

April

Vocabulary Downpour

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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.



d _ _ _ n p i _ _

1. A conduit for carrying off rainwater, sewage, etc.

b _ a _ _ w a _ _

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.

r _ _ _ n

3. The period during which a ruler, such as a king, holds power or authority over a country; to predominate or prevail.

g _ a _ _

4. Small, hard seeds, especially those of a food plant such as wheat, oats, corn, rye, rice, or millet.

s _ r _ _ _

5. To use, exert, or stretch to the limit; to pour through a filter to remove unwanted material.

s t _ _ _ g _

6. Unusual, extraordinary, odd, or curious; that which is outside one's previous experience; unfamiliar.

r a _ _ _ w

7. Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet.

u r _ _ _ u _

8. A radioactive, silvery-white metallic element, the 235 isotope being used as fuel for producing nuclear energy.

e y _ s _ r _ _ _

9. Too much time staring into a computer or television screen can cause this.

b r _ _ _ o r _

10. To engage in the unrestrained and spontaneous generation of ideas, especially for solving problem.

a r _ _ _ e

11. To place in proper, desired, or convenient order; to adapt a musical composition for a particular style or performance.

h o _ _ _ t _ _ _ n _ _

12. Descriptive of a pet who understands and practices the proper rules of "bathroom" etiquette.

r _ _ _ s

13. Leather straps by which a rider or driver controls a horse or other animal.

April Vocabulary Downpour—*continued*

s _ _ a _ _

14. To injure by wrenching or twisting the ligaments of an ankle, wrist, or other joint, but without fracture or dislocation.

r a _ _ f _ _ _ _ _

15. An area of high annual precipitation, usually located in tropical regions, with a lush growth of vegetation.

r _ _ _ d e _ _

16. Comet, Cupid, Rudolph, Vixen, and the like.

b r _ _ _ t _ _ _ _ r

17. A puzzle or problem whose solution requires cleverness and skillfulness of thought.

c _ _ _ e

18. A large wading bird characterized by long legs, bill, and neck and an elevated hind toe; a machine or device for lifting and moving suspended objects.

t _ _ _ n e _

19. Many people who wish to be physically fit or prepare themselves for an athletic competition hire a personal one of these.

scat _ _ _ b r _ _ _ ed

20. Incapable of serious, connected, logical thought; silly; ditsy; empty-headed.

Challenge Cloudburst

Now shake the **rain** from your **brain** and get ready to tackle this set of more difficult words.

d e _ _ _ g _ _

21. Insane; crazy; disturbed; gone bananas; unbalanced; delirious; half-baked.

b r _ _ _ i _ _

22. *Informal/ slang:* An exceptionally intelligent person

r _ _ f r _ _ _

23. Refuse to give in to an impulse to say or do something; a phrase or verse recurring in a song or poem, especially at the end of each stanza; the chorus of a song or poem.

t _ _ r _ _ _ _

24. A tract of land, especially one identified by its natural features, such as mountains or rock formations; landscape.

a r _ _ _ g _ _

25. To bring a prisoner before a court to answer a formal charge brought against him/her; blame; accuse; charge.

c _ _ n _ _ m

26. The part of the skull that encloses the brain; skull; head.

c o _ _ t r _ _ _ t

27. A limitation or restriction; straightjackets and handcuffs, for example; having control of a natural impulse or feeling such as anger.

Med _ _ _ rr _ _ _ an

28. The name of a Sea surrounded by Africa, Europe, and Asia; pertaining to the islands and countries surrounding this sea.

m _ _ g _ _ _ n _ _

29. An extremely severe headache, usually confined to one side of the head and often associated with nausea.

i n g _ _ _ _ e _

30. Firmly fixed; deeply rooted; hereditary.



April Vocabulary Downpour—*continued*

w _ _ _ g _ e

31. To obtain, especially by scheming; to tend or round up horses, cattle, or other livestock; to argue or dispute, especially in a noisy manner.

m e _ _ _ a _ _ _

32. The thin, limiting cover of a cell or cell part; a pliable tissue that covers, lines, or connects plant and animal organs or cells; any thin pliable sheet of material; a covering layer.

R a _ _ _ e _

33. The name of a volcanic mountain located in the Cascade Range 54 miles southeast of Seattle, Washington.

e s _ _ _ n _ _ _

34. Not on friendly terms; alienated from the affections of; separated from.

h y d _ _ _ _ _

35. An ornamental flowering shrub cultivated for its large, showy clusters of white, blue, or pink blossoms.

U _ _ _ _ _ e

36. A republic in southeastern Europe located on the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov and noted as a rich agricultural and industrial region.

sub _ _ _ r _ _ _ _ _

37. Underground.

g r _ _ _ g _ _ _ _ _

38. A heavy ribbed silk or rayon fabric, especially ribbon, used for trimming clothing.

m _ r _ _ _ _ _

39. A ridge or mound of debris, chiefly boulders, gravel, sand, and clay, deposited or left on the ground by glacial action.

ex t _ _ _ _ _ an _ _ _ us

40. Done, spoken, or performed with little or no advanced preparation; impromptu; improvised; on the spur of the moment.

Idiom Shower

idiom: An idiom is a group of two or more words that mean something quite different from their individual, literal (real) definitions.

In addition to hiding rain inside some of our vocabulary, we have also created a group of “rain” idioms to express ideas that might or might not be related to the weather. Study the following questions about some common rain idioms and write the **letters** of the correct answer in the blanks to the left.

_____ 41. To say that a decision someone made was *right as rain*, means that it (A) was long overdue, (B) came fast and with no options for making adjustments, (C) was exactly the right thing to do, (D) probably will cloud the situation rather than helping it.

_____ 42. What does the speaker in the following sentence hate?

I hate to rain on your parade, but the concert has been sold out.

(A) parades, (B) spoiling someone’s hopes or plans, (C) that people are still trying to buy tickets, (D) concerts.

_____ 43. Which of the following is **not** something a person might be agreeing to by accepting a *rain check*?

To (A) settle for a payment in a lesser amount than originally agreed, (B) attend a cancelled event at a later time, (C) reschedule an invitation that one cannot accept because of conflicting plans, such as a dinner date, for a later time, (D) purchase a sold-out, on-sale item at a later date at the sale price.

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 23rd 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, or 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

- | | |
|--------------------|-------|
| 1. drainpipe | 41. C |
| 2. brainwash | 42. B |
| 3. reign | 43. A |
| 4. grain | 44. A |
| 5. strain | 45. B |
| 6. strange | 46. D |
| 7. rainbow | 47. B |
| 8. uranium | 48. C |
| 9. eyestrain | 49. A |
| 10. brainstorm | 50. C |
| 11. arrange | |
| 12. housetrained | |
| 13. reins | |
| 14. sprain | |
| 15. rainforest | |
| 16. reindeer | |
| 17. brainteaser | |
| 18. crane | |
| 19. trainer | |
| 20. scatterbrained | |

Idiom Shower

41. C
42. B
43. A
44. A
45. B
46. D
47. B
48. C
49. A
50. C

Bonus Questions

- B1. C
B2. B

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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