



***Seasonal  
Brain Teasers and  
Vocabulary Builders  
for  
Young Scholars  
Free Sample Activities***

**The Word Works Series**  
By Margaret Whisnant

Free Activities from  
***Seasonal Brain Teasers and Vocabulary Builders  
for Young Scholars***  
by Margaret Whisnant

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# Stuffed Words

**People** stuff *turkeys, suitcases, trash cans, shirts, school desks, drawers, mailboxes, peppers, sausages, teddy bears, zucchinis, closets, pillows, and their faces*. Some **words**, as you may have noticed, stuff themselves with *other words*.

**For Example:** Identify the following three words stuffed with **key**.

\_\_\_\_\_ Benjamin Franklin suggested that it should be our national bird.

\_\_\_\_\_ the central, topmost stone of an arch that locks the other stones together

\_\_\_\_\_ an animal with long limbs and hands and feet adapted for grasping and climbing

(Answers: **turkey, keystone, monkey**)



Use the following definitions to identify the stuffed words. The common three-letter term hidden in each set of five words is printed in **bold type**. Write your answers in the blanks.

## ant

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. to breathe rapidly in short gasps

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. enjoyable; agreeable

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. one of the branched horns of various members of the deer family

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. a living organism that grows by photosynthesis

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. one who pays rent to occupy or use the property of another

## ear

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. to feel a strong and deep desire for

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. to practice in preparation for a public or official performance

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. to look through, inspect, or explore carefully and thoroughly in order to find something

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. to vanish

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. the fifth largest planet in the solar system

## men

\_\_\_\_\_ 11. the largest of the body cavities of a mammal; belly

\_\_\_\_\_ 12. executed or performed by the mind; intellectual

\_\_\_\_\_ 13. to remove the faults or errors in; to change for the better; improve

\_\_\_\_\_ 14. an emotional state characterized by a potential for impulsive or poorly controlled activity

\_\_\_\_\_ 15. to endorse; to praise as being worthy or desirable

**rat**

\_\_\_\_\_ 16. conforming exactly to fact; without error

\_\_\_\_\_ 17. a container, usually a slatted wooded case used for storing or shipping

\_\_\_\_\_ 18. creative writing of recognized artistic value

\_\_\_\_\_ 19. overstate; to represent as greater than is actually the case

\_\_\_\_\_ 20. having no fixed or regular course; lacking consistency or regularity

**bus**

\_\_\_\_\_ 21. occupation, work, or trade in which a person is engaged

\_\_\_\_\_ 22. capable of igniting or burning

\_\_\_\_\_ 23. engaged in activity; occupied

\_\_\_\_\_ 24. moving or causing to move energetically and busily

\_\_\_\_\_ 25. dry measure equal to four pecks or thirty-two quarts

**ton**

\_\_\_\_\_ 26. a slender wooden stick or rod used by a conductor to direct an orchestra or band

\_\_\_\_\_ 27. the literary character who heard the Who

\_\_\_\_\_ 28. a small crisp piece of toasted or fried bread

\_\_\_\_\_ 29. a spoken language or dialect

\_\_\_\_\_ 30. one who eats and drinks to excess

**ape**

\_\_\_\_\_ 31. the highest point; the tip

\_\_\_\_\_ 32. to injure the surface of by rubbing against something rough or sharp

\_\_\_\_\_ 33. a quadrilateral having two parallel sides

\_\_\_\_\_ 34. to open the mouth wide; yawn

\_\_\_\_\_ 35. a point of land projecting into a body of water

**Avoid empty-brain syndrome:** *Think* of one more stuffed word for each set.

# Hail to the Chief

## Set 1



Use reference books, the internet, and your own memory banks to answer the following trivia questions about the

### ***American Presidency.***

To help narrow your search, three possible answers are given. Write the correct one in the blank.



- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. What is the name of the oldest professional musical organization in the United States whose primary mission is to provide music for the nation's president?  
*the Sousa Military Band   the U.S. Marine Band   the West Point Band*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. At six feet four inches, who was the tallest president?  
*John Quincy Adams   Abraham Lincoln   Ronald Reagan*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Weighing only one hundred pounds and standing five feet four inches tall, he was the smallest chief executive.  
*Rutherford B. Hayes   James Madison   Martin Van Buren*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. With a total of fifteen, he holds the record as the president with the most children. It was his second wife who initiated the practice of playing ***Hail to the Chief*** whenever a president appears in public.  
*Ulysses S. Grant   William Henry Harrison   John Tyler*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Presidents John Adams and Thomas Jefferson died on the same day in 1826. Five years later, James Monroe died on the same calendar date. President Calvin Coolidge was born on this day in 1872. What date is common to all four presidents?  
*December 25   July 4   October 31*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Currently, the salary for the job of president is \$400,000. What was George Washington's salary?  
*\$25,000   \$15,000   \$5,000*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Which college has the most presidents as alumni?  
*Yale   Harvard   West Point*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. What is the President's house number and street address?  
*1600 Pennsylvania Ave.   110 Downing St.   1250 South Hayes St.*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. What common food did Thomas Jefferson boldly eat in public to prove that it wasn't poisonous?

*a cucumber   an avocado   a tomato*

- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. A cold turned pneumonia took this chief executive's life thirty-two days after he was inaugurated. His untimely demise made him the first president to die in office.  
*William Henry Harrison   James K. Polk   Franklin Pierce*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Who explained the presence of a would-be assassin's bullet in his body by saying to the First Lady, "*Honey, I forgot to duck.*"?  
*George Bush   Dwight David Eisenhower   Ronald Reagan*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. John Kennedy's daughter Caroline had a pet named Macaroni. What kind of animal was Macaroni?  
*a pony   a parrot   a golden retriever*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Harriett Lane's favorite uncle was the only president who never married. During his term in office, Harriett served as First Lady. What was her bachelor uncle's name?  
*Chester A. Arthur   James Buchanan   Zackary Taylor*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Which president was a night owl who seldom went to bed before two o'clock in the morning?  
*Andrew Johnson   John F. Kennedy   Chester A. Arthur*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. He served as president for two **nonconsecutive** terms making him both the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> chief executive.  
*Grover Cleveland   Warring G. Harding   Franklin Pierce*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. This president publicly refused to eat broccoli, prompting angry farmers to send truckloads of the vegetable to the White House. Though his wife accepted the deliveries, he said "*I am President of the United States and I don't have to eat it.*" Who is the broccoli-hating former president?  
*James E. Carter   William J. Clinton   George Bush*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. Which president believed that the Earth is flat?  
*Andrew Jackson   William H. Taft   Zachary Taylor*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. He joined the Confederacy twenty years after he was in office and became the only president named a sworn enemy of the United States.  
*Martin Van Buren   John Tyler   Grover C. Cleveland*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. What did the initial *S* in *Harry S. Truman* stand for?  
*Samuel   a middle initial   Sibley*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. He was known as the *Human Iceberg* because he was so stiff and formal with people.  
*Benjamin Harrison   William McKinley   Theodore Roosevelt*

# Scrambled Eggs



Look at the scrambled words written in **bold** print before the definitions. When their letters are rearranged correctly, all the words will begin with the “EGGS” sound. The first two letters of each word are **E** and **X**.

Using the definitions as clues, unscramble the words and write their correct spellings in the blanks. Dictionary assistance is recommended.

**Example:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **exti** the act of going out or away; to depart

**Answer:** *exit*

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. **expmael** one that is representative of a whole group; serving as a pattern
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. **excanheg** to give in return for something received; trade
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. **exoelpd** to burst violently as a result of internal pressure
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. **exti** the act of going away or out; a passage or way out; the departure of a performer from the stage.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. **extrat** outside; beyond; more than is needed
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. **exuces** to make allowances for; overlook; forgive; to free as from an obligation or duty
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. **exlerpo** to make a careful search or examination
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. **extyalc** precisely; accurately
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. **extidce** having strong feelings; in a state of increased activity or response
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. **exmneai** to observe critically or carefully; inspect; to test or check the health of
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. **exnvepesi** high in price or charging high prices; costly
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. **exgaegtrae** to represent as greater than is actually the case; overstate
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. **exlhae** to breathe out; to emit air or vapor

- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. **exicntt** no longer existing or living; no longer active
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. **exlduec** to prevent from being considered or accepted; reject; keep out
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. **exelc** to show superiority; to be better than is required
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. **exmcail** to cry out suddenly as from surprise or emotion
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. **exreetm** most remote in any direction; extending far beyond the norm; drastic; very dangerous or difficult
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. **exlei** enforced removal from one's native country; banish
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. **exiper** to come to an end; terminate; to come to the end of the allotted time
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. **exreiort** outer; external; originating or acting from the outside; suitable for outside use
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. **exetpc** to look forward to the probable occurrence or appearance of; to consider likely or certain
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. **extasuh** to wear out or use up completely; the release of vaporous waste materials, as from an engine
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. **exsit** subsist; to be real; to have life
- \_\_\_\_\_ 25. **exianpl** to make plain or comprehensible; define; to offer reasons for
- \_\_\_\_\_ 26. **exprte** a person with a high degree of skill or knowledge of a certain subject; the highest degree that can be achieved in marksmanship
- \_\_\_\_\_ 27. **exepi** to force to leave or drive out; to discharge from; to deprive of membership
- \_\_\_\_\_ 28. **exdeec** surpass; to be greater than; to extend beyond or outside of
- \_\_\_\_\_ 29. **exrreiot** outer; external; organizing or acting from the outside
- \_\_\_\_\_ 30. **exueetivc** a person or group having managerial or administrative authority in an organization; the branch of government responsible for putting the country's laws into effect
- \_\_\_\_\_ 31. **exiihbt** display; to show outwardly
- \_\_\_\_\_ 32. **exlelecnt** of the highest, finest quality; superior
- \_\_\_\_\_ 33. **exprieeecn** to participate in personally; undergo; accumulated knowledge and skill



# Keys

## **Stuffed Words**

### **Set 1**

1. pant
2. pleasant
3. antler
4. plant
5. tenant
6. yearn
7. rehearse
8. search
9. disappear
10. Earth
11. abdomen
12. mental
13. amend
14. excitement
15. recommend
16. accurate
17. crate
18. literature
19. exaggerate
20. erratic
21. business
22. combustible
23. busy
24. bustle
25. bushel
26. baton
27. Horton
28. crouton
29. tongue
30. glutton
31. apex
32. scrape
33. trapezoid
34. gape
35. cape

## **Hail to the Chief**

### **Set 1**

1. The U. S. Marine Band
2. Abraham Lincoln
3. James Madison
4. John Tyler
5. July 4
6. \$25,000
7. Harvard
8. 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
9. a tomato
10. William Henry Harrison
11. Ronald Regan
12. a pony
13. James Buchanan
14. Chester A. Arthur
15. Grover Cleveland
16. George Bush
17. Andrew Jackson
18. John Tyler
19. a middle initial
20. Benjamin Harrison

## **Scrambled Eggs**

### **Set 1**

2. exchange
3. explode
4. exit
5. extra
6. excuse
7. explore
8. exactly
9. excited
10. examine
11. expensive
12. exaggerate
13. exhale
14. extinct
15. exclude
16. excel
17. exclaim
18. extreme
19. exile
20. expire
21. exterior
22. expect
23. exhaust
24. exist
25. explain
26. expert
27. expel
28. exceed
29. exterior
30. executive
31. exhibit
32. excellent
33. experience