

Rebus Crosswords: How Rebus Clues Work

From brainpuzzles.games

1.

REBUS PUZZLE

Warm-up rebus clue: the
grid shows the word
STAND printed above the
letter I. What phrase is
hiding there?

2.

REBUS PUZZLE

Decode this rebus clue:
MAN written above the
word BOARD.

3.

REBUS PUZZLE

Decode this rebus clue:
the word EGGS printed
above the word EASY.

4.

REBUS PUZZLE

Decode this rebus clue:
CYCLE CYCLE CYCLE.

5.

REBUS PUZZLE

Decode this rebus clue:
the word TOWN written
vertically, reading
downward.

6.

REBUS PUZZLE

Decode this rebus clue:
ARREST printed above the
word YOU'RE.

7.

REBUS PUZZLE

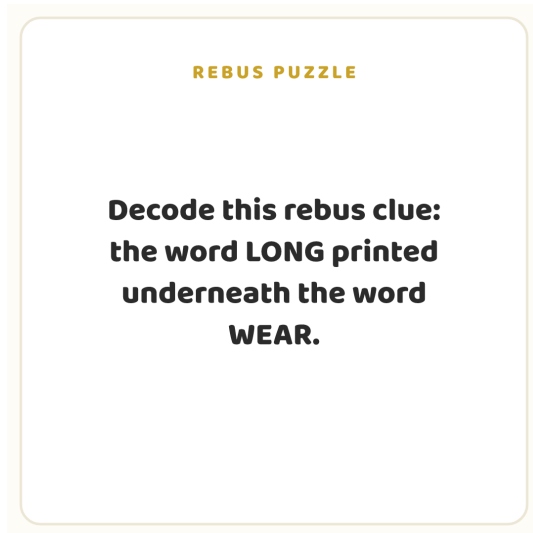
Decode this rebus clue:
HE'S printed right next
to HIMSELF.

8.

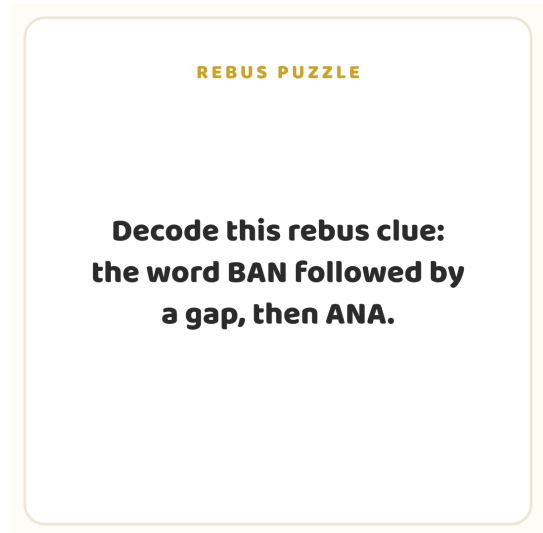
REBUS PUZZLE

Decode this rebus clue:
ECNALG.

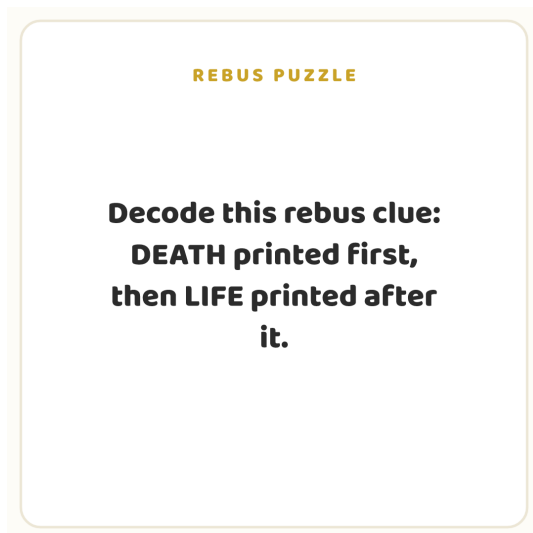
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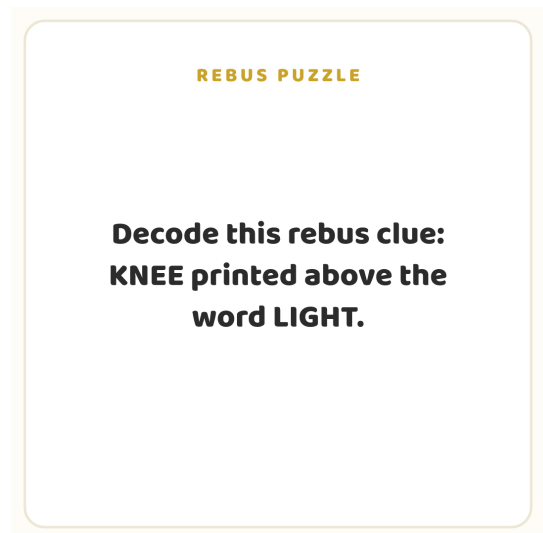
10.



11.



12.



13.

The classic crossword clue Picture puzzle, five letters. What's the answer?

15.

On which day does the New York Times crossword traditionally hide its rebus tricks?

17.

How do you usually enter a rebus answer in the NYT crossword app?

14.

In a crossword, what exactly is a rebus square?

16.

The famous 1996 Election Day crossword let one crossing read either CLINTON or BOBDOLE, and both worked. What is that kind of puzzle called?

18.

Rebus-style clue: the letters GEGS. What's the answer?

19.

Rebus-style clue: HEAD printed above LO
VE printed above HEELS. What's the phrase?

21.

Crossword clue: Picture puzzle (5 letters).
Type the answer.

23.

A 7-letter answer RAINBOW has to fit into
five squares: R, A, I, N, and one more. What
goes in the last square?

25.

When one square holds the word HEART,
only the across answer uses it; the down
answer ignores that square.

27.

The word rebus comes from Latin and
roughly means by things.

20.

A grid has a square where the across answer
needs SUN and the down answer also needs
SUN. The answers are SUNDAY and
SUNRISE. What do you write?

22.

Decode this rebus clue: the word READ
printed between two horizontal lines.

24.

Decode this rebus clue: M CE, M CE, M CE.
What nursery rhyme trio is this?

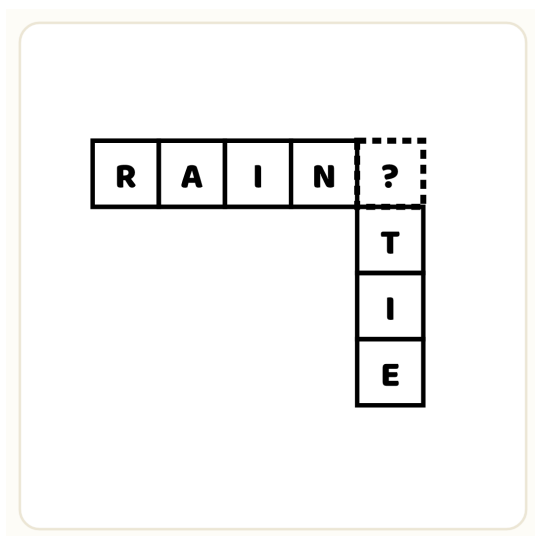
26.

Rebus squares appear most often in Monday
puzzles, since Monday is the easiest day.

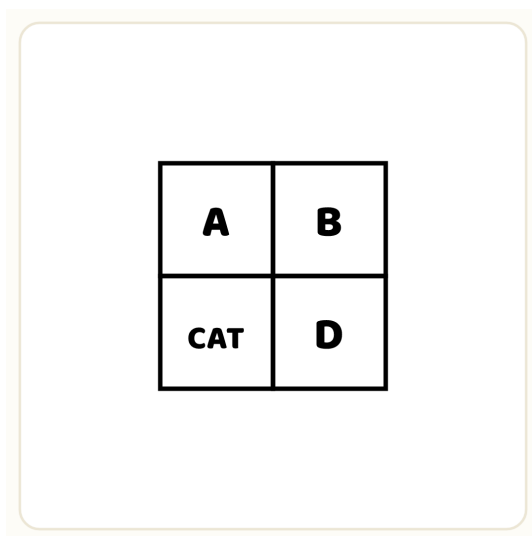
28.

?	B	E	A	T
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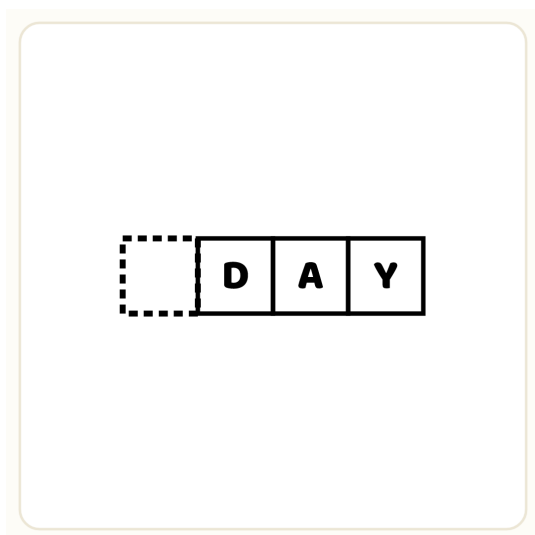
29.



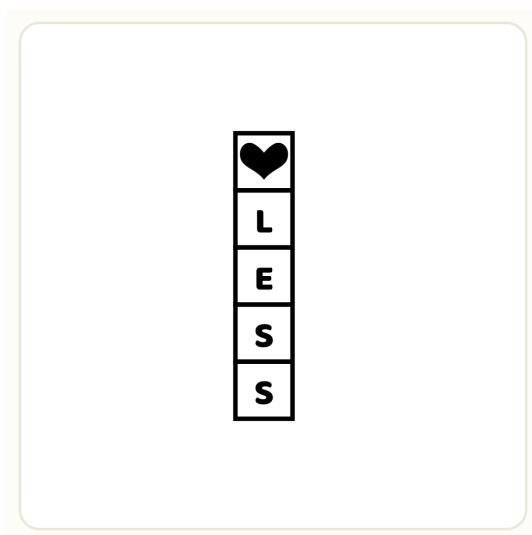
30.



31.



32.



33.

REBUS PUZZLE

Decode this rebus clue:
the word **MIND** printed on
the line directly above
the word **MATTER**.

34.

REBUS PUZZLE

Decode this rebus clue:
the word **GROUND** on top,
with six copies of the
word **FEET** stacked below
it.

35.

REBUS PUZZLE

Decode this rebus clue:
the word **MOON** with the
word **MAN** tucked inside
its letters.

36.

REBUS PUZZLE

Decode this rebus clue:
the word **CIRCLE** bent and
curved so it loops all
the way around into a
ring.

37.

REBUS PUZZLE

Decode this rebus clue:
the word JUST printed in
the space between the
word YOU and the word
ME.

38.

REBUS PUZZLE

Decode this rebus clue:
the letters K O O L. Say
what you see.

39.

REBUS PUZZLE

Decode this rebus clue:
four capital letter I's
printed in a row, like I
I I I.

40.

REBUS PUZZLE

Decode this rebus clue:
the number 0 on the top
line, and beneath it the
abbreviations B.S.,
M.A., and Ph.D. listed
one under another.

41.

REBUS PUZZLE

Decode this rebus clue:
the word HISTORY printed
once, then the exact
same word HISTORY
printed right after it.

42.

REBUS PUZZLE

Decode this rebus clue:
two copies of the word
DICE placed side by
side, forming a matched
pair.

43.

REBUS PUZZLE

Decode this rebus clue:
the word SYMPHONY with
its last few letters
wiped away, so it just
stops partway.

44.

REBUS PUZZLE

Decode this rebus clue:
seven capital letter C's
printed in a row, like C
C C C C C C.

45.

REBUS PUZZLE

Decode this rebus clue:
the word STEP printed,
then the word STEP
printed again right
beside it.

46.

REBUS PUZZLE

Decode this rebus clue:
the word TOUCH written
vertically, its letters
running from the top of
the grid straight down
to the bottom.

47.

REBUS PUZZLE

Decode this rebus clue:
the word NIGHT printed,
then the word NIGHT
printed once more right
after it.

48.

REBUS PUZZLE

Decode this rebus clue:
the word WORLD printed
in the tiniest letters
on the whole grid.

49.

REBUS PUZZLE

**Decode this rebus clue:
the words MERRY and GO
arranged around a circle
so the whole thing
spins.**

50.

REBUS PUZZLE

**Decode this rebus clue:
the word BELT on the top
line, with the word
HITTING printed directly
below it.**

Answer Key

Rebus Crosswords: How Rebus Clues Work, from brainpuzzles.games

1. I understand (I under STAND).
2. Man overboard (MAN over BOARD).
3. Eggs over easy.
4. Tricycle. Three cycles equals tri-cycle.
5. Downtown. The word literally goes down.
6. You're under arrest.
7. He's beside himself.
8. A backward glance. The word GLANCE is spelled backward.
9. Long underwear. LONG sits under WEAR, so you read it as long under-wear.
10. Banana split. The word banana is split in two.
11. Life after death.
12. Neon light. Knee-on light, said out loud, becomes neon light.
13. REBUS. REBUS is the go-to answer for Picture puzzle. If you solve crosswords, you'll meet this rebus clue again and again.
14. One square that holds more than one letter or a whole word. A rebus square packs several letters, a word, or even a symbol into one cell, and the crossing answer has to use it too.
15. Thursday. Thursday is the trick day. Monday is easiest, Saturday is hardest, and Thursday is where rebus squares usually live.
16. A Schrodinger puzzle. It's called a Schrodinger puzzle: some squares hold two valid answers at once, like the cat that's both alive and not.
17. Tap the rebus button, then type all the letters. The app has a dedicated rebus key that opens a multi-letter box for that square. Typing just the first letter often gets marked wrong.
18. Scrambled eggs. The letters of EGGS are scrambled, so the answer is scrambled eggs. Layout is the whole clue.
19. Head over heels in love. HEAD sits over HEELS, and LOVE is split in the middle: head over heels in love.
20. SUN in that single square. All three letters of SUN go into the one square, and both crossing answers borrow it. That's the whole beauty of a rebus clue.
21. REBUS
22. Read between the lines
23. BOW
24. Three blind mice
25. False. False. Both the across and the down answers must use everything in the rebus square. That crossing is how you confirm the trick.
26. False. False. Easy Monday grids play it straight. Rebus squares are a late-week move, most famously on Thursdays.

27. True. True. Rebus is a form of the Latin res (thing). A rebus tells its message by things, that is, by pictures instead of plain words.

28. The whole word HEART, squeezed into that single first square. That's a rebus square. Five cells, nine letters: HEART all lives in cell one, then B, E, A, T finish the word.

29. BOW. The square reads RAIN+BOW across and BOW+TIE down. A rebus square must satisfy both directions. BOW finishes RAINBOW and starts BOWTIE, so all three letters share one cell.

30. The bottom-left square holding CAT. Three squares play by the normal one-letter rule. The CAT square holds a whole word, which makes it the rebus square.

31. SUN goes in the dashed square: [SUN] D A Y. Six letters, four squares. The only way SUNDAY fits is a rebus square holding SUN at the start.

32. The word HEART. The column reads [HEART] L E S S. Symbol rebuses trade letters for a picture, just like the famous I heart NY logo. The heart means HEART for every answer crossing it.

33. Mind over matter

34. Six feet under

35. Man in the moon

36. Going in circles

37. Just between you and me

38. Look back

39. Four eyes

40. Three degrees below zero

41. History repeats itself

42. Paradise

43. Unfinished symphony

44. Seven seas

45. Step by step

46. Touchdown

47. Night after night

48. Small world

49. Merry go round

50. Hitting below the belt