


# Better Late than Never

An Activity to Acknowledge  
**National Procrastination Week**  
Second Week in March  
(or Whenever)



*Take suit to cleaners, pick up sleigh  
from detailers, have Rudolph's nose  
buffed, pack for overnight trip. . . Hello,  
Mr. Leprechaun. How's the family?  
Running a little behind. . . Later,  
Gator. . .*

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**procrastinate** To put off or delay until a later day or time; waste time; putter around; dawdle; goldbrick; boondoggle; dilly-dally; horse around; lollygag; goof off, etc.

We all know people who are never on time. Deadlines are a mere annoyance. They offer excuses and justifications, like “Oh, well. Better late than never.” Some are masters at boondoggling. They horse around while the rest of us get the work done. What if the Jolly Old Elf himself were a procrastinator? He might show up in March or April or May or during a Fourth of July picnic!

Dilly-dalliers certainly don't have the **LATE** thing all to themselves. Quite a few English words are also late—that is, they have the letters **L-A-T-E** hidden within their spellings.



Use the definitions to fill in the missing letters and identify the following thirty-five **late** words. Some of them are a real challenge, so no lollygagging. And, yes, spelling counts!

c \_ \_ \_ \_ l a t e

1. A popular food made from ground and roasted cacao seeds, usually sweetened and flavored.

\_ l a t e

2. A shallow, usually circular dish, from which food is eaten.

\_ l a t e \_ \_

3. A wide relatively level area of elevated land; to remain at a stable level for an extended time.

b \_ l a t e \_

4. Delayed; arriving or celebrated after the appointed or scheduled time.

i \_ \_ \_ \_ l a t e

5. To protect against disease by vaccination.

u \_ \_ \_ \_ l a t e

6. To move or cause to move in a wave-like motion; to have a wavy form or appearance.

e \_ \_ \_ \_ l a t e \_ \_ \_

7. Descriptive of a geometric figure having all of its sides of equal length.

\_ l a t e \_

8. Very happy or proud; jubilant; in high spirits.

i \_ \_ \_ l a t e

9. To swell or puff out; to cause to expand with air or gas.

t \_ \_ \_ \_ l a t e

10. Figure; arrange in a systematic form, such as tables; alphabetize; categorize.

c \_ \_ \_ \_ l a t e

11. To solve a problem by a mathematical procedure; to determine the sum or difference of a set of numbers; to determine before hand by judgment or reasoning.

e \_ \_ \_ \_ l a t e

12. To increase in extent, intensity, or magnitude; to make worse; heighten.

**Better Late than Never—Continued**

- a** \_ \_ \_ **l a t e** 13. To walk about or move from place to place.
- t** \_ \_ \_ \_ **l a t e** 14. Interpret; to transform written or spoken words and sentences from one language into another; to express or explain in an easily understood form.
- c** \_ \_ **l a t e** \_ \_ \_ 15. Security pledged for the repayment of a loan; situated or running side by side; additional.
- s** \_ \_ \_ \_ **l a t e** 16. Guess; think about deeply and theorize; to assume risk without having all the facts or knowing the outcome.
- \_ \_ \_ **l a t e** 17. To release the air or gas from, such as a tire or a balloon; flatten; puncture.
- v** \_ \_ \_ \_ **l a t e** 18. To provide an area with fresh air; to move through so as to freshen or cool the air; to express an opinion, complaint, etc., especially in frustration or anger.
- l** \_ \_ \_ \_ **l a t e** 19. To make, pass, enact, or enforce laws.
- c** \_ \_ \_ \_ **l a t e** 20. To move in a circle; to be sold or distributed, especially over a wide area.
- p** \_ \_ \_ \_ **l a t e** 21. To cause a liquid to pass through a porous body; descriptive of the brewing of coffee; to bubble.
- b** \_ **l a t e** \_ \_ \_ 22. Having or involving two sides; affecting two parties, such as a mutual agreement or treaty between two countries.
- i m** \_ \_ \_ \_ **l a t e** 23. Without flaw or impurity; spotlessly clean.
- c a** \_ \_ \_ \_ **l a t e** 24. To give in; surrender unconditionally or according to specified terms.
- i** \_ \_ **l a t e** 25. To detach or separate so as to be alone; to set apart.
- p** \_ \_ \_ **l a t e** 26. To fill with people or other inhabitants; to inhabit or live in.
- \_ \_ **l a t e** \_ 27. Having kinship; associated; connected.
- c o** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ **l a t e** 28. To study, look at, or consider thoughtfully; to think fully or deeply about; to have in view as a future event.
- l a t e** \_ \_ **l** 29. Of or related to the side or sides; descriptive of a branch, leaf, or bud that grows out from the side of a stem or trunk.
- s** \_ \_ \_ **l a t e** 30. To assume or have the appearance or characteristics of; to make a pretense of.
- v** \_ \_ **l a t e** 31. To break, disregard, or infringe upon, such as a law, an agreement, etc.; breach; transgress.
- l a t e** \_ **t** 32. Present but not visible or apparent; inactive; hidden.
- i** \_ \_ \_ **l a t e** 33. To cover with a material that prevents or reduces the passage, transfer, or leakage of heat, electricity, or sound; protect; close off.
- s o** \_ \_ **a m** \_ \_ **l a t e** 34. To walk during sleep; sleepwalk
- d i** \_ \_ \_ \_ **b o b** \_ **l a t e** \_ 35. Confused; upset; frustrated.

## Better Late than Never Answer Keys

1. chocolate
2. plate
3. plateau
4. belated
5. inoculate
6. undulate
7. equilateral
8. elated
9. inflate
10. tabulate
11. calculate
12. escalate
13. ambulate
14. translate
15. collateral
16. speculate
17. deflate
18. ventilate
19. legislate
20. circulate
21. percolate
22. bilateral
23. immaculate
24. capitulate
25. isolate
26. populate
27. related
28. contemplate
29. lateral
30. simulate
31. violate
32. latent
33. insulate
34. somnambulate
35. discombobulated

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