

Palindromes

for

January

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. |