



Riddle Recipe

Follow the recipe below to make up riddles to challenge a friend.



1. Pick a subject: **pig**

2. Make a list of synonyms and related words:

hog, swine, oink, ham, mud, snout

Hint: A thesaurus, a dictionary, an encyclopedia, or a book about your subject can help you find related words.

3. Take any word from the list: **ham**

Drop off the first letter, leaving: **am**

4. List words that begin with **am**:

ambulance, amnesia

5. Put the **h** back on:
hambulance, hamnesia

These are your riddle answers.

6. Now make up your riddle using the answer's definition:

How do you take a pig to the hospital?

Answer: **In an hambulance**

What do you call it when a pig loses its memory?

Answer: **hamnesia**

Now make up your own riddle.



A Ram Sang (ANAGRAMS)

An **anagram** is a word or phrase made by rearranging the letters in another word or phrase. See how many anagrams you can make for each of the words below. (The first one is done for you.) Each word has at least two anagrams. Remember that some letters often go together, such as *st* or *ea*. Also, some letters can make more than one sound, for example the *c* in *cat* and *face*.

east

seat

eats

teas

safe

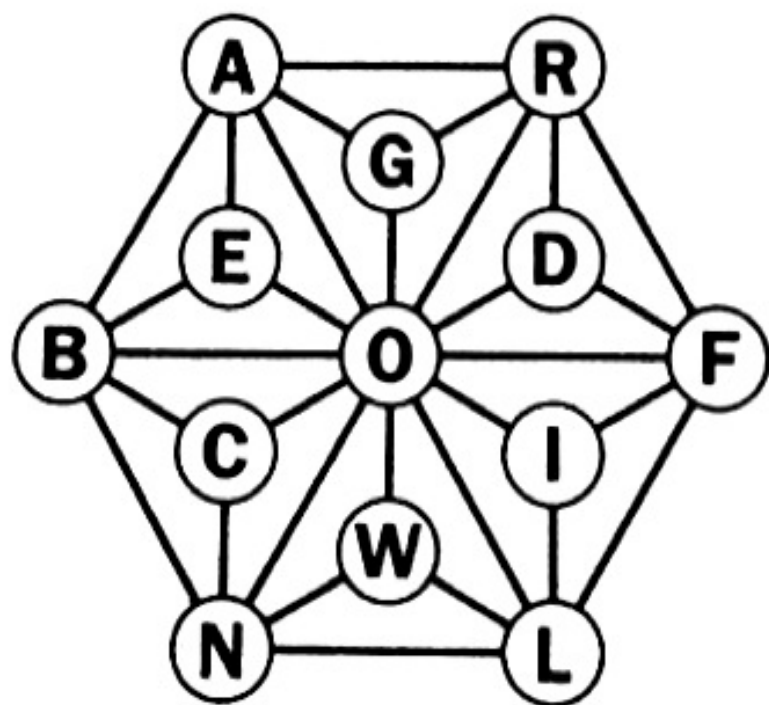
taps**acre****pools****tales****shape****snap****plate****times**

BONUS: Find all the words you can using letters from *Tyrannosaurus rex*.
For example, *run* and *sat*.



A Beastly Puzzle

How many three- and four-letter animal names can you find in this puzzle? Words can be spelled by moving from letter to letter along the lines connecting the circles. For example, you can form the word DOG by starting at the D, moving southwest to the O and then north to the G. There are six more animals names in the puzzle.



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

BONUS: There are lots of other words in this puzzle that aren't names of animals. Find as many as you can.

Verb Variety

Every activity has its own set of movements and behaviors. Verbs describe these movements and behaviors.

- ◆ List at least ten verbs for each of the activities below. Use verbs that are specific, vivid and alive. For example, don't write the verb *walk*. It's too vague. Use *march*, *stomp*, *skip*, *limp* or some other verb that portrays the *exact* movement.

Example

Bake cookies: *dump, pour, mix, stir, roll, flatten, shape, grease, bake, watch, cool, remove, gobble*

Build a snowman	
Throw a party	
Fly a kite	
Make a banana split	
Clean your room	

Verbs Alive

Good writing uses lively, active verbs. When sentences are dull, it is usually because the verbs are lifeless.

- ◆ Rewrite each sentence below, replacing the dull, ordinary verbs in italics with verbs that are alive. Then add a sentence, using another verb that is alive.

Example

Ordinary: The wolf *came* to the door and *said*, "Let me in, or I'll *disturb* your house."

Alive: The wolf *crept* to the door and *snarled*, "Let me in, or I'll *demolish* your house!"

1. Philip *said*, "I love you, Elizabeth! Really!"

2. Louise glanced at the fruitcake and gasped, "Rashad, you've *made* a multi-fruited masterpiece!"

3. Harold opened his jaws wide and *bit* off 12 square inches of pineapple pizza.

4. The beauty queen *walked* up to the judges and slammed her crown on the table.

5. Paula *removed* her mittens and threw them into the fire.

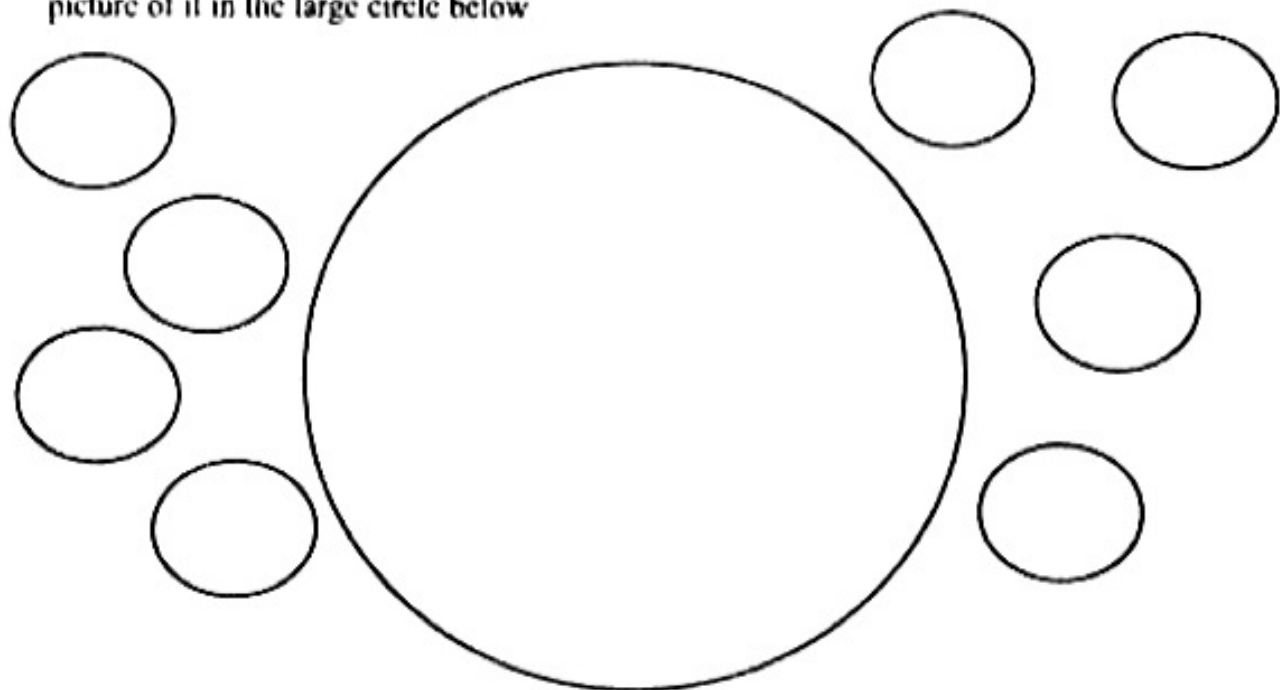
6. Walter *walked* into the bedroom and fell flat on his face.

7. The pigeon *sat* on the dead branch, mourning the loss of his friend Earl.

Peanut Butter Spreader

Some Americans have a lot of appliances. They have hair straighteners, hot dog warmers, espresso machines, electric toothbrushes, handheld vacuum cleaners, blenders, hair dryers, and much more. Are all these appliances really necessary?

- ◆ You have decided to take advantage of the popularity of appliances by inventing one yourself. Imagine the most ridiculous appliance you can think of. Name it. If you like, draw a picture of it in the large circle below

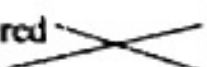


1. What does your appliance do? In each of the other circles, write an action verb that your appliance performs.
2. Write a paragraph telling what would happen if your appliance went crazy and the verbs got out of hand. You may use any, all, or none of the verbs you put in the circles.
3. Underline each action verb in your paragraph.

Brothers

Below are two columns of adjectives that are like brothers to each other. The adjectives on the left are mild-mannered ones, and their brother adjectives, on the right, are hot-tempered ones. Draw a line from the *mild* adjective on the left to the corresponding *hot* adjective on the right.

Example

MILD		HOT
ill-tempered		lazy
laid-back		vicious

MILD

1. upset
2. particular
3. overweight
4. unpleasant
5. decaying
6. inexpensive
7. thrifty
8. slender
9. cultured
10. mature
11. soiled
12. timid

HOT

- a. tight
- b. fat
- c. skinnny
- d. cheap
- e. gutless
- f. hysterical
- g. bratty
- h. snooty
- i. old
- j. filthy
- k. fussy
- l. rotting

- ◆ Sometimes mild adjectives are more appropriate than hot ones. Sometimes hot ones are more appropriate. For each pair of adjectives above, write one sentence using the mild adjective appropriately and one sentence using the hot adjective appropriately. (Make note of both the speaker and the audience for each sentence. Use your own paper.)

Examples

ill-tempered (MILD) and vicious (HOT)

- Teacher trying to be tactful to the parents of a bully:
Edward can be rather *ill-tempered* at times
- The president of the United States, explaining why he has sent troops to a battle overseas:
Our troops will protect the innocent citizens from the *vicious* attacks of the enemy.