

Poetry for Neanderthals

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Answer: XXXXXXXXXX

This puzzle is based off of the board game [Poetry for Neanderthals](#). The most notable rule in the game is that the player (the Poet) can only use words with one syllable to clue their target word.

The clues in this puzzle are all composed of single syllable words, with answers that are multisyllabic. To help disambiguate, the answers are arranged in alphabetical order and the number of words in the clue matches the number of letters in the answer.

(In the game, one player is also dubbed as the Judge and armed with an inflatable club called the No! Stick. If any multi-syllable words are used, the Judge must bop the Poet with the No! Stick. Sadly, we didn't have a No! Stick of our own, so we couldn't bop any puzzlers who tried to answer with the wrong syllable scheme as an additional hint.)

Clue	# of words in clue / # of letters in answer	Answer
Old choice is not good so here's a new choice you can try	13	ALTERNATIVELY
Crush and crease cloth to small ball	7	CRUMPLE
Gives you choice A or B	6	EITHER
Spa treat to soothe head front	6	FACIAL
Strength parts in you that move bones	7	MUSCLES
White sheet can write on	5	PAPER
Left is loose so screw to right	7	TIGHTEN

The blanks at the bottom of the puzzle provided an ordering for the words. While some words share the same number of letters, we tried to craft a cluephrase in a way where any other ordering would make less sense.

Blanks	# of blanks	Word
_ _ _ _ _ _	6	EITHER
_ _ _ _ _ _ _	7	CRUMPLE
_ _ _ _ _	5	PAPER
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _	13	ALTERNATIVELY
_ _ _ _ _ _ _	7	TIGHTEN
_ _ _ _ _ _	6	FACIAL
_ _ _ _ _ _ _	7	MUSCLES

This gives the cluephrase: **Either crumple paper alternatively tighten facial muscles.**

Next, solve the cluephrase. This time, the process is reversed: instead of going from a monosyllabic clue to a multisyllabic answer, we flip it to get from a multisyllabic clue to a monosyllabic answer. We clue this with the image of the Neanderthal at the bottom of the page, which implies that the final answer is a monosyllabic word that the Neanderthal is saying.

The only monosyllabic word that means both to "crumple paper" and to "tighten facial muscles" is **SCRUNCH**.