazon ships to over 100 of them. Countries that Amazon does not ship to include Iran, Cuba, Sudan, North Korea, and Syria.
- In August of 2013, Amazon services went offline for about 40 minutes. At the time, the company was generating revenue of about \$120,000 per minute. This short delay was costly for the company, with an estimated \$4.8 million in losses, though it's assumed that most shoppers returned later in the day to complete their shopping.
- During the Pokémon craze of 1999, Amazon purchased the entire Pokémon stock from the Toys-R-Us website. They were selling so fast on Amazon that there was fear of selling out, so they raided the fledgling e-commerce site of Toys-R-Us.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- Modern brunch was first proposed in 1895 as a post-hangover meal.
- Quetzalcoatlus, the largest known flying animal, was as tall as a giraffe and may have used its powerful forelimbs to pole-vault into the sky.
- Cathay Williams became the first African-American woman to serve in the U.S. Army in 1866. Since women were barred from joining the military at the time, she enlisted as a man under the pseudonym William Cathay.
- In Australia, weed whackers are called whipper snippers.
- Beaver College changed its name to Arcadia in 2001, partly because anti-porn filters blocked access to its website.
- The human body emits visible light, but it's not visible to the naked eye.
- The FBI dubbed Ted Kaczynski "The Unabomber" because his early mail bombs were sent to universities (UN) and airlines (A).
- As astronauts spend months traveling to Mars, their eyeballs may change shape. Some scientists believe that's due to the pressure from fluids that won't drain from their heads, thanks to the low-gravity environment.
- President Thomas Jefferson hated formal affairs so much that he would often greet foreign dignitaries in his pajamas.
- The Antikythera mechanism, discovered by sponge divers in 1900, is sometimes called the world's first analog computer. Designed to calculate dates and predict astronomical phenomena, it was so advanced nothing surpassed it for nearly 1,500 years.
- Some libraries have been known to use extraordinary measures to ensure titles remained on shelves. A notable example is Marsh's Library in Dublin, Ireland, where in the 1800s, visitors desiring to peruse rare books were locked in cages until they finished reading!

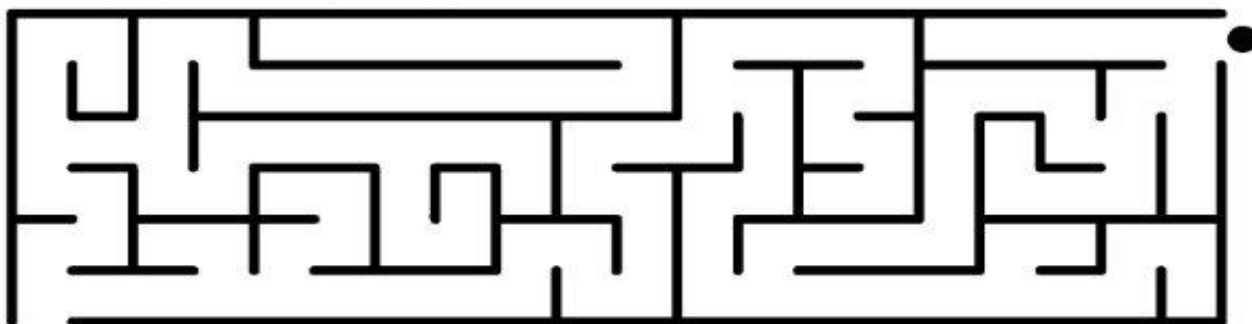
Thought for the Day:

"If we open a quarrel between past and present, we shall find that we have lost the future." --

Winston Churchill

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Kids' Maze



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KOVELS' ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

By Terry and Kim Kovel
 PHOTO CREDIT: Kovels.com
 PHOTO CAPTION: Three-dimensional figures of animals and wildlife are often seen on elaborate silver pieces. This bowl takes a slightly different approach, with figures of sea animals attached to a wire net.



Decorative Silver

Collectors and makers alike know that there are many ways to decorate silver. It can have an engraved design or monogram. It can be pierced or reticulated with lace-like cutouts. A textured design may be hammered, gadrooned, repousse or made with another technique. Some of the most elaborate and complex decorations on silver are applied; that is, made separately and then attached to the silver piece. Applied pieces may be functional, like handles or finials, or strictly decorative. Three-dimensional figures, especially natural elements, human figures or mythological creatures, are popular.

This Italian silver plate bowl was listed as the "Sealife bowl" at a Rago auction, where it sold for \$1,188. Its design is more complex than a typical decorative silver bowl; instead of being applied directly onto the bowl, the three-dimensional silver sea creatures are "caught" in a wirework net attached to the rim.

Another feature of this bowl, its gilt enameled interior, may serve a purpose besides decoration. As any collector knows, silver is prone to tarnish, especially when exposed to substances like salty, acidic or sulfurous foods.

Some tableware is coated with gold or enamel on the interior, which protects the silver as well as adding decorative value.

Q: I bought some toys at an estate sale. One is a 4 1/2-inch by 2 1/4-inch box that contains six smaller boxes that form puzzles. The boxes can be turned to make two different pictures. Each of the smaller boxes contains a tiny bisque doll. I would like to know more about these tiny dolls in puzzle boxes.

A: We've seen a set like this marked "made in Japan," which means it was imported into the United States. The 2-inch dolls are painted wearing various costumes. The set was probably made in the 1930s. It's listed for \$125 but hasn't sold yet, so the price is probably too high.

CURRENT PRICES

Poster, travel, 1964 New York World's Fair, Come Back to the Fair, mother, father and two children with balloons, linen backing, 16 x 11 inches, \$110.

Quilt, applique, Bear Paws pattern, 16 squares, each with a small square center and bear paw corners, red on cream and cream on red printed fabric, Long Island City, 1910-1920, 72 x 72 inches, \$245.

Wooden sailor's chest, mahogany, brass mounts, escutcheon and latch, hinged top, side handles, 18th century, 14 x 36 x 22 inches, \$535.

Sewing machine, table top, Goodspeed & Wyman, single thread, C-shape frame, hand crank wheel, black metal, gilt decoration, 1800s, 8 x 12 1/2 x 4 1/2 inches, \$765.

Stoneware crock, cobalt blue stripes and twisting vines, stamped E. Lulley, 616 Penn. Ave., Washington, D.C., rolled rim, two applied ear handles, 4 gallons, 14 3/4 inches, \$1,240.

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) New opportunities spring up for the Arians. Kick up those heels and go, go, go for them. Remember, someone special will be rooting for your success.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Indulge in your love of beauty. Buy something marvelous for your home, then plan a romantic dinner at a special place with your special person.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your diligent search for the truth pays off. You can now go ahead and make a decision fully armed with the facts. But expect some resistance to your plans.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Travel is favored, but be prepared to be flexible in planning your trip. A family situation may cause you to delay your original departure date.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Be careful to whom you confide in with your secrets. While you certainly have your admirers, you also have detractors who would love to puncture the Lion's pride.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A certain family problem still needs your attention. It would be unwise at this time to let things slide. Things start to look more promising on the job.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your mate seems to feel increasingly ignored. Try for a better balance between your home and work commitments. Start with a romantic weekend getaway.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Missed opportunities usually come from miscommunication, but it's not too late to correct the wrong assumptions. A timely call can help reestablish important contacts.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Your usually keen sense of direction needs some sharpening this week. Stay focused on your goals despite some pesky distractions. Your efforts will soon pay off.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Don't automatically reject suggestions from friends and family members. Some of their ideas might be helpful. Check them out before you decide to chuck them out.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Expect to be pleasantly startled when a promise from the past finally comes through for you. Use this as an opportunity to restart a long-delayed project.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) An air of conspiracy dominates the workplace. Avoid taking sides. This is one time when you need to concentrate on being your own best friend.

BORN THIS WEEK: You despise hypocrisy. Your honesty is admired, although your friends sometimes feel you could be less blunt and a little more diplomatic. You love living life to the fullest.

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Bringing an Old Dog to Heel

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: After my aunt passed away, I gladly agreed to take in her dog, "Hunter," a rather squat, obese Beagle. He's a happy old dog of about 9 years, but my aunt gave him little to no training other than housetraining. That makes walking him -- something the vet recommended I do twice a day, in addition to a diet -- a chore. Hunter will walk a few steps, then sit down and refuse to budge. When he does feel like walking, he either tugs the leash forward or lags behind. How can I correct this? -- James T., Plano, Texas

DEAR JAMES: Hunter is not used to the new lifestyle yet, and he's reacting in a predictable way. He's also out of shape and probably more stressed than you think. The first thing I prescribe is patience. The second thing I'd prescribe is persistence.

You'll want to gradually lengthen his walks. Each day, always at the same time, put Hunter on his leash and start the walk. As soon as Hunter begins to lag or tug forward, stop walking, adjust the distance so that he's standing or sitting next to you, and start again, saying, "Heel" as you step forward.

When he sits and won't budge, encourage him to go a few more steps by giving him a very small treat. Then turn around and go home. On your next walk, repeat this encouragement, going just a little farther. See what I'm getting at? Make each walk just a tiny bit farther.

As Hunter loses weight, learns to trust you and gains confidence on the leash, he will eventually pull you along. Time, patience and consistency will do the trick.

Readers, how did you train an older dog? Tell me about it at ask@pawscorner.com.

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TIDBITS

WORD POWER

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THIS WEEK'S CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

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Debbie Reynolds	4/1/1932
Emmylou Harris	4/2/1947
Washington Irving	4/3/1783
John Cameron Swayze	4/4/1906
Bette Davis	4/5/1908
Merle Haggard	4/6/1937

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- ⑨ Agree to work with a family mentor
- ⑨ Complete financial education & "sweat equity" volunteer hours (lots of options available!)

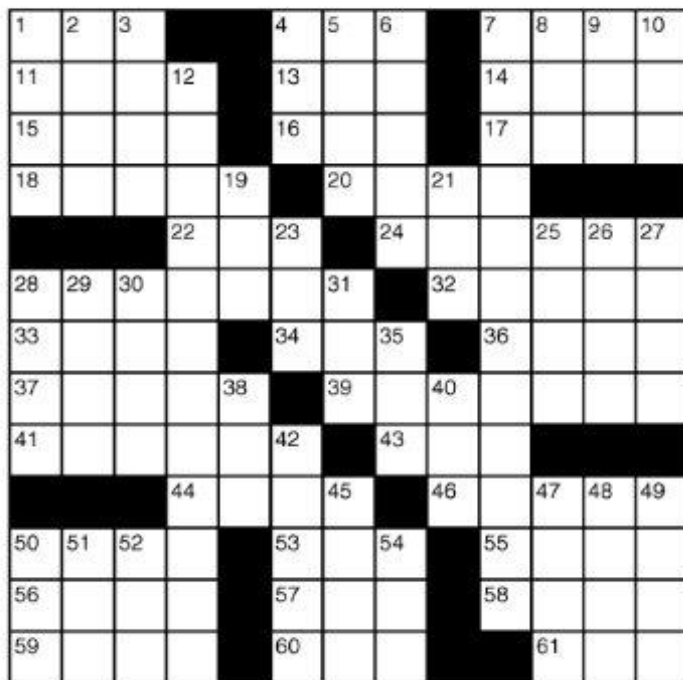
Family Size	Monthly Gross Income Range	Annual Gross Income Range
1	\$1,775 - \$3,460	\$21,300 - \$41,520
2	\$1,775 - \$3,953	\$21,300 - \$47,436
3	\$2,500 - \$4,446	\$30,000 - \$53,352
4	\$2,500 - \$4,940	\$30,000 - \$59,280
5	\$2,680 - \$5,340	\$32,160 - \$64,080
6	\$2,680 - \$5,733	\$32,160 - \$68,796
7	\$3,265 - \$6,126	\$39,180 - \$73,512
8	\$3,265 - \$6,527	\$39,180 - \$78,324



King Crossword

ACROSS

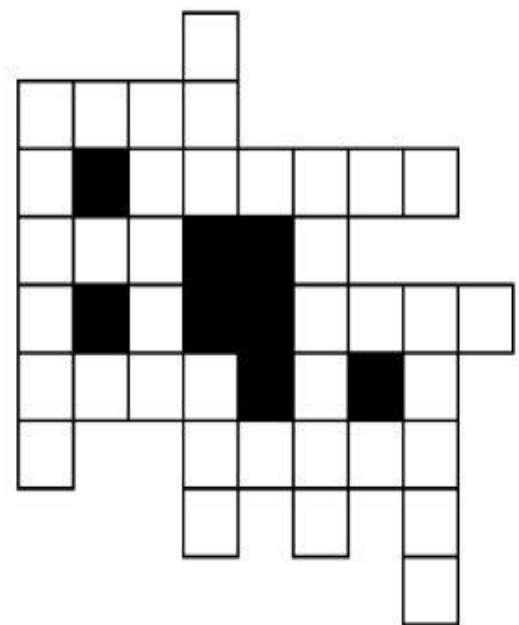
- 1 Goal
- 4 Hosp. hook-ups
- 7 "Peter Pan" pooch
- 11 "Pygmalion" writer
- 13 Use a straw
- 14 Bone-dry
- 15 Teeny bit
- 16 Capita lead-in
- 17 Makes lace
- 18 Tic
- 20 Laptop connection
- 22 Deli choice
- 24 Radiated
- 28 Reach
- 32 Battery part
- 33 King of the jungle
- 34 Dog's foot
- 36 Similar
- 37 Canal vessel
- 39 iPads, e.g.
- 41 "In America" writer Susan
- 43 — Perignon
- 44 Partially mine
- 46 Chip choice
- 50 First light
- 53 Suitable
- 55 Roller coaster feature
- 56 "Zounds!"
- 57 Three, in Rome
- 58 Links org.
- 59 Pear variety
- 60 Storm center



- 61 Designer monogram
- 9 Quibble
- 10 Billboards
- 12 Capital on the Potomac and 7-Down locale
- 19 Astronaut Jemison
- 21 Ga. neighbor
- 23 Super Bowl VIP
- 25 Stirred
- 26 Tend texts
- 27 Cozy rooms
- 28 Priestly vestments
- 29 Pisa farewell
- 30 Trumpet
- 31 Chow down
- 35 Bankroll
- 38 Vichy water
- 40 "— voyage!"
- 42 Shred, as cheese
- 45 Agile
- 47 Mimic
- 48 Swine
- 49 October birthstone
- 50 Cotillion celeb
- 51 Previously
- 52 Existed
- 54 Golf peg



- OLT
- OCNYTO
- YAHNE
- RDMO
- PAROSE
- RYP
- HEOC
- ♥ ORTET
- ♥ PMA
- MOYDLE
- EACPA
- ♥ OMRO



Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.



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Can you determine which one of the following words does not belong with the others? Note: This has to do with meaning.

- REDIRECT
- RECAPTURE
- REMORSE
- REUNITE
- REPAINT
- REARRANGE
- REVISIT

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HealthBits

By Dr. Holly Carling

REDUCING STOMACH ACIDS

Billions of dollars are spent annually on drugs to reduce stomach acid. Heartburn and reflux affect between 15.1-30% of the population according to Healthline and CDC statistics. That's a lot of sufferers! The cost in medical care and prescriptions is in the billions! Many people turn to drugs to calm the burning and reduce the symptoms of reflux, or frequently referred to as "mini vomits" up the esophagus. This can get serious as it may develop into inflammation and swelling of the esophagus, putting one at risk of Barrett's Esophagus. Barrett's Esophagus can eventually lead to cancer. Even though, according to the Mayo Clinic, it is rare, it isn't healthy and needs to be addressed. Hence, medications for many. Acid reducing medications referred to as H2 Blockers (famotidine/Pepcid and ranitidine/Zantac) are safer than the other kind, PPI's (proton pump inhibitors). This includes lansoprazole/Prevacid, omeprazole/Prilosec and esomeprazole/Nexium. A Harvard Health report states that people are using way too many of the PPI's, when their heartburn or reflux only warrant the safer H2 blockers. They encouraged people to reserve PPI's for only when their condition is severe. However, they're all being overused and over-prescribed. They are especially being taken for too long. PPI's were designed to be used only for 2 weeks, to reduce your stomach acid long

enough for an ulcer to heal. They weren't intended, and were always cautioned, to not be prescribed, or taken, for long periods of time, yet physicians keep people on them for years on end. But why can't you take them long term? Your stomach needs acid. Acid enzymes are critical for breaking down your food into small enough substances to be able to absorb it. You need nutrients into your tissues each and every day, and if you are taking something to inhibit the breakdown, you are actually causing yourself to be malnourished. Over time, this can cascade into a number of diseases that you have no idea are related to the fact that you are inhibiting nutrient absorption. You also need HCl (hydrochloric acid – your main acidic stomach enzyme) to kill pathogens like bacteria, yeasts, molds, viruses and parasites, to keep them from wreaking havoc on your body. HCl is intended to make the stomach very acid, but we have an amazing buffering system that keeps it from damaging our stomach lining. So why is damage occurring, and why do you have excess acids to start with? It is actually an HCl deficiency that results in the body having to break down food by rotting it instead of enzymatically digesting it, releasing organic acids as a byproduct. Those acids are not buffered and they are what burn and damage. Correcting the underlying reason for the HCl deficiency will correct the symptoms and negate the need for medications. Want to hear more from Dr. Carling? Check out our podcast. Search for VitalHealth4You on your favorite podcast listening app or go to vitalhealthcda.com/podcasts/



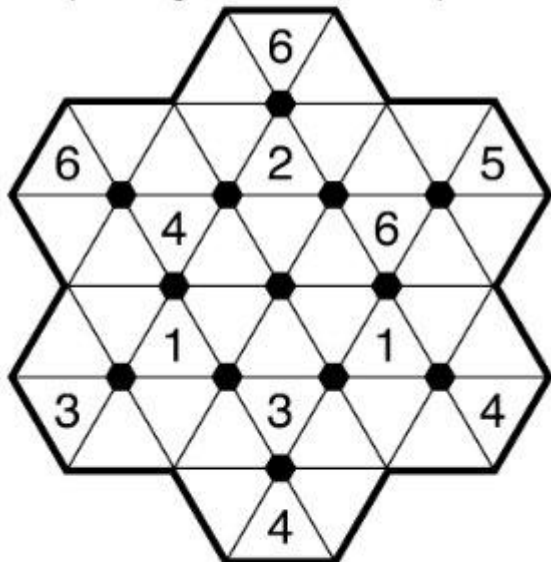
Dr. Holly Carling is a Doctor of Oriental Medicine, Licensed Acupuncturist, Doctor of Naturopathy, Clinical Nutritionist and Master Herbologist with over four decades of experience. Dr. Carling is a "Health Detective," she looks beyond your symptom picture and investigates WHY you are experiencing your symptoms in the first place. Dr. Carling is currently accepting new patients and offers natural health care services and whole food nutritional supplements in her Coeur d' Alene clinic. Visit Dr. Carling's website at www.vitalhealthcda.com to learn more about Dr. Carling, view a list of upcoming health classes and read other informative articles. Dr. Carling can be reached at 208-765-1994 and would be happy to answer any questions regarding this topic.

Medical/Health Disclaimer: The information provided in this article should not be construed as personal medical advice or instruction. No action should be taken based solely on the contents of this article. Readers should consult appropriate health professionals on any matter relating to their health and well-being. The information and opinions provided here are believed to be accurate and sound, based on the best judgment available to the author, but readers who fail to consult appropriate health authorities

SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆
 ◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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VETERANS ★ POST ★

By Freddy Groves

The OIG in Our Corner

You hate to learn of it, but per a Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General (OIG) report, a former veteran who worked at a VA hospital was found guilty of stealing money out of patient accounts. It came about when the sister of a deceased veteran checked her brother's account and discovered the missing funds. An investigation showed that the thief was stealing from accounts where the veteran was unable to appear in person at the cashier window to withdraw money due to illness and tried to blame the missing funds on someone using fake identification. All he got for his crimes was six months in jail and six months with an ankle bracelet at home.

An elderly veteran lost his foot due to deficient podiatry care. The whole sorry mess involved defective specialty diabetic shoes, blocked blood flow to the leg, a patient fall due to the shoes, lack of patient education, lack of communication among staff ... and ended with amputation of the patient's foot.

There was enough blame to go around, but nobody to throw in jail. The podiatrist didn't adequately instruct on the proper fitting of the shoes. The fall wasn't correctly reported because the safety officer was new. It could not be determined who did/didn't warn the patient about possible amputation. And so on.

But not all OIG investigations are so serious. There was the VA employee auction of VA property, which was for the purpose of gathering funds for employee activities and parties. When purchasing agents placed orders for supplies, sometimes there were freebies or incentives sent by the manufacturer when the order was large enough. The employees would then auction off the extra goods, which were government property. It appears that the auctioning of the freebies had gone on for many years, with nobody admitting to the OIG that the vendor was selected because of the freebies they would get. The bulk of the free goodies were big-name expensive coolers.

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top ten

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- 4 The town of Albert, TX: \$2.5 MILLION
- 5 House w/war-proof bunker: \$2.1 MILLION
- 6 The town of Bridgeville, CA: \$1.77 MILLION
- 7 Honus Wagner baseball card: \$1.1 MILLION
- 8 Ferrari Enzo: \$1 MILLION
- 9 Shoeless Joe Jackson's baseball bat: \$577,610
- 10 Ian Usher's "life": \$309,292

Source:
FinancesOnline.com



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1. As of 2022, how much is Jeff Bezos worth?
2. How much of the business done on Amazon is by third-party sellers?
3. Which newspaper did Bezos buy for \$250 million?
4. How many orders does Amazon ship out every single second?
5. Residents of what city spend the most on Amazon?

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By Ryan A. Berenz

- 1. What South Korean golfer won the Women's PGA Championship tournament three straight years from 2013-15?
2. What basketball defensive strategy, named after a single-celled organism, was developed by the University of Pittsburgh Panthers in the 1970s?
3. Yoshinobu Yamamoto, the three-time Pacific League MVP who signed with the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2023, pitched for what Nippon Professional Baseball club in Japan?
4. In 2018, former pro triathlete Colin O'Brady completed a 54-day, 932-mile solo crossing of what continent?
5. What country music star played defensive end for the Oklahoma City Drillers semi-pro football team?
6. How many successful field goals did Tennessee Titans kicker Rob Bironas make in a 38-36 win over the Houston Texans on Oct. 21, 2007?
7. Joel Embiid, the 2023 NBA MVP, was born in 1994 in what African country?

Answers

1. Inbee Park.
 2. The amoeba defense.
 3. The Orix Buffaloes.
 4. Antarctica.
 5. Toby Keith.
 6. Eight, an NFL record.
 7. Cameroon.
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GO FIGURE!

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	+		+		= 11			
+		+		-				
	+		-		= 11			
+		+		+				
	+		x		= 48			
=		=		=				
13		23		5				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

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The Garden Bug

Light needs for plants

Low light	Medium light	High light
Peace lily	Asparagus fern	Cactus
Snake plant	Boston fern	Hibiscus
Philodendron	Spider plant	Ti plant
English ivy	Jade plant	Gardenia
Diffenbachia	African violet	Geraniums

Source: extension.uga.edu

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CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAXR
is **LONGFELLOW**

One letter stands for another. In this sample, **A** is used for the three L's, **X** for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

V'U UYTS RYTTVSJ WIYAD

ISVEK W KYJY FSTLYE DOWE

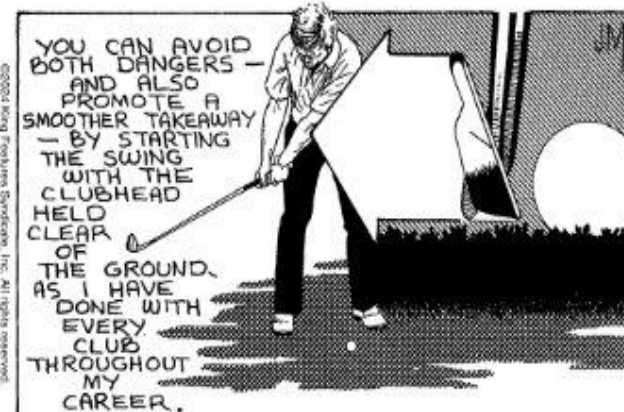
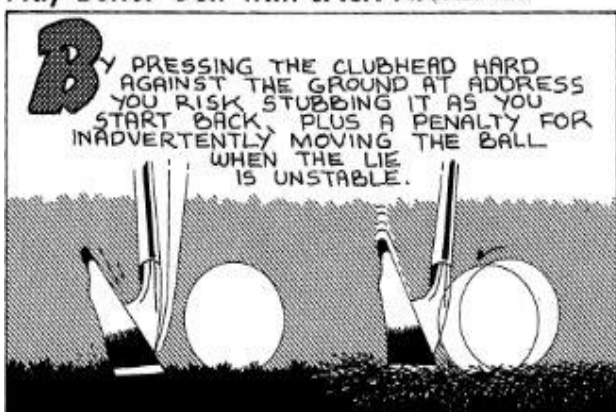
ISVEK DOS ISLD BYYDIWCC

FCWNST VE DOS RYTCJ.

— CVYESC USLLV

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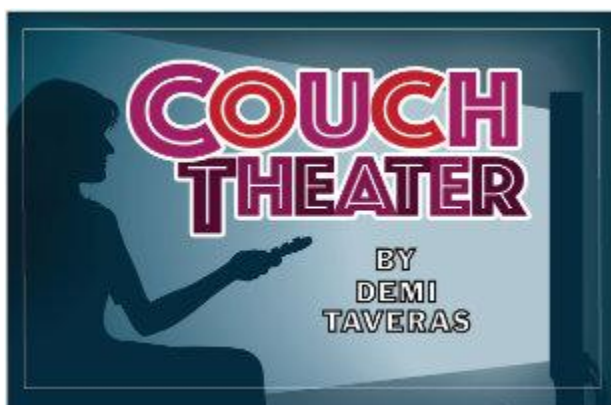


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: By Demi Taveras



Photo Credit: Courtesy of Netflix

Photo Caption: Andrew Scott stars as Tom Ripley in the series "Ripley."

"The Iron Claw" (R) -- Based on a true story, this biographical sports film follows a family of professional wrestlers called the Von Erichs. Taking place in 1979, the patriarch of the family, Fritz, owns the World Class Championship Wrestling company and pushes his four boys -- Kevin, David, Kerry and Mike -- to fight in the ring. However, a "Von Erich curse" seems to shadow their family wherever they go. As Fritz pushes each of his sons further into wrestling, whether they want to or not, the repercussions of his actions become more dire for the boys, even deadly. Zac Efron ("Ricky Stanicky"), Jeremy

Allen White ("The Bear") and Harris Dickinson ("Trust") lead this tragic film that is available to rent now. (Apple TV+)

"Mean Girls" (PG-13) -- Twenty years after the pop culture phenomenon "Mean Girls" premiered, a musical-comedy film based on the film of the same name released in theaters. This new adaptation stars Angourie Rice ("Spider-Man: No Way Home") as Cady Heron, a homeschooled teen who moves from Kenya to the United States and begins her first public school experience. Cady quickly learns the rules of North Shore High regarding the "Plastics" who own the school, and she teams up with her new friends, Janis and Damian, to take the Queen Bee Regina George (Renee Rapp) down. Overall, the performances of Rapp, Auli'i Cravalho ("Moana"), and Jaquel Spivey were stand-outs in this campy musical. Keep an eye out for a cameo from Lindsay Lohan, who played Cady in the original film. Out now. (Paramount+)

"Anyone but You" (R) -- Another fun pick this week is this romantic comedy starring two all-American heartthrobs -- Sydney Sweeney ("Euphoria") and Glen Powell ("Top Gun: Maverick"). Sweeney plays law student Bea, who meets Goldman Sachs employee Ben (Powell) randomly at a coffee shop. The two spend the night together, but due to a miscommunication, they don't end up seeing each other for another six months. When they meet again due to a mutual friends' wedding, they're forced to swallow their pride, and even though they butt heads, Bea and Ben make a deal to pretend to be together to ensure that the wedding goes smoothly. This movie is full of romantic tropes, so this watch will either make you cringe or entertain the heck out of you. Out

now to rent. (Prime Video)

"Ripley" (TV-MA) -- Andrew Scott ("Fleabag") is putting his own twist on the character of Tom Ripley, who you might've met in Patricia Highsmith's 1955 novel or in the 1999 film adaptation starring Matt Damon. In this eight-episode series taking place in 1960s New York, Tom is hired by a wealthy businessman to convince his son, Dickie, to come home from Italy. But Tom is a grifter who's accustomed to studying and impersonating people in an eerily accurate manner. So, when Tom arrives in Italy to get Dickie back, he unexpectedly becomes enamored with Dickie's life, so much so that he thinks he can become him. Johnny Flynn and Dakota Fanning co-star in this limited series premiering April 4. (Netflix)

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TIDBITS

NUGGET OF KNOWLEDGE

A truly massive number of Americans work for Amazon as delivery drivers, factory workers, and more. In fact, one in 153 Americans is an Amazon employee.

SENIOR NEWS LINE

By Matilda Charles

When Do We Become Too Old to Climb Ladders?

Months ago I'd made my resolutions list for 2024, carefully picking options that I could surely accomplish this year. I chose things like adopting a kitten pal for my cat, selling my father's coin collection, and hiring my handyman neighbor to paint the bathroom.

Thus far it's the bathroom painting that is causing the greatest annoyance and hesitation. Why, I keep wondering, can't I do it myself? I've painted many, many rooms over the years and done a fine job. But, dare I climb a ladder again? I even went to the internet for support that would tell me it's OK at my age to climb a ladder and apply paint to the walls.

An Australian study cut right to the chase with statistics about how many over the age of 65 had died from injuries sustained after falling from a ladder, not to mention the list of possible ladder-related injuries that put many others in the hospital.

A U.S. home-care website was aimed at the adult children who need to convince elderly parents to stay off ladders, and suggested citing statistics about deaths and injuries. Should that not work, said the website, pull in reinforcements like doctors and extended family to convince the renegade senior to stay off ladders.

The NIH (National Institutes of Health) even chimed in with a study about the risks of ladder use by seniors and went so far as to analyze the types of dangerous tasks seniors might do that involve ladders. That's where I part company with the NIH's study: I'm not interested in trimming tree limbs or cleaning leaves out of gutters.

I only want to paint a bathroom.

Update: I will not be painting the bathroom. Neither will my handyman neighbor. That neighbor, a good 20 years younger than I am, fell off a ladder and is now facing shoulder surgery.

The bathroom will stay as it is.

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MAGIC MAZE ● — OVER —

E D B Y W T R P M K I F A D B
 Y W U S Q O M K I F D L B T Z
 R A P O W T H X Y W L U G E S
 Q C D A O N E S L W J H O Y H

MOONMIAMI F T D B T C
 A M A Y W E D T P I E C I O V
 V E G T D N H I W S Q P G N N
 L H A E E K E T S I F D N A H
 I E I D H F E E L E C B Z Y W
 V R N U S G L G R L Q P N M L
 F E Y S A E S G G E A J I H F

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: A DOUBLE BOGEY IN GOLF

- | | | | |
|-------------|------------|------------|------------|
| All the map | Eggs easy | Get with | Moon Miami |
| All with | End end | Go big | Not yet |
| Come here | Fried easy | Hand fist | Voice IP |
| Do again | Get it | Head heels | |

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“Wisdom, Culture, Love, and Story-telling”

A text from a resident’s family member received recently really struck my heart...

“I’m so ashamed of our Youth Centric Society. There is so much wisdom, culture, love and story-telling that is being wasted and lost, simply disregarded...” Rory Steward in the November 9, 2013, “Guardian” reflects as follows. “...ours is the first generation to draw our deepest fulfilment from our own descendants. Some of my friends imply that all that matters is what happens to their families, in the lives behind their own front doors.

We have become reluctant to make sacrifices, except on the altar of our children. And what is the purpose of our children’s lives? Their own children. And so on, all the way down.

But instead of focusing overwhelmingly on the interests of the next generation, politicians should give more space to the previous generation. We should begin by allowing older people to take far more political responsibility in local communities....

Our older population is the most impressive, self-sacrificing and imaginative part of our entire community. They are almost the last people who belong to political parties, the last

who maintain our churches, the most generous and dedicated supporters of all our charities. They are our last fragile link to deeper history. They are also people who can find themselves in extremes of poverty (fuel poverty, in particular), of isolation, of loneliness and of hopelessness in the wait for death, unimaginable to anyone younger. We are not respecting them and, as a society, we are not making use of their extraordinary talents...

If we are looking for redemption for the young, and a mission for our society, it could be in our care for the older generation: finding fulfilment and delight in relationships with the elderly and in helping the elderly. We should admire and learn from them. This is possible. On every street corner in Kabul, you can see a teenager in stonewashed jeans raising his head from scowling at his phone and moving with genuine delight to talk to an older person. I would like to see us begin to do the same here.

Instead of building a world that’s only fit for our children, I would like to see us building a world fit for our parents...”

Rory Stewart is Conservative MP for Penrith

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Puzzles4Kids by Helene Hovanec

WORD FUN

Study the two words on each line to find the ONE letter in the left column that is NOT in the word in the right column. Write the extra letter on the blank space. Then read DOWN to answer this riddle:

WHAT DO ROBOTS EAT FOR SNACKS?

REMIND	___	DINER	RECENT	___	ENTER
WISEST	___	STEW	CHAMPS	___	SCAMP
MUSCLE	___	MULES	FOSSIL	___	FLOSS
WREATH	___	WHEAT	PRINCE	___	NICER
SOOTHE	___	THOSE	TASSEL	___	LEAST

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1. TELEVISION: How many noble houses are mentioned in "Game of Thrones"?
2. MOVIES: What is the name of the high school in the musical film "Grease"?
3. GEOGRAPHY: Which southeast Asian country's monetary unit is the ringgit?
4. MUSIC: The song "Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'" is from which musical?
5. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first president to be impeached?
6. ANATOMY: What is considered the "master gland" of the human body?
7. PHYSICS: What does a newton measure?
8. HISTORY: Which founding father wanted the turkey to be the national symbol of America rather than the eagle?
9. SCIENCE: What is studied in mycology?
10. U.S. STATES: What is Alaska's state animal?

Answers

1. Nine.
 2. Rydell High School.
 3. Malaysia.
 4. "Oklahoma!"
 5. Andrew Johnson, 1868.
 6. Pituitary gland.
 7. Force.
 8. Benjamin Franklin.
 9. Fungi.
 10. The moose.
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CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: Y equals X

PZNM AV MZX MXHO EQH
 VQOXQWX PZQ'V XYNOAWAWF
 MZX UAEX QE CHXVASXWM
 FXHNUS? N EQHS XYCUQHXX.

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Laugh a bit with TIDBITS

Q: What started the big Amazon warehouse fire?
 A: the Amazon Kindle.

Q: What's the difference between a folk guitar player and a large pizza?
 A: A large pizza can feed a family of four.



1. Who recorded "I Can't Help Myself (Sugar Pie, Honey Bunch)"?
2. What was the original name of Creedence Clearwater Revival?
3. Which Beatles song has the longest final chord?
4. Who wrote and released "R.O.C.K. in the U.S.A."?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "For just a little while I thought that I might lose the game, But just in time I saw that twinkle in your eyes."

Answers

1. The Four Tops, in 1965. It was named the Billboard No. 1 R&B single for the year.
2. The Blue Velvets, starting in 1959. For a few years they called themselves The Golliwogs, before becoming CCR in 1964.
3. "A Day in the Life," 1967. That final chord ended up 40 seconds long by turning up the sound on three pianos as they began to fade. Listen carefully, and you can hear the sound of a squeaking chair and paper rustling.
4. John Mellencamp, in 1986.
5. "From a Jack to a King," by singer-songwriter Ned Miller in 1957. The song wasn't noticed until a few years later when Miller asked for it to be released again. At that point it raced to the Top Ten on the contemporary, country and pop charts.

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Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Seek
 UPUSER

Entry
 LOPART

Sniff
 HALIEN

Dense
 TUBEOS

TODAY'S WORD

"You can put my opinions down as just the _____ of his."

Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

1. Hard-hitting	___ G ___	Affect emotionally	___ C ___
2. Clothing get-up	___ F ___	Get the better of	___ W ___
3. Subsequent	___ F ___	Fall bloom	___ S ___
4. Protect	___ F ___	Rely upon	___ P ___
5. Bit by a hive-dweller	___ G ___	Daring act	___ T ___
6. Blue ribbon, e.g.	___ Z ___	Cost	___ C ___
7. Junction	___ R ___	Trumpet's kin	___ T ___
8. Dish	P ___	Election choices	S ___
9. Take heed	___ T ___	Apprentice	___ V ___
10. Grid	___ R ___	Mantra	___ N ___

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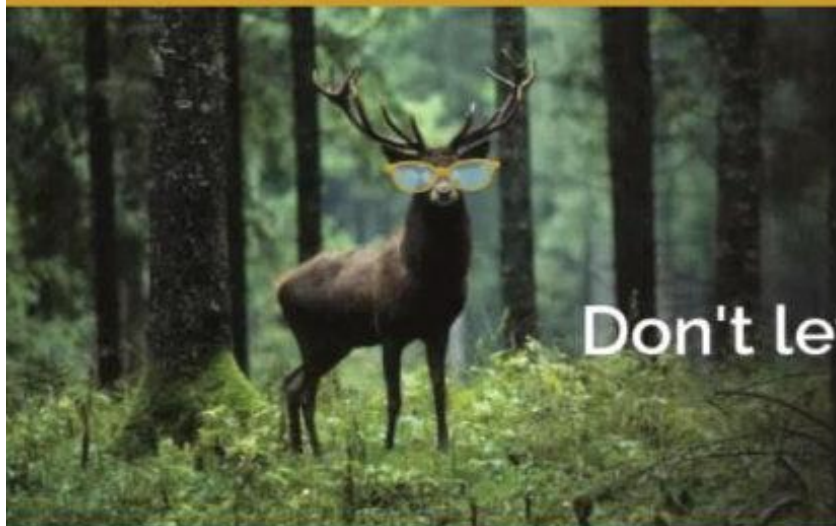
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