

Palindromes

for

January



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Part One: Single-Word Palindrome ID

The month of January gets its name from Janus, the ancient Roman god of the doorway, the place of new beginnings and transitions. Janus is usually depicted as having two faces, one that looks to the past and one to the future. Given the “forward and backward” nature of its name, January is the perfect time to get acquainted with palindromes—words, phrases, and even whole sentences whose letters are in the same order whether you read them forward or backward.

Can you spot the three, single-word palindromes in the cartoon caption?

Use the clues for each of the following items to fill in the missing letters and reveal the identity of the single-word palindrome. If you get momentarily stuck, remember that the word’s first letter is also its last letter. The second letter is the same as the next-to-last, etc.



Stop shouting, Hannah! Otto sees the problem.

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| d _ _ _ | 1. The past tense of <i>do</i> . |
| t _ o _ | 2. A train or horn sound. |
| M _ _ _ | 3. Another word for <i>Mother</i> . |
| r a _ _ _ | 4. A method for detecting the position and velocity of a distant object. |
| e _ _ | 5. The day before a holiday; when capitalized—a woman’s name. |
| p _ _ | 6. Lively spirits or energy; vigor; vitality. |
| w _ _ | 7. An exclamation of surprise, wonder, etc; to amaze, as an audience. |
| k _ _ _ | 8. A strange or foolish person; a lunatic; a dingbat. |
| s _ _ _ _ | 9. Musical compositions performed by a single vocalist or instrumentalist. |
| e _ _ | 10. The organ of sight. |
| c i _ _ _ | 11. Pertaining to a city, to citizens, or to citizenship; a Honda. |
| p _ _ | 12. The sound made by a bursting balloon. |
| r e _ _ _ | 13. Becoming or being more crimson. |

Palindromes for January—Part One: Single-Word Palindrome ID—*continued*

- s a _ _ _ 14. Narrative stories or legends of heroic events performed by an individual or a family.
- p _ _ _ 15. To look through a small opening from a concealed location; an onomatopoeia for the shrill little cry of a young bird.
- n _ _ _ 16. Midday; twelve o'clock.
- l e _ _ _ 17. Having no part higher than the other; having a flat or even surface.
- k a _ _ _ 18. A small, canoe-like boat consisting of a light-weight frame covered with animal skins or canvas.
- p _ _ 19. A young dog, or the young of certain other animals, such as seals.
- m a _ _ _ 20. A polite term of address to a woman, especially one of rank or authority.
- r e _ _ _ 21. To make mention of; to direct to for information or things required.
- s _ _ 22. One's female sibling.
- e _ _ 23. A female sheep.
- r o _ _ _ _ 24. An object that turns around, as if on an axis; a person or object that goes through a predictable cycle of changes.
- g _ _ 25. To retch; to prevent speech by putting something over a person's mouth; a joke.
- b _ _ 26. A piece of cloth, plastic, or paper that covers the chest to protect the clothing while eating.
- t _ _ 27. A small child.
- D _ _ 28. Another word for *Father*.
- d _ _ 29. A devise, person, or enterprise that proves to be a failure.
- d _ _ _ 30. An achievement; a legal document concerning the ownership or transfer of property.

Palindrome Challenge:

Write two sentences with two single-word palindromes each.

Write two sentences with three palindromes in each one.

Write one sentence with more than three palindromes.

Extra Palindromes:
stats (statistics), deified,
repaper, rotor, Bob, Nan,
a Toyota, Aha!, revival,
nun, Wassamassaw (a
city in SC), Ada

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Part Two: Palindrome Phrase Assembly

Each of the items below is a partial palindrome phrase—a group of words with letters that are in the same order whether they are read forward or backward. Use the given clues and the nature of palindromes as tools to fill in the missing letters and assemble a completed palindrome. Some of the phrases are sensible and some run on pure giggle power.

For practice, finish the assembly for the palindrome phrase printed under the road hog cartoon. What is the final phrase?

Now try these. If you get stuck, keep reminding yourself that the first letter is also the last. The second is the next-to-last, etc. Proper nouns, of course, require capital letters.



r a _ _ _ c _ _ _

1. t o p s _ _ _ (the uppermost position)
2. s _ _ _ _ w a r t _ (fodder skin condition)
3. D r. A _ k w _ _ _ (bumbling physician)
4. _ _ _ d r i b (parakeet bone)
5. s _ _ _ r a t _ (cosmic rodents)
6. _ _ _ t o f u (alien curdled soybean milk)
7. d _ m _ _ u _ (stupid water and soil mixture)
8. m _ _ r _ r r i _ (outer edge of a looking glass)
9. _ i o n _ _ l (king-of-the-jungle petroleum)
10. w _ f e _ (only a couple of us)



Palindromes for January—Part Two: Palindrome Phrase Assembly—*continued*

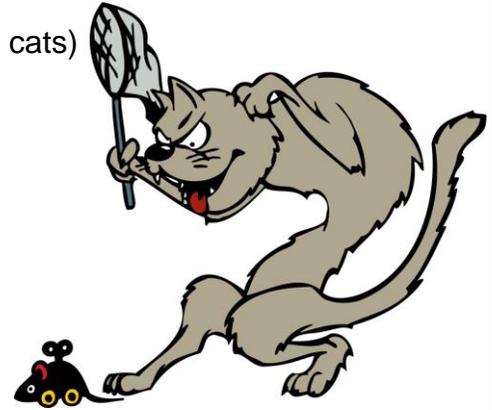
11. A d a _ _ _ , N e v _ _ _ (This city is a palindrome of its state)

12. s _ _ _ k _ c a t _ _ (arrange felines one atop the other)

13. _ _ n _ l e _ f _ _ i _ e s (fuzzy-thinking cats)

14. g o _ _ _ l _ _ _ (precious metal tree trunk)

15. _ _ t _ _ o p (cooking utensil lid)



16. e _ _ l _ o _ i v _ _ (heinous green fruit)

17. S t a n _ _ _ _ Y e l _ _ _ _ (the main character's name in the novel *Holes*)

18. n _ _ l e _ o n , _ _ m e _ o _ _ (the absence of both a yellow citrus fruit and a vine-growing fruit—*four words*)

19. _ _ v e r o d d o _ _ _ e n (neither unusual nor equal at any time—*four word*)

20. t o o _ _ _ _ to h _ _ _ _ (unable to make an owl sound because of excessive heat—*four words*)



Now apply your palindrome assembly skills to some **two word sentences**. All necessary punctuation is provided.

21. N _ _ s e _ _ r u _ _ . (Medical professionals maneuver at high speed.)

22. W _ _ s e _ _ . (My group stitches pieces of fabric together.)

23. G _ _ , d o _ _ ! (Get moving, pup!)

24. _ _ n ' t _ _ o d . (Refrain from making a gesture with your head)

25. D r _ _ _ , W a _ _ _ ! (Go for it, gunslinger!)



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Part Three: Palindrome Sentence Construction Challenge

It's the Ultimate Palindrome Challenge! Fill in the blanks below with the correct letters to construct complete palindrome sentences. Some are sensible, and some are a little dippy. Either way, you can use the forward and backward principle to determine which letter goes in which blank. When you are constructing the first word in the sentence, a proper noun, or the personal pronoun "I," of course, you will need to write a capital letter. All necessary punctuation is included.



Sample: No _ _ _ _ ses ordered ro _ _ _ , Sim _ _ .
(**Reconstruction:** No misses ordered roses, Simon.)

1. Ed _ _ on n _ si _ _ .
2. _ e _ id, eh?
3. Ma _ _ _ , i _ Eden, _ 'm Ad _ _ .
4. _ _ _ at _ d a m?
5. Ma h _ _ _ _ d Edna _ _ _ .
6. Was _ t _ bat l _ _ _ ?
7. _ _ _ _ to v _ _ e, sir.
8. Poor _ _ _ _ s in a d _ _ _ .
9. _ _ _ _ , I spy g _ _ _ _ e s! Run!

10. N o r m a, I _ _ _ _ _ .

11. _ _ _ I w o n!

12. I s i t I? _ _ _ _ _ !

13. D r a w _ _ _ _ _ 's l i p u p _ _ _ _ _ .

14. _ _ _ _ _ e s N o e l.

15. I d i d _ _ I I. O r _ _ _ _ _ ?

16. _ _ _ e _ _ w o n e m a n.

17. M a r g e _ _ _ _ _ N o r a h s e e S _ _ _ _ _ 's
t e l _ _ _ _ _ .

18. D e e s a w _ _ _ _ _ .

19. A d o g! A _ _ _ _ _ c i n a p _ _ _ _ _ !

20. _ _ , _ h o _ _ _ _ _ i t _ s a w? _ _ , w h o?

21. O l s o n i s _ _ _ _ _ .

22. D i d I d r a w _ _ _ _ _ t o o _ a l l, E d _ _ _ _ _ ?
I _ _ _ _ ?

23. _ _ _ _ _ a _ _ _ _ _ o n, O m a h _ , p a l s.

24. W a s i t a _ _ _ _ _ o r a c _ _ _ _ _ ?

25. M r. _ _ _ _ _ a t e m y m _ _ _ _ _ I w o _ _ _ .



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Answer Keys

Part One

1. did
2. toot
3. Mom
4. radar
5. eve
6. pep
7. wow
8. kook
9. solos
10. eye
11. civic
12. pop
13. redder
14. sagas
15. peep
16. noon
17. level
18. kayak
19. pup
20. madam
21. refer
22. sis
23. ewe
24. rotator
25. gag
26. bib
27. tot
28. Dad
29. dud
30. deed

Part Two

1. top spot
2. straw warts
3. Dr. Awkward
4. bird rib
5. star rats
6. UFO tofu
7. dumb mud
8. mirror rim
9. lion oil
10. we few
11. Adaven, Nevada
12. stack cats
13. senile felines
14. gold log
15. pot top
16. evil olive
17. Stanley Yelnats
18. no lemon, no melon
19. never odd or even
20. too hot to hoot
21. Nurses run.
22. We sew.
23. Go, dog!
24. Don't nod.
25. Draw, Ward!

Part Three

1. Ed is on no side.
2. He did, eh?
3. Madam, in Eden, I'm Adam.
4. Mad at Adam?
5. Ma handed Edna ham.
6. Was it a bat I saw?
7. Rise to vote, sir.
8. Poor Dan is in a droop.
9. Nurse, I spy gypsies! Run!
10. Norma, I am Ron.
11. Now I won!
12. Is it I? It is I!
13. Draw pupil's lip upward.
14. Leon sees Noel.
15. I did roll. Or did I?
16. Name now one man.
17. Marge lets Norah see Sharon's telegram.
18. Dee saw a seed.
19. A dog! A panic in a pagoda!
20. Oh, who was it I saw? Oh, who?
21. Olson is in Oslo.
22. Did I draw Della too tall, Edward? I did?
23. Was it a car or a cat I saw?
24. Mr. Owl ate my metal worm.

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