

# 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 or a computer and use it along with the definitions and clues below to identify the mystery words. Look for 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.                                                     |
| g _ a _ _         | 4. Small, hard seeds, especially those of a food plant such as wheat, oats, corn, rye, or rice.                                                  |
| 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;                                                     |
| r a _ _ _ w       | 7. Made of the colors red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet.                                                                      |
| u r _ _ _ u _     | 8. A radioactive, silvery-white metallic element; the 235-isotope used as fuel to produce nuclear energy.                                        |

# April Vocabulary Downpour Cloudburst Challenge

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

**d e \_ \_ \_ g \_ \_**

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

**b r \_ \_ \_ i \_ c**

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

**r \_ \_ f r \_ \_ \_**

3. Refuse to give in to an impulse to say or do something; a phrase or verse recurring in a song or poem; the chorus of a song or poem.

**t e r \_ \_ \_ \_**

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

**a r \_ \_ \_ g \_**

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

**c \_ \_ n \_ \_ m**

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

**con \_ \_ t r \_ \_ \_ t**

7. A limitation or restriction; straightjackets and handcuffs, for example.

**Med \_ \_ \_ rr \_ \_ \_ an**

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

**m \_ \_ g \_ \_ \_ n \_**

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

**ing \_ \_ \_ \_ e \_**

10. Firmly fixed; deeply rooted; hereditary.

**w \_ \_ \_ g \_ e**

11. Tend to or round up horses, cattle, or other livestock; to obtain, especially by dishonesty or force.

