

# April Vocabulary Downpour

In a large portion of the northern hemisphere, April earns its reputation as a rainy month. Clouds float overhead, fill up, and then eject their watery contents onto everything below, including sidewalks, rooftops, sports cars, ball games, bicycles, and students who forget their umbrellas.

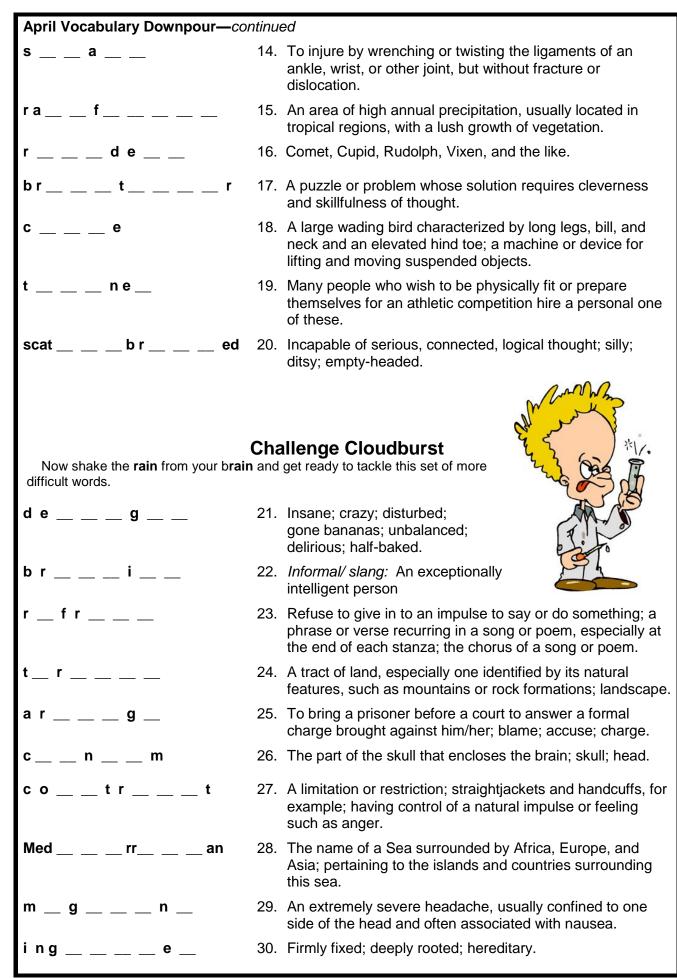
Actually, you can find rain hanging around twenty-four seven, every month of the year if you know where to look. Start with the word **train**, for instance. See it? t—**r—a—i—n!** There it is, sloshing around inside a connected group of rolling vehicles. Who knew?

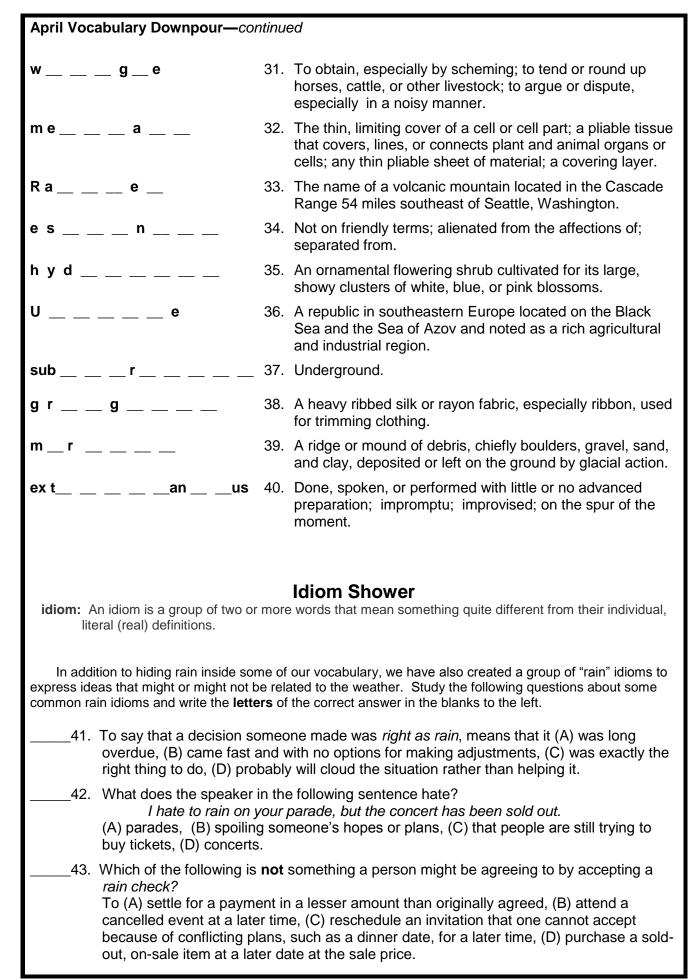
But wait! There's more! Some words hold the **sound of rain** rather than its spelling. Do you hear it in **ranger**?

Grab a dictionary—a dry one—and use it along with the definitions and clues below to identify the mystery words with either the letters **r-a-i-n** or the **sound** of **rain** hidden within their spellings. Fill in the blank spaces with the correct letters

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- 1. A conduit for carrying off rainwater, sewage, etc.
- 2. To cause a radical change in the ideas and beliefs of a person, especially by methods based on isolation, fear, pain, sleep deprivation, etc.
- 3. The period during which a ruler, such as a king, holds power or authority over a country; to predominate or prevail.
- 4. Small, hard seeds, especially those of a food plant such as wheat, oats, corn, rye, rice, or millet.
- 5. To use, exert, or stretch to the limit; to pour through a filter to remove unwanted material.
- 6. Unusual, extraordinary, odd, or curious; that which is outside one's previous experience; unfamiliar.
- 7. Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet.
- 8. A radioactive, silvery-white metallic element, the 235 isotope being used as fuel for producing nuclear energy.
- 9. Too much time staring into a computer or television screen can cause this.
- 10. To engage in the unrestrained and spontaneous generation of ideas, especially for solving problem.
- 11. To place in proper, desired, or convenient order; to adapt a musical composition for a particular style or performance.
- **ho\_\_\_\_t\_\_\_n\_\_\_12.** Descriptive of a pet who understands and practices the proper rules of "bathroom" etiquette.
  - 13. Leather straps by which a rider or driver controls a horse or other animal.





April Vocabulary Downpour—continued

- 44. What's happening if it's *"raining cats and dogs"*?
  (A) It's raining really hard. (B) There are an unusually large number of stray animals roaming the neighborhood. (C) The falling rain is making more noise than usual. (D) Both people and animals have been taken by surprise in a sudden downpour.
- \_45. In addition to *cats and dogs*, what other unusual objects are said to fall from the sky idiomatically?
   (A) frogs and lizards, (B) pitchforks and hammer handles, (C) pots and pans, (D) sticks and stones.



\_\_46. A yard sale sign that reads, Yard Sale Saturday, April 23 Come Rain or Come Shine

means the sale will take place (A) on Saturday, only if there is no rain, (B) whether there are lots of shoppers or only a few, (C) inside or outside, depending upon the weather, (D) on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> whether it rains or the sun shines.

- \_47. To describe someone as *not knowing enough to come in out of the rain*, implies that he/she (A) likes to take dangerous risks, (B) is stupid, uninformed, of naïve about a certain situation, (C) doesn't learn from his/her mistakes, (D) is extremely stubborn.
- \_\_48. What happens when a ball game or a picnic is *rained out*? The event (A) has to be temporarily halted until the shower stops, (B) gets a late start, (C) is cancelled or stopped before completion because of rain, (D) goes on as scheduled, but in a different location.
- \_\_49. Which of the idioms best completes the following sentence?
  Ashes from the erupting volcano \_\_\_\_\_\_ the deserted village.
  (A) rained down upon, (B) rained out, (C) came out of the rain and struck, (D) rained cats and dogs upon.
- \_50. Dad said, "First the car ran out of gas. Then I couldn't find the keys to my office. Finally all the company computers went down. It never rains but it pours!" What did Dad mean by *It never rains but it pours*?
  (A) Rain seems unusually heavy when things aren't going well. (B) Bad things happen in threes. (C) When one bad thing happens, a lot of other inconveniences seem to come along to make the situation even worse. (D) He has had enough of rain whether it's a small shower or a downpour.

# **Bonus Questions:**

- \_B1 Which U.S. metropolis is known as *Rain City*? (A) Baton Rouge, Louisiana, (B) Miami, Florida, (C) Seattle, Washington, (D) Chicago, Illinois.
- B2 Read or hear the phrase *rain forest* and one automatically thinks of a tropical region. However, there are also *temperate rainforests* located in various places around the world, including the U.S. One of the largest is the Hoh Rainforest in the state of (A) Idaho, (B) Washington, (C) Florida, (D) California.

# April Vocabulary Downpour Answer Keys

#### Idiom Shower 41. C

42. B

43. A

44. A

45. B

46. D 47. B

48. C

49. A

- 1. drainpipe
- brainwash
   reign
- 4. grain
- 5. strain
- 6. strange
- 7. rainbow
- 8. uranium
- 9. eyestrain
- 10. brainstorm 50. C
- 11. arrange
- 12. housetrained
- 13. reins 14. sprain

# **Bonus Questions**

- B1. C B2. B
- E
- rainforest
   reindeer
- 17. brainteaser
- 18. crane
- 19. trainer
- 20. scatterbrained

## **Challenge Cloudburst**

- 21. deranged
- 22. brainiac
- 23. refrain
- 24. terrain
- 25. arraign
- 26. cranium
- 27. constraint
- 28. Mediterranean
- 29. migraine
- 30. ingrained
- 31. wrangle
- 32. membrane
- 33. Rainier
- 34. estranged
- 35. hydrangea
- 36. Ukraine
- 37. subterranean
- 38. grosgrain
- 39. moraine
- 40. extemporaneous

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