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## Excretory organs and functions crossword puzzle answers

A clue will always be written in the same part of the speech as the answer. Check for clues that call for answers ending with S, ED, EST or ING. Often, these endings can be penciled (but not always). Checking the crossers for these answers can help verify whether the end applies. For example, if the index through and down is plural for two answers that intersect on the last letter, chances are that the letter is S. The foreign words will be marked directly, Friend: Brother - AML or indirectly, Friend, in France. Short answers are indicated directly, Whistlestop (Abbr.) - STA or indirectly with an abbreviated word in the context of the index, RR stop - STA. These clues are the accepted standard for American-style puzzles. Crosswords are an integral part of many daily newspapers. Since 1913, when Arthur Wynne released the first crossword puzzle in the New York World, puzzles around the world have been delighted with these head-scratching games [source: Brief History of Crossword Puzzles]. And it's not just fun in crossword puzzles; some studies have shown that regularly solving puzzles like crossword puzzles or sudoku can help improve your memory, and can even reduce mental decline in the elderly [source: Christie]. Crossword puzzles are also a great way to improve your vocabulary and general knowledge. Some crossword puzzles are simple, but some are certainly not. The famous New York Times Sunday crossword puzzle is one of the toughest 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 puzzle master. Remember, the harder the puzzle, the more satisfying it is when you fill out the last square. Advertising Ready to dive in? Read on for the top 10 tips for solving crossword puzzles. Content Crosswords are a bit like cobwebs; each response is connected to the others nearby to form a woven network of letters. Shooting a string of letters affects everyone else, too. Most crossword puzzles are naturally divided into several groups of indices from top to bottom, connected to other groups by longer responses. With that in mind, working through the puzzle one group of columns at a time - rather than going through all the clues through at once, followed by all the clues down - is a good strategy. Every word you fill out will help solve the others around it. Advertising On occasion, crossword puzzlers will use other languages to get their answers. But how are you supposed to know if the answer is in English or something else? You'll have to rely on the clue to tell you. If the wording of refers to a particular city or country, or if part of the index is in a foreign language, it is a pretty sure indicator that your answer should be in the same language [source: Sayles]. Few crossword enthusiasts speak fluent languages most often found in clues, but a basic knowledge of articles, verbs and titles in some of the most common languages will go a long way. French, Spanish, German and Latin are particularly popular with puzzle makers. Advertising A popular strategy for taking test is to go through all the questions and jump on the ones you don't know. And even if they're not multiple-choice, you can do the same with crossword puzzles - fortunately, without being ranked at the end. Don't spend too much time tearing your hair out on a clue you can't crack. Switch to the easiest, because this strategy comes with a bonus: filling out the answers you know will provide letters for those you don't have. This greatly reduces the possibilities, especially for indices where more than one response could apply. Advertising Are you stuck with a half-finished puzzle and a spinning head? Don't let it stress you out - crossword puzzles are supposed to be difficult, but they're also supposed to be fun. It's great to leave for a while. Unless you're participating in the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament, there's no time limit, so don't go out crazy trying to finish the puzzle on your lunch hour. Sometimes the best thing you can do is take a break and clear your mind. Come back later, and you might be surprised at what jumps on you. Advertising It happens to all of us. If you fix a word long enough, suddenly it just seems wrong - even if it's a word you've been spelling correctly since college. So it wouldn't be too strange to discover a misspelling among your answers, would it? Putting an E before an I instead of the other way around can throw the other clues into this particular section of the puzzle. There will also be times when the answers originate from a language like Arabic or Russian, whose alphabets are entirely different from the Latin alphabet that most Western countries use. As a result, there are often a number of accepted spellings for these translated words. In these cases, the index will generally include a var interparentess to indicate that there is more than one established way to spell the word in question. Advertising Is there a puzzle clue giving you extra trouble? Does he have a question mark at the end? In the world of crossword puzzles, a clue with a question mark means that the particular index requires a second look. Usually, this little punctuation is an indication that the index itself is a pun, as opposed to a simple question requiring an answer or filling in the void [source: Sayles]. So the most obvious answer is probably not the right one. Think of all the possible meanings of the index; you can always ruminate on it while you other parts of the puzzle. Advertising Many crossword puzzles have a title that gives an overview of the puzzle theme. And whether or not the puzzle has a title, it will almost always have a theme. Throughout the puzzle, the author will scatter the answers attached to the theme. These answers longer and contain more than one word. Frequently, the clues will be a play on the theme, so the connection might not be immediately obvious. Still, keeping the theme or title in mind as you go through the clues could provide insight to lead you in the right direction. Advertisement Let's call a spade a spade. But does that mean we call the spade a shovel, or a card suit? Some words have not only one or two meanings, but several. If part of the puzzle doesn't come together, and one of the clues might have more than one answer, try them all. In particular, be on the lookout for words with multiple meanings in the question mark clues mentioned above. Puzzle composers and publishers are a sneaky group; they will use multiple meanings to throw potential solvers out of the odor. Going off the beaten track, literally and figuratively, will help you finish the job. Advertising Are you waffle between more than one possible answer, or maybe just take 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 percent sure. Are you taking a risk and do you think you are writing or not? If the answer in question intersects with another perhaps-it-is-maybe-it-is-not clue, jump for now. Writing in the wrong answers can get you astray, especially if you are one of the brave souls who prefer to do the puzzle by pen. Instead, rely on answers you know correct to get you back into safe territory. Advertising There is absolutely no shame in relying on a reference book. Some of the main advantages of crossword puzzles are the expansion of your own knowledge and vocabulary. If you've solved all the clues down in a cluster, but one of the results through the answers is not a term you're familiar with, remove your English Dictionary Oxford Trust on the board. You will either discover that the word is correct and add something new to your phraseology, or you will discover that some of your down answers need to be rethought. Other reference works, such as a thesaurus or encyclopedia, are equally useful. After all, if you knew every crossword response without even trying, it wouldn't be as much fun - and you wouldn't have a new nugget of bandy anecdotes around cocktails. For much more information about crossword puzzles and other games, see the links on the next page. Get comfortable and we'll test your knowledge of weird castles, crazy numbers and embargoed snacks. U.S. crossword puzzle tournament website. (March 15 Crossword strategies. 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