

# 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 \_ \_

b \_ a \_ \_ w a \_ \_

r \_ \_ \_ n

g \_ a \_ \_

s \_ r \_ \_ \_

s t \_ \_ \_ g \_

r a \_ \_ \_ w

u r \_ \_ \_ u \_

e y \_ s \_ r \_ \_ \_

b r \_ \_ \_ o r \_

a r \_ \_ \_ e

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

r \_ \_ \_ s

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.
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.