

# National Ding a Ling Day

Answer: XXXXXXXXXX

This puzzle is formatted in telegram communications.

Each telegram contains a series of spelling mistakes (clued in the flavor text as "Aliens aren't the best spelerz...").

Each correct word spelling, in order of appearance, reads a phrase that clues to a letter. (Misspellings are in **bold**.)

Telegram 1:

I HOPE YOUR TRAVELS HAVE BEEN GOOD STOP I HAVE BEEN WORRIED FOR  
YOU EVER SINCE OUR COMMUNICATIONS GOT CUT OFF STOP THIS IS MY  
**SEVENCE** LETTER STOP PLEASE RESPOND SOON STOP I HOPE THIS **LETTAR**  
FINDS YOU WELL STOP GOODBYE STOP

SEVENCE = SEVENTH

LETTAR = LETTER

Clue: **SEVENTH LETTER**

Telegram 2:

I'M BEGINNING TO PANIC STOP **WAT** MAKES YOU BELIEVE **YOO** CAN IGNORE  
ME STOP I AM SO SICK WITH WORRY I CAN'T **BREETH** STOP YOU BETTER  
RESPOND **INN** A WEEK STOP

WAT = WHAT

YOO = YOU

BREETH = BREATHE

INN = IN

Clue: **WHAT YOU BREATHE IN**

Telegram 3:

WHY DID YOU NOT LISTEN TO WHAT I SAID STOP YOU DO THE EXACT  
**O' POSITE** OF WHAT I ASK STOP DO YOU EVEN THINK **OFF** ME STOP  
WHATEVER I DO YOU ALWAYS COME OUT A **WEINER** STOP I AM DONE WITH  
YOU STOP

O' POSITE = OPPOSITE

OFF = OF

WEINER = WINNER

Clue: **OPPOSITE OF WINNER**

Telegram 4:

X IT HAS BEEN THREE WEEKS SINCE WE LAST SPOKE STOP I AM SORRY  
FOR WHAT I SAID STOP **ARLING** X I MISS YOU STOP MY **EAR** I HOPE YOU  
CAN FORGIVE ME STOP WHEN YOU GET BACK WE CAN GO ON A **ATE** STOP I  
HOPE WE NEVER LOSE OUR **CONNEXION** AGAIN STOP

ARLING = DARLING

EAR = DEAR

ATE = DATE

CONNEXION = CONNECTION

Clue: **DARLING DEAR DATE CONNECTION**

SEVENTH LETTER clues to **G**

WHAT YOU BREATHE IN clues to Oxygen, which is **O**

OPPOSITE OF WINNER refers to Loser, which is often abbreviated as **L**

DARLING DEAR DATE CONNECTION refers to the connection between the three words,  
which would be the missing 'D' at the front of each one, so the letter is **D**

Putting the letters in order of telegram appearance gives us the answer **GOLD**.

# National Brownie Day

Answer: ██████

This puzzle uses indexing.

The flavor text "X always chooses brownies before other dessert slices, and words before letters" clues to referencing the brownie image before the other dessert in a row, and to find the correct word in a dessert before indexing the final letter.

Each row clues to a different letter.

The **number of brownies** are used to show which word of the dessert in the middle should be used, and the **number of desserts** on the other side is the number that should be indexed into the word chosen.

Pumpkin Pie with Whipped Cream - 1 brownie, 4 pumpkin pies

Pumpkin - **P**

Gingerbread House - 1 brownie, 2 houses

Gingerbread - **I**

White Chocolate Velvet Cake - 3 brownies, 4 cakes

Velvet - **V**

Microwaveable Oatmeal with Blueberries - 2 brownies, 1 bowl

Oatmeal - **A**

Homemade Tiramisu - 2 brownies, 1 tiramisu

Tiramisu - **T**

Red and White Striped Candy Cane - 5 brownies, 2 candy canes

Candy - **A**

Lemon Bar - 1 brownie, 1 lemon bar

Lemon - **L**

Putting the letters in order of the desserts gives the answer  
**PIVOTAL.**

# National Chocolate Covered Anything Day

Answer: XXXXXXXXXX

Start by ordering the objects from largest to smallest as below.  
Then, go to the Wikipedia page and look for answers to each of the corresponding clues.

universe -> M

1.  $x \cdot 10^{26}$  [unit] -> METERS

dark matter halo -> O

2. proposed in 197[number] -> O

galaxy cluster -> U

3. Right after "c" in a Roman hero name -> HERCULES

galaxy -> S

4. [letter] \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (type) -> SPIRAL

asymptotic giant branch stars -> S-type

5. Type for which masers are uncommon

quark -> E

6. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ [letter] (a flavor) -> STRANGEE

# Answer the Phone Like Buddy the Elf Day



Answer: ██████████

The mechanic of this puzzle is to use the emojis to identify quotes from the Christmas movie [Elf](#). Consistent with the theme of the hunt, each puzzle is named after a different holiday in December. If a puzzler has figured this out, then they might start by googling the [holiday](#) to see what it's about. There, you'd find that Buddy the Elf answers the phone by saying "Buddy the Elf, what's your favorite color?"

From there, puzzlers can use a combination of googling and emoji-language deciphering to match up the emojis into the following quotes:



|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| W | E |   | E | L | V | E | S |   | T | R | Y |   | T | O |   |
| S | T | I | C | K |   | T | O |   | T | H | E |   |   |   |   |
| F | O | U | R |   | M | A | I | N |   | F | O | O | D |   |   |
| G | R | O | U | P | S | : |   | C | A | N | D | Y | , |   |   |
| C | A | N | D | Y |   | C | A | N | E | S | , |   |   |   |   |
| C | A | N | D | Y |   | C | O | R | N | S | , |   | A | N | D |
| S | Y | R | U | P | . |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |



|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| I | ' | M |   | S | O | R | R | Y |   | I |  |  |  |  |  |
| R | U | I | N | E | D |   | Y | O | U | R |  |  |  |  |  |

L I V E S A N D  
C R A M M E D E L E V E N  
C O O K I E S I N T O  
T H E V C R .

👍 📰 ... 👁 👁 ➡ 🐶 📅 July 17 .

S O , G O O D N E W S ... I  
S A W A D O G T O D A Y .

📷📷📷👉🌍↺☀️🌍↺☀️🌍↺☀️

T H E P A P A R A Z Z I  
H A V E B E E N T R Y I N G  
T O N A I L M E F O R  
Y E A R S .

📢 😞! 🤝📢 🍖🧀, 🤝❌📢 🎅.

Y O U S T I N K ! Y O U  
S M E L L L I K E B E E F  
A N D C H E E S E , Y O U  
D O N ' T S M E L L L I K E

S A N T A .



A N D W H E R E D O T H E  
R E I N D E E R G E T  
T H E I R M A G I C  
F R O M ?



E L V E S L O V E T O  
T E L L S T O R I E S . I  
B E T Y O U D I D N ' T  
K N O W T H A T A B O U T  
E L V E S .



H E Y , B U D D Y ! W A N T  
T O P I C K S O M E  
S N O W B E R R I E S ?



H E ' S A N A N G R Y  
E L F .

1 👁️ ➡️ 🚫 ➡️ 🏠 , 🌱 . ❌ 💰 🚫 .

F I R S T O F F , Y O U  
S E E G U M O N T H E  
S T R E E T , L E A V E I T  
T H E R E . I T I S N ' T  
F R E E C A N D Y .

🤔 🍞 🏠 , 🍪 🍩 🍌 , 🍷 , 👉 👉 👫 .

I T H O U G H T M A Y B E  
W E C O U L D M A K E  
G I N G E R B R E A D  
H O U S E S , A N D E A T  
C O O K I E D O U G H ,  
A N D G O I C E  
S K A T I N G , A N D -  
M A Y B E E V E N H O L D  
H A N D S .



|  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | T | H | E |   | B | E | S | T |   | W | A | Y |   | T | O |   |
|  | S | P | R | E | A | D |   | C | H | R | I | S | T | M | A | S |
|  | C | H | E | E | R |   | I | S |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|  | S | I | N | G | I | N | G |   | L | O | U | D |   | F | O | R |
|  | A | L | L |   | T | O |   | H | E | A | R | . |   |   |   |   |



|  |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
|  | H | E | Y | , |  | B | U | D | D | Y | ! |   | I |  |
|  | H | O | P | E |  | Y | O | U |   | F | I | N | D |  |
|  | Y | O | U | R |  | D | A | D | . |   |   |   |   |  |



|  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |  |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|
|  | M | Y |   | F | I | N | G | E | R |   | H | A | S |  | A |  |
|  | H | E | A | R | T | B | E | A | T | . |   |   |   |  |   |  |

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# International Cheetah Day

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | D | A | P | H | N | G |
| A | B | I | S | L | K | U |
| L | B | P | M | I | C | E |
| A | D | T | G | R | I | S |
| G | T | N | C | S | U | I |
| C | A | H | G | N | E | T |
| N | A | S | R | H | W | E |

Acceleration time  
Breaths  
Cubs smuggled  
Former range countries  
In the wild (approx.)  
Population decrease percentage  
(last century)  
Sprint

April, June, September, and November

Bald eagle feathers

Binary six or platinum anniversary

Dunbar

Hat-trick

Square corner

Ten-pin bowling perfect score

## Solution Explained

Answer: XXXXXXXXXX

There are a couple clues to start with from the title and flavor text. The key words to pay attention to "numbered" and the "#SaveTheCheetah" tag. Additionally, the flavor text clues to the fact that this puzzle is themed around raising awareness that cheetahs are an endangered species, which is one of the goals of International Cheetah Day. The "#SaveTheCheetah" tag helps clue towards the [Cheetah Tweet Sheet page](#) on [internationalcheetahday.com](#) which will be relevant as one considers the provided clues.

Now, we return to the word "numbered" from the flavor text. The key insight here is that all of the clues correspond to numbers. This can also be deduced by looking at some of the features of the clues such as "acceleration time", "in the wild (approx.)", and "population decrease (last century)." The hope here is that puzzlers can start googling the answers to these statistics to get started. An alternate approach is by noticing the Cheetah Tweet Sheet and finding the corresponding factoids from this page. At this point, a puzzler may

also notice that all the clues across the top row pertain directly to cheetahs, whereas the clues along the left side do not. However, if we stick with the "number" clue, we can start googling the left hand side clues with respect to "numbers". For example, "number of bald eagle feathers" or "Dunbar number." A complete list of number gathering leaves you with the following:

| Left-side clue                       | Number    | Explanation                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bald eagle feathers                  | 7000      | A bald eagle has 7000 feathers                                                                                                                                                |
| Binary six or platinum anniversary   | 110 or 70 | Six in binary is written as 110 and the platinum anniversary is celebrated after 70 years.                                                                                    |
| Dunbar                               | 150       | The Dunbar number is coined by evolutionary psychologist Robin Dunbar which he defines as the number of stable relationships people are cognitively able to maintain at once. |
| Hat-trick                            | 3         | A hat-trick is a term used to represent three positive feats in a row, usually used in sports.                                                                                |
| April, June, September, and November | 30        | There are 30 days in each of these months.                                                                                                                                    |
| Square corner                        | 90        | This is referencing the 90 degree angle in a square corner.                                                                                                                   |
| Ten-pin bowling perfect score        | 300       | If you bowl all strikes, you can get up to a score of 300.                                                                                                                    |

| Top-side clue     | Number | Explanation                                                      |
|-------------------|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Acceleration Time | 3      | A cheetah can accelerate to its max speed in 3 seconds.          |
| Breaths           | 150    | A cheetah takes up to 150 breaths per minute during a high speed |

|                                    |           |                                                                 |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                    |           | chase.                                                          |
| Cubs smuggled                      | 300       | There are 300 cheetah cubs smuggled per year for illegal trade. |
| Former range countries             | 30        | The cheetah is now extinct in 30 former range countries.        |
| In the wild (approx.)              | 7000      | There are approximately 7000 cheetahs left in the wild.         |
| Population decrease (last century) | 90        | Cheetah populations have declined by 90% in the last century.   |
| Sprint                             | 110 or 70 | The cheetah's max sprint speed is 110km/hr or 70mph.            |

Finally, a puzzler may notice that there are equivalent numbers between the left-side clues and the top-side clues, matching the rows and columns like a coordinate grid will yield an intersecting letter that corresponds to the extracted letter. A small note here is also that some puzzlers will notice that the clues are listed in alphabetical order which indicates that the order of the clues is not important and that ordering is determined in a different way. In this case, order is read top down from the grid for a final answer of **PLEDGES**.

|   |   |   |          |          |   |          |
|---|---|---|----------|----------|---|----------|
| B | D | A | <b>P</b> | H        | N | G        |
| A | B | I | S        | <b>L</b> | K | U        |
| L | B | P | M        | I        | C | <b>E</b> |

Acceleration time  
Breaths  
Cubs smuggled  
Former range countries  
In the wild (approx.)  
Population decrease percentage  
Sprint

|          |          |          |   |   |          |   |
|----------|----------|----------|---|---|----------|---|
| A        | <b>D</b> | T        | G | R | I        | S |
| <b>G</b> | T        | N        | C | S | U        | I |
| C        | A        | H        | G | N | <b>E</b> | T |
| N        | A        | <b>S</b> | R | H | W        | E |

April, June, September, and November

Bald eagle feathers

Binary six or platinum anniversary

Dunbar

Hat-trick

Square corner

Ten-pin bowling perfect score

# Dewey Decimal System Day

Answer: XXXXXXXXXX

The flavortext starts with "First, word..." which is a hint to look at the first words of each title. If you do, you will see the following (punctuation added to make it easier to understand).

**There Are Two Types Of Nonfiction Books In The Shelves:  
Ones That Match Their Number Category And Those Which Don't.  
Use Library Thing Melvil Site.**

This indicates that some titles are correctly categorized and some aren't. Your task is to identify which are which.

The last shelf says to use the LibraryThing Melvil site:  
<https://www.librarything.com/mds/>. This site contains a visualization that makes it easier to click through categories.

(This puzzle is also doable by using the Wikipedia Dewey Decimal System page or other sources. There are some matches that may be vaguely ambiguous, but it should mostly be guessable.)

In the table below, the correctly categorized titles are highlighted green.

|                                                                        |                                                             |                                                    |                                                                  |                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| There are Three Holes in a Pretzel: An Introduction to Topology        | Are You Financially Stable? Introduction to Microeconomics  | Two Paradigms of Computer Languages                | Types of Public Libraries in the US                              | Of Age: Psychological Research on Growing Adolescents |
| 001.98                                                                 | 003.52                                                      | 005.13                                             | 027.47                                                           | 155.51                                                |
| Nonfiction and Education: Effective Use of Literature in the Classroom | Books Unearthed: Historical Records of Ancient Architecture | In God's Name: Religion in the Classroom           | The Evolution of Fantasy: Myths and Folklores                    | Shelves of Policies: Democracy in the United States   |
| 174.25                                                                 | 199.66                                                      | 200.71                                             | 248.85                                                           | 320.97                                                |
| Ones and Zeros: The Spread of Digital Information                      | That Calls for a Celebration: Social Customs at Mardi Gras  | Match in Meaning: Linguistic Semantics             | Their, There, They're: Understanding Grammar                     | Number Theory: Of Integers and Functions              |
| 345.73                                                                 | 394.25                                                      | 401.43                                             | 428.24                                                           | 493.10                                                |
| Category 5: Catastrophic Hurricanes                                    | And The Music Played On: A Melodic Journey Through History  | Those Same Differences: American Cultural Diaspora | Which Foods Should I Put in My Body? A Guide to Eating Healthier | Don't Plagiarize: How to Cite Sources Properly        |

|                                                         |                                                             |                                                         |                          |                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 551.55                                                  | 567.90                                                      | 599.86                                                  | 613.21                   | 690.83                                           |
| Use the Correct Tools: Guidebook for Household Cleaning | Library of Autonomy: The Emergence of Self-driving Vehicles | Thing of Destiny: Unraveling Themes of Greek Literature | Melvil: An Autobiography | Site Seekers: Exploring the Wonders of Manchuria |
| 759.03                                                  | 782.14                                                      | 880.93                                                  | 888.01                   | 915.18                                           |

The extraction is to use binary. This is clued by the "base, two" in the flavortext, but can also be inferred by the binary nature of categorizing titles into "correct" and "incorrect".

Reading the correctly categorized titles as 1s, you get the following.

| Binary | Base 10 Number | Number to Letter |
|--------|----------------|------------------|
| 00111  | 7              | G                |
| 00101  | 5              | E                |
| 01110  | 14             | N                |
| 10010  | 18             | R                |
| 00101  | 5              | E                |

Converting the base 10 numbers into letters gives us the answer **GENRE**.

# National Mathematics Day (India)

If you look closely, you might see some numbers...

---

Splenda, e.g. [9]

+ interconnected system [7]

+ it's the best policy [7]

= \_\_\_\_\_

a guest on a calendar invite [8]

– made by Papyrus or Smythson [10]

= \_\_\_\_\_

a racket based sport [6]

× arboreal debris floating on a river [9]

= \_\_\_\_\_

(dog [6] + currency [5])

× what is often displayed in a gallery [7]

= \_\_\_\_\_

a type of train to transport goods [7]

– deserving of faith [11]

– a blade at the end of a rifle [7]

= \_\_\_\_\_

one dimension of volume [6]

÷ a moth larva that feeds on plants [7]

+ person on the receiving end of a conversation [8]

= \_\_\_\_\_

## Solution Explained

Answer: XXXXXXXXXX

My intention is for puzzlers to first attempt to solve some of the clues into words. It's expected that some are easily searchable, and some are more easily solvable once a pattern is established for the words. In this case, the pattern is clued in the phrase "see some numbers..." Here are the words that the clues solve to:

- Splenda, e.g. [9] → SWEETENER
- + interconnected system [7] → NETWORK
- + it's the best policy [7] → HONESTY
  
- a guest on a calendar invite [8] → ATTENDEE
- made by Papyrus or Smythson [10] → STATIONERY
  
- a racket based sport [6] → TENNIS
- × arboreal debris floating on a river [9] → DRIFTWOOD
  
- (dog [6] + currency [5]) → CANINE + MONEY
- × what is often displayed in a gallery [7] → ARTWORK
  
- a type of train to transport goods [7] → FREIGHT
- deserving of faith [11] → TRUSTWORTHY
- a blade at the end of a rifle [7] → BAYONET
  
- one dimension of volume [6] → HEIGHT
- ÷ a moth larva that feeds on plants [7] → CUTWORM
- + person on the receiving end of a conversation [8] → LISTENER

Once you solve the words, you may notice that there are numbers embedded in words in their word forms:

SWEET**T**ENER  
NET**W**ORK  
HON**E**STY  
ATT**E**NDEE  
STATION**E**RY  
**T**ENNIS  
DRIFT**T**WOOD  
CAN**I**NE  
MON**E**Y  
ART**W**ORK  
FRE**I**GHT  
TRUST**T**WORTHY  
BAYON**E**T  
HE**I**GHT

CUT**T**WORM  
LIST**T**ENER

The next step is to substitute these word clues into their number forms and solve the equations and finally map them back to letters by taking that number letter of the alphabet:

Splenda, e.g. [9] → SWEET**T**ENER → 10  
+ interconnected system [7] → NET**T**WORK → 2  
+ it's the best policy [7] → HON**T**ESTY → 1  
= 13 → **M**

a guest on a calendar invite [8] → ATT**T**ENDEE → 10  
- made by Papyrus or Smythson [10] → STAT**T**IONERY → 1  
= 9 → **I**

a racket based sport [6] → **T**ENNIS → 10  
× arboreal debris floating on a river [9] → DRIFT**T**WOOD → 2  
= 20 → **T**

(dog [6] + currency [5]) → CAN**T**INE + MONE**T**Y → (9 + 1)  
× what is often displayed in a gallery [7] → ART**T**WORK → 2  
= 20 → **T**

a type of train to transport goods [7] → FRE**T**IGHT → 8  
- deserving of faith [11] → TRUST**T**WORTHY → 2  
- a blade at the end of a rifle [7] → BAY**T**ONET → 1  
= 5 → **E**

one dimension of volume [6] → HE**T**IGHT → 8  
÷ a moth larva that feeds on plants [7] → CUT**T**WORM → 2  
+ person on the receiving end of a conversation [8] → LIST**T**ENER → 10  
= 14 → **N**

The final answer is **MITTEN**.

# Dot Your I's Day

Answer:

The well-known phrase of this holiday is to "DOT your i's and CROSS your t's." So the phrase in the flavortext that says

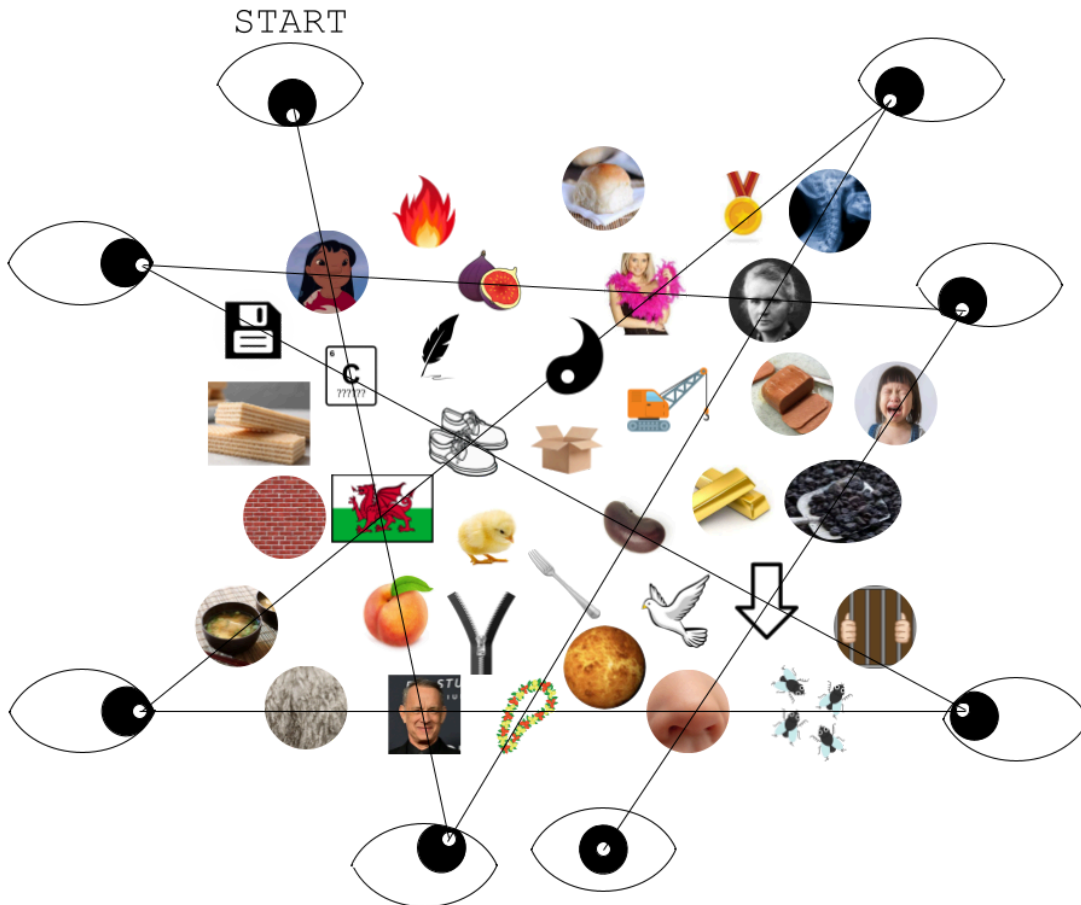
“Connect your i’s and find your t’s”  
instead really means to

"Connect your DOTS and find your CROSSES"

which in turn, means to do the following steps:

1. Connect the eyes based on where they are looking, in a connect-the-dots-esque exercise.
2. Look at the "crosses," which means intersections, of where the lines cross each other.

Connecting the eyes gives you:



Now the fun part!

The rest of the flavortext clues to a transformation where all T's have been turned into a different letter. Upon identifying all the images, it is notable that none of the words contain the letter T.

**Each word has one letter that can be transformed into "T" in order to form another English word.**

**The words should be ordered in the order that the intersections are *completed*.**

This means that even though a line goes over LILO first, it is not considered until the second line goes over LILO and completes the intersections.

The image IDs at the intersections are below.

| Image  | Transformed word | Transformed letter |
|--------|------------------|--------------------|
| WALES  | TALES            | W                  |
| HANKS  | TANKS            | H                  |
| LEI    | LET              | I                  |
| BEAN   | BEAT             | N                  |
| SHOES  | SHOTS            | E                  |
| CARBON | CARTON           | B                  |
| LILO   | LILT             | O                  |
| BOA    | BOT              | A                  |
| CURIE  | CUTIE            | R                  |
| DOWN   | TOWN             | D                  |
| NOSE   | NOTE             | S                  |

The letters that get transformed spells out WHINEBOARDS. Applying the transformation one last time gives us the answer **WHITEBOARDS**.

# National Roots Day

Answer: XXXXXXXXXX

The coordinates map to pairs of cities.

| First city | Second city |
|------------|-------------|
| SHTIME     | LORDSBURG   |
| LOHJA      | WAGIN       |
| MILAGRO    | OTJIWARONGO |
| HAZORASP   | OCKENHEIM   |
| SAN DIEGO  | KUNDUZ      |
| MALAKAL    | ELBASAN     |
| BULAWAYO   | DAVAO       |

For each pair of words in the first and second columns, an alien name from pop culture can be read across the two words. The numbers above the alien heads 🛸 clue to the length of the alien name as additional confirmation.

To extract, index the number in the planet into the home planet of the alien.

| Concatenated cities          | Alien/species name | # in planet | Home planet | Indexed letter |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| SHT <b>TIME</b> LORDSBURG    | TIMELORD           | 6           | GALLIFREY   | F              |
| LOH <b>JA</b> WAGIN          | JAWA               | 6           | TATOOINE    | I              |
| MILAGRO OT <b>J</b> IWARONGO | GROOT              | 4           | PLANETX     | N              |
| HAZORAS <b>P</b> OCKENHEIM   | SPOCK              | 3           | VULCAN      | L              |
| SAN <b>D</b> IEGO KUNDUZ     | GOKU               | 6           | VEGETA      | A              |
| MALAK <b>A</b> L ELBASAN     | KALEL              | 7           | KRYPTON     | N              |
| BULAWAYO D <b>A</b> VAO      | YODA               | 1           | DAGOBAH     | D              |

This gives the answer FINLAND.

# A'phabet Day

Answer: ██████████

The themes of this puzzle are puns, games, and removing "L"s.

**Step 1:** The clues with question marks are puns or clues to how the word is spelled instead of its definition. All the words are related to gaming.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | F | K | P | O | K | E | M | O | N |
| G | O | A | T | Q | U | E | S | T | S |
| W | E | B | A | G | G | R | O | O | P |
| O | R | B | S | P | A | W | N | G | G |
| G | R | I | E | F | S | T | A | T | S |
| G | R | I | N | D | T | P | O | S | E |
| K | I | C | K | A | V | A | T | A | R |
| L | E | A | G | U | E | M | A | N | A |
| R | A | M | E | X | P | L | O | I | T |
| S | W | E | E | P | B | U | G | G | Y |
| I | D | L | E | T | A | U | N | T | S |
| L | A | G | T | A | N | K | A | O | E |

| Clue                                                         | Answer         | Explanation                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| If John Kennedy were an Anthony instead..., abbrev.?         | <b>AFK</b>     | If JFK was named Anthony instead, his initials would be AFK.<br><br>Related to gaming, this means "away from keyboard."                                                                     |
| Hawaiian bowl dish with fish + work week starter, for short? | <b>POKEMON</b> | Hawaiian bowl dish with fish is POKE and work week starter is MON, which is short for Monday.<br><br>Related to gaming, this is a popular media franchise that includes many popular games. |
| Bearded ruminant                                             | <b>GOAT</b>    | This is a crossword-style clue.                                                                                                                                                             |

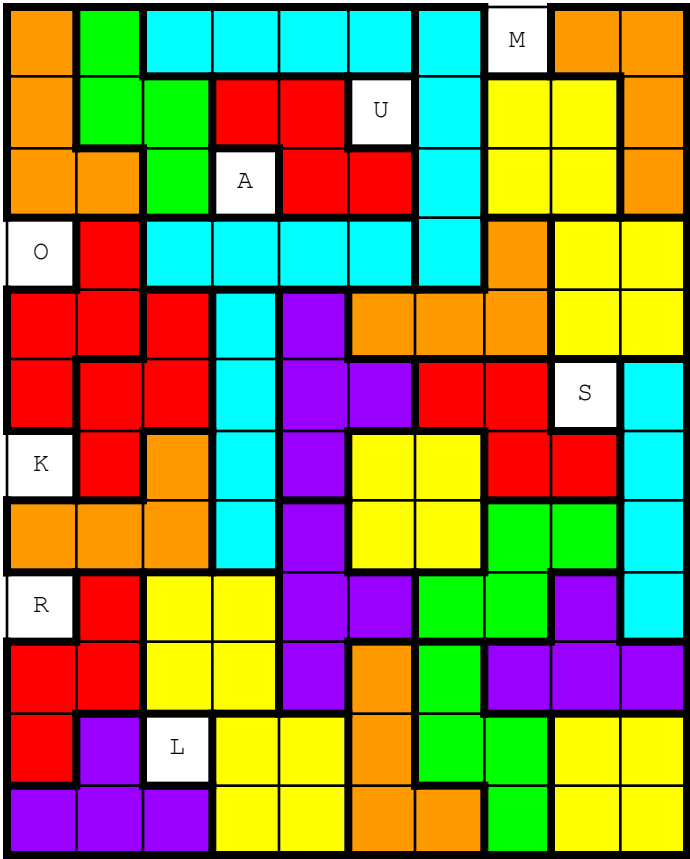
|                                               |               |                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                               |               | Related to gaming, this means "greatest of all time."                                                                                                         |
| Meta's all-in-one VR headsets                 | <b>QUESTS</b> | This is a definition.<br><br>Related to gaming, these are objective-based activities that can be done in-game.                                                |
| Spider's construction                         | <b>WEB</b>    | This is a definition.<br><br>Related to gaming, this is where online games are played.                                                                        |
| Violent behavior, in British slang            | <b>AGGRO</b>  | This is a definition.<br><br>Related to gaming, this is the act of attracting hostile attention.                                                              |
| LMN followers?                                | <b>OP</b>     | In the alphabet, the letters LMN are followed by O and P.<br><br>Related to gaming, this means "overpowered."                                                 |
| A ____ OR C OR D?                             | <b>ORB</b>    | The blank is filled by "OR B".<br><br>Related to gaming, these are objects that may be found in games (like Valorant).                                        |
| Sulfur + future queen, maybe?                 | <b>SPAWN</b>  | "Sulfur" clues to the letter S and "future queen" clues to PAWN.<br><br>Related to gaming, this is the place a character or item is placed in the game world. |
| Fifth tone of C major, fifth tone of C major? | <b>GG</b>     | "Fifth tone of C major" is G. Doubling it gives GG.<br><br>Related to gaming, this means "good game."                                                         |
| Deep sorrow                                   | <b>GRIEF</b>  | This is a definition.<br><br>Related to gaming, this means to deliberately irritate or harass other players in a game.                                        |

|                                                                                                       |               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Palindromic data?                                                                                     | <b>STATS</b>  | <p>Data is a definition of STATS. The "palindromic" describes the word itself and not its meaning.</p> <p>Related to gaming, these are pieces of data describing an aspect of a game entity.</p>                                                                                              |
| Crush to a powder                                                                                     | <b>GRIND</b>  | <p>This is a definition.</p> <p>Related to gaming, this means to perform a repetitive and time-consuming action in a game before being able to advance.</p>                                                                                                                                   |
| Tabloid tell-all tale, but with the former partner swapped out for a letter like a golf ball support? | <b>TPOSE</b>  | <p>"Tabloid tell-all tale" is an EXPOSE. The former partner is "EX" and is swapped out for the letter "T", which sounds like the golf ball support TEE.</p> <p>Related to gaming, this is a default position in games where a character stands with their arms horizontally outstretched.</p> |
| Thrill or boot                                                                                        | <b>KICK</b>   | <p>"Thrill" and "boot" are both alternate definitions of KICK.</p> <p>Related to gaming, this is the ability of a host to remove players from a game server.</p>                                                                                                                              |
| Aang or Roku, for example                                                                             | <b>AVATAR</b> | <p>Aang and Roku are both Avatars from the show <i>Avatar: The Last Airbender</i>.</p> <p>Related to gaming, this is a player's representation in the gaming world.</p>                                                                                                                       |
| Former measure of distance, around three miles                                                        | <b>LEAGUE</b> | <p>This is a definition.</p> <p>Related to gaming, this is the commonly referred to nickname of a popular game League of Legends.</p>                                                                                                                                                         |
| Opposite of "Woman Z"?                                                                                | <b>MANA</b>   | <p>The canonical opposite of WOMAN is MAN and the opposite of A is Z. Putting that together you get MANA.</p> <p>Related to gaming, this is a pool of resources inherent to a character that</p>                                                                                              |

|                        |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                        |                | determines the amount of magical abilities they are able to use.                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Aries animal           | <b>RAM</b>     | <p>This is a crossword-style clue.</p> <p>Related to gaming, this is the main memory on a computer and holds a game's short-term storage.</p>                                                                                          |
| Take advantage of      | <b>EXPLOIT</b> | <p>This is a definition.</p> <p>Related to gaming, this is a bug or a glitch that can be used to gain an unfair advantage in a way unintended by developers.</p>                                                                       |
| Clean with a broom     | <b>SWEEP</b>   | <p>This is a definition.</p> <p>Related to gaming, this is when one person wins every round against their opponent.</p>                                                                                                                |
| <i>One Piece</i> clown | <b>BUGGY</b>   | <p>The most well-known clown character in <i>One Piece</i> is named Buggy.</p> <p>Related to gaming, this is when a game has unexpected glitches in it.</p>                                                                            |
| Loafing around         | <b>IDLE</b>    | <p>This is a definition.</p> <p>Related to gaming, this is a type of animation that plays when a character is not doing anything. This can also refer to idle games, which are games that can progress without the player's input.</p> |
| Rags or goads          | <b>TAUNTS</b>  | <p>This is a definition.</p> <p>Related to gaming, this is a tactic used by a character to trick opponents into attacking them instead of their teammates.</p>                                                                         |
| Jet problem?           | <b>LAG</b>     | <p>This is a crossword-style punny clue that refers to the problem JET LAG.</p> <p>Related to gaming, this is an unexpected delay between a gamer's action and the server's reaction.</p>                                              |

|                                                                               |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fuel location for the army vehicle?                                           | <b>TANK</b> | <p>"Fuel location" and "army vehicle" are both alternate definitions of TANK.</p> <p>Related to gaming, this is a character with high health and the ability to draw attention from opponents so that their teammates can concentrate on attacking.</p> |
| Engineering sorority founded at Marquette University, in the English alphabet | <b>AOE</b>  | <p>This is the sorority Alpha Omega Epsilon, which is roughly equivalent to AOE in the English alphabet.</p> <p>Related to gaming, this means "area of effect."</p>                                                                                     |

**Step 2:** The given video is a "duck konundrum"-esque series of instructions. After letting all the blocks fall, you will get the following arrangement (colors are added for ease of differentiation).



**Step 3:** The blocks are opaque and cover the letters, but if you remove all the "L" shaped blocks, you will read the message: AMONGUSWEAPONSTASKCLEARBLANK.

|   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| A |   |   |   |  |   |   | M | O | N |
| G |   |   |   |  | U |   |   |   | S |
| W | E |   | A |  |   |   |   |   | P |
| O |   |   |   |  |   |   | N |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |  | S | T | A |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   | S |   |
| K |   | C |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |
| L | E | A |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |
| R |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |  | B |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | L |   |  | A |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |  | N | K |   |   |   |

The Among Us weapons task is called "Clear **ASTEROIDS**".

References:

- <https://github.com/educ8s/Python-Tetris-Game-Pygame>: Modified Tetris game repo to help construct the video.
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary\\_of\\_video\\_game\\_terms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_video_game_terms): List of gaming terms.

# Fuel Synthesis

Answer: XXXXXXXXXX

In the "Preparation" step, order all the holidays from each puzzle title in order of their date. For example, International Cheetah Day happens on December 4, so it comes first.

As a reminder, these are the clues. The table below these gives the answers.

4. Keep the final two letters and surround it with an abbreviated Facetime.
8. Take the abbreviated medical device in this ingredient and concatenate it with the US state abbreviation in this ingredient.
10. Keep only the first three letters, but have the first letter follow Caesar back one step. Prepend with the letter O.
12. Make it French without an article.
16. Discard southeast.
18. Take the prefix, which corresponds to an abbreviated ability name in Dungeons and Dragons, and append to it the final letter of this ingredient.
20. Keep only the second letter of the color, remove the snake, and shift the remaining four letters to the left on a QWERTY keyboard.
22. Extract the tall twins from this ingredient.
23. Take the code of the largest airport in this ingredient.
25. Discard everything except the first three letters.

| Date  | Answer       | After preparation | Notes                                                                                                                         |
|-------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12/4  | PLEDGES      | FEST              | The final two letters are ES and we surround it with FT.                                                                      |
| 12/8  | PIVOTAL      | IVAL              | The abbreviated medical device is IV and the only valid US state abbreviation in the ingredient is AL.                        |
| 12/10 | GENRE        | OFEN              | The first three letters are GEN. Shifting the first letter with the Caesar cipher back one gives FEN. Add O to the beginning. |
| 12/12 | GOLD         | OR                | French for gold is OR (or L' OR, but remove the article L' to get OR).                                                        |
| 12/16 | MOUSSE       | MOUS              | Remove the abbreviation for southeast SE.                                                                                     |
| 12/18 | CHARLIEBROWN | CHAN              | The prefix CHA is the ability name abbreviation for charisma in Dungeons and Dragons. Add the last letter N to it.            |

|       |             |      |                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------|-------------|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12/20 | WHITEBOARDS | GESA | Keep the H from the color WHITE. Remove the snake BOA. The remaining letters are HRDS. Shifting HRDS to the left on a QWERTY keyboard gives GESA. |
| 12/22 | MITTEN      | TT   | The "tall twins" refer to the double T's in the word.                                                                                             |
| 12/23 | FINLAND     | HEL  | The largest airport in Finland is the Helsinki airport, whose abbreviation is HEL.                                                                |
| 12/25 | ASTEROIDS   | AST  | The first three letters of this word are AST.                                                                                                     |

In the "Synthesis" step, read all of the prepared ingredients together in order. This will give the string: FESTIVAL OF ENORMOUS CHANGES AT THE LAST.

The word blanks clue that there is a missing 6-letter word that comes after the last word. This actually comes from the [obscure holiday on December 30](#) called: Festival of Enormous Changes at the Last **MINUTE**.