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## Crossword Variations

## Codeword

Every letter in this crossword has been replaced by a number, the number remaining the same for that letter wherever it occurs in the grid. All 26 letters of the alphabet have been used. Can you substitute numbers for letters and thus complete the crossword? It may help to cross off the letters beneath the grid to keep a track of progress, and the reference box showing which numbers have been decoded can also be used to aid solving. Three letters have already been entered into the grid, to help you on your way.


Reference Box

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | ${ }^{11}$ | 12 | 13 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | $\mathbf{N}$ | $\mathbf{T}$ |  |  |  |

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## Crossword Variations

## Double-Crosser

Two crossword puzzles with one set of clues. The solver must decide which solution fits into each crossword. In both grids, one word is entered, to provide a starting point.

## Across

1 Amerindian emblem; Woodland path (5)
4 Avarice or gluttony; Heap (5)
7 Rowing implement; Terminate (3)
8 Happen; Smell (5)
9 Rub out; Extraterrestrial (5)
10 Move quickly; Fish-eggs (3)
11 Appetising; Smallminded (5)

14 Carried; Set one's foot down (5)
17 Small rock; Love or worship (5)

20 Heavenly messenger; Firm fruit (5)
23 Be sickly; Nothing (3)
24 Constructed; Face shield (5)
25 Large cats; Slack (5)
26 As well; Sense of self (3)
27 Trivial; Trench (5)
28 Penned; Incisors (5)

## Down

1 Body of soldiers; Freshwater fish (5)

2 Clock noises; On high (5)
3 Wed; Goods vehicle (5)
4 Address on arrival; Intended (5)
5 Precise; Join together (5)
6 Ate a meal; Fear (5)
12 Furthest point; Perform (3)
13 Unit of weight; Thick black liquid (3)


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## Crossword Variations

These puzzles are useful for providing variety in a book of crossword puzzles.

## Do-It-Yourself!

Straightforward clues are presented but they are alphabetical order and the grid is missing its black squares. Solvers need to black out a given number of squares, resulting in a filled symmetrical crossword. These crosswords are best suited to $13 \times 13$ or $15 \times 15$ squares in size.

Condescend
Decomposition
Dexterous
Dwelling
Fashion
Fragrance
Large group
Lavish meal
Make fun of
Regret

Shrewdness
Underground cell etc

## Backwords

A puzzle with straightforward clues, where the Across answers are entered into the grid in the usual way, but answers to the Down clues are entered upside down. The usual size for these crosswords is $13 \times 13$.


| A | M | A | S | S | E | D | E | C | A | Y |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| M | O | B | I | L | I | E | T | R | U | E |
| A | R | O | M | A | N | F | E | A | S | T |
| T | I | D | Y | N | O | T | C | Z | A | R |
| E | M | E | R | G | E | V | E | Y | E | D |
| U | R | D | U | P | R | I | M | E | N | U |
| R | I | T | E | N | A | C | U | M | E | N |
| P | R | E | S | M | A | R | A | I | N | G |
| B | R | A | V | E | T | O | R | A | T | E |
| E | A | S | Y | N | E | W | T | M | O | O |
| T | R | E | N | D | I | D | E | I | G | N |

## Back To Front

Similar to Backwords, except that the solutions to the Across and Down clues should be entered into the grid backwards and upside down respectively.


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## Crossword Variations

## Anagram Crossword

Here the clues are given in the form of words which are anagrams of their solutions. The usual size for these crosswords is $13 \times 13$.


Across
1 Caterer (7)
4 Tenured (7)
6 Higgins (7)
8 Streaks (7)

Down
1 Sited (5)
2 The cart (7)
3 Arc (3)
5 Sedge (5)
7 Kin (3)

## Alphagram Crossword

Here the clues are given as letters placed in alphabetical order, which are anagrams of their solutions. The usual size for these crosswords is $13 \times 13$


Across
1 ACEERRT (7)
4 DEENRTU (7)
6 GGHIINS (7)
8 AEKRSST (7)

## Down

1 DEIST (5)
2 ACEHRTT (7)
3 ACR (3)
5 DEEGS (5)
7 IKN (3)

## Dilemma

One of the words listed against each clue number is the solution to be entered into the crossword - but which one? The solver must make a choice from two words in each case.

```
Across
    1 Focus; Laces (5)
    4 \text { Spangle; Swindle (7)}
    8 Top; Cup (3)
    9 Llama; Tiara (5)
etc
```

Down
1 Latches; Filched (7)
2 Chasm; Clamp (5)
3 Scar; Stir (4)
4 Slot; Spot (4)
etc


Trilemma
As above, except the solver must make a choice from three words in each case.

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## Crossword Variations

## Around the Squares

The answer to each clue is a four-letter word, to be entered in the four squares surrounding the corresponding number in the grid. The word can start in any of the four squares and read either clockwise or anticlockwise. One word is entered, to provide a starting point.

1 Summer month
2 Rubbish
3 Leg joint
4 Shed tears
5 Undiluted
6 Bottle-stopper
etc


## Double Trouble

This crossword is solved by placing two letters in every square. Each pair of letters reads the same way for both Across and Down words.
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## Crossword Variations

## Storyword

Some of the words in the narrative below have been replaced with clue numbers. The missing words all fit into the grid opposite. For example, if the phrase is: 'Once 18A a time', this indicates that the solution to 18 Across is 'UPON', which can then be written into the grid.
Don't worry if you can't discover the precise word required at first glance - when more words are filled into the grid, the letters which intersect with others will help you discover further words.

Chapter 2 of Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson:
It was not 32D long after this that 23A occurred the first of the mysterious 26A that rid us at last of the 8A, though not, as you 7D see, of his affairs. It was a bitter cold winter, with long, hard frosts and heavy 21D; and it was 29D 22A the first 25D my poor father was little likely to see the spring. He sank 35D, and my mother and I had 34D the 27A upon our hands, and 17D kept busy 20A without paying much regard to our unpleasant 10D.

It was 11D January morning, very early - a pinching, 22D morning - the cove all 13A with hoar-frost, the ripple lapping softly on the 1 A , the 19 A still 33 D and only 15 D the 31A and 4D 41A to seaward. The captain had risen earlier 28A usual and set out down the beach, his 3D swinging under the broad skirts of the 11A 42A coat, his brass telescope under his arm, his hat tilted back upon his head. I remember his breath hanging like smoke in his wake as he strode 40D, and the last sound I heard of him as he turned the big rock was a loud snort of indignation, as though his mind was still running upon Dr. Livesey.

24A, mother was 30D with father and I was laying the breakfasttable 34A the captain's return when the parlour door 16A and a man stepped in on whom I had never set my eyes 14D. He was a pale, tallowy 8D, 24D 6A fingers of the left hand, and though he wore a cutlass, he 5D not ... etc (space does not allow us to include more in this example)

This puzzle is spread over two pages when used in a small book.

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## Crossword Variations

Spiral Crosswords
Spiral crosswords are an interesting variation and most commonly used with either straightforward or general knowledge clues. Here we show two example grids into which the solution to each clue is entered in the order of the clue number, with the last letter of one solution becoming the first letter of the next:


## In \& Out Spiral

Here the solutions are entered in towards the centre and then outwards from the centre.


A spiral crossword may also contain a keyword element:


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## Crossword Variations

## Round Tour

The answers to the clues form a continuous chain, starting at the top left-hand corner and following the direction indicated by the arrows. The last letter of each word is the first letter of the next and a number of letters have already been entered to get you started. When completed correctly, the highlighted squares contain a word, phrase or famous name.

1 Dry white wine from France's Loire valley (8)
2 Metallic element, wolfram (8)
3 Falls located between America and Canada (7)
4 Battle won by Henry V against the French (9)
5 Mythical hero who
slew the Minotaur (7)
6 The age of a sexagenarian (5)
7 Former country of which Serbia was a part (10)

8 World's second largest ocean (8)
9 Transparent wrapping material (10)
10 The 2nd book of the Bible (6)
11 Common garden herb (9)
12 Korean martial art $(3,4,2)$
13 Pearl-producing mollusc (6)
etc


## All Square

This is just like a normal crossword, only there are no black squares.

## Across

1 Horrified
2 Offshoot
3 More protracted
4 Mr $\qquad$ O'Neill
5 Equipment used to measure balance
6 Beat soundly

## Down

1 Most efficient
2 Grumble
3 Aircraft shed
4 Ms ___ Lansbury
5 Landscapes
6 Flail corn



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## Crossword Variations

## Loose Vowels

All the vowels in this crossword became loose and dropped out. Can you replace them, using exactly the quantity shown below?

> A A A A A A A A A

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
IIIIIIIIIII
00000000
U U U U U U

## Missing Vowels

A variation of the above puzzle, every clue in this crossword consists of its solution, with the letters in order, but minus the vowels.

| Across | Down |
| :--- | :--- |
| 9 GDNG (7) | 1 GN (6) |
| 10 CTT (7) | 2 BNDT (6) |
| $11 \operatorname{BDMN}(7)$ | $\mathbf{3}$ FRM (4) |
| 12 SCPTR (7) | 4 GND (6) |
| 13 STRNT (9) | 5 FLSTT (8) |
| 15 SDS (5) | 6 DFNSBL (10) |
| etc | etc |



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## Crossword Variations

## Alphabet Soup

Ladle the letters from the soup tureen and fit one into each of the 26 bowls on the table opposite, so that the finished result is a complete crossword containing English words. All of the letters in the tureen must be used thus no letter is used more than once.

The standard size for this puzzle is $11 \times 11$.


## Missing Links

Each clue has a missing word, making either a phrase, a term, a place or a name.

| Across | Down |
| :---: | :---: |
| 7 ___ pitch | 1 Jacket _-_ |
| 8 Heart ___ | 2 __ plaster |
| 9 ___ powder | 3 ___ Campbell |
| 10 ___ Spielberg | 4 ___ band |
| 11 ___ Yeltsin | 5 Relay _-_ |
| 12 __ Palin | 6 Cheddar |
| etc | etc |

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## Crossword Variations

## First and Last

The meaning of each clue is not important! You need to use either the first or last letter of each word to form the solution to each clue. The answer to any clue might be straightforward or need another clue to be solved first in order to arrive at the correct answer.

## Across

1 Reissue every ancient medal (5)
4 Roped around castle she sketched (4)
9 Archimedes' call: Eureka!
10 Ten of us nearly succeeded (4)
11 Golden ingots' resale values are never applied (7)
etc


Figure of Eight
The clues are solved and the answers entered into the correspondingly numbered squares. The first letter of each word can start anywhere surrounding its clue number and words can read in either a clockwise or anticlockwise direction. A number of letters are already in place, to offer further clues to the solver.

1 Introduction to a book or play
2 Slow moving reptile with a leathery shell
3 Christ's twelve chosen followers
4 Forcibly expelled from a country
5 Furtive, avoiding detection
6 Setting fire to
7 Young people
8 Plane figure with five sides
9 Image with reversed blacks and whites
10 Of water, still and lifeless
11 Financially ruined, insolvent
12 Take the place of 13 Dying from lack of food


14 No longer married
15 A seller of precious stones and metals

16 Dismissed or thrown away
17 Surpassed etc

This puzzle is spread over two pages when used in a small book.

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## Crossword Variations

Arroword
The answer to every clue should be entered in the direction of the arrow. These puzzles cover a large area, as the font size of the words needs to be legible. The example shown below has a picture clue. Solutions to this puzzle are only available in grid format.

| Pounding <br> tool | Gained, <br> won | Spoil |  | Deadlock |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

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## Arroword

This arroword has no picture clue and is of a smaller grid size.

For variation, we also produce Arrowgram, where each clue is an anagram of its solution.

Solutions to this puzzle are only available in grid format.

## Numbered Arroword

If space is a problem, we also produce a numbered arroword, where the clue number appears in the grid and the clues are listed separately. This allows for grid squares to be correspondingly smaller. Solutions can be given as either grid or text.

1 Thomas who wrote Jude
The Obscure

2 Deficiency of red blood cells
3 Slender etc


## Crossword Variations

| $\begin{gathered} \hline \begin{array}{c} \text { Intense } \\ \text { dislike } \end{array} \\ \hline \begin{array}{c} \text { Strong } \\ \text { wind } \end{array} \end{gathered}$ | 7 | $\left\|\frac{\text { Energy, go }}{\text { Tell fibs }}\right\|$ | 7 | Bustle, fuss | 7 | Primary | Quarrel | 7 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\square$ |  | $V$ |  | $\frac{\text { Fall }}{\text { Food fish }}$ |  | $V$ |  |  |
| Move quietly <br> Anger | - |  |  | $V$ |  |  | Poem |  |
| - |  |  | Swindle |  | Round mark <br> Demure | - | $V$ |  |
| Postponed |  | $\left\|\frac{\text { Policeman }}{\text { Leap }}\right\|$ |  |  | 1 | Lack of mess |  | Portion |
| L |  | $V$ |  |  |  | $\nabla$ |  | $V$ |
| $\underset{\text { limb }}{\text { Human }}$ | Set free <br> Not often | P |  |  |  |  | Dairy product |  |
| L | $F$ |  | Goads | $\frac{\text { Raincoats }}{\begin{array}{c} \text { Mouming } \\ \text { song } \end{array}}$ | - |  | V |  |
| Church recess | - |  | $\gamma$ | $F$ | Definite article | $m$ |  |  |
| Meetingplace |  | $\begin{array}{\|c} \hline \begin{array}{c} \text { Smoothing } \\ \text { tool } \end{array} \\ \hline \begin{array}{c} \text { Short } \\ \text { sleep } \end{array} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | - |  |  |  |  | Allow |
| - |  | $\nabla$ |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Slippery } \\ & \text { fish } \end{aligned}$ | - |  | $V$ |
| $\frac{\text { Generosity }}{\text { Wanderer }}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| - |  |  |  |  | Harden | - |  |  |

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