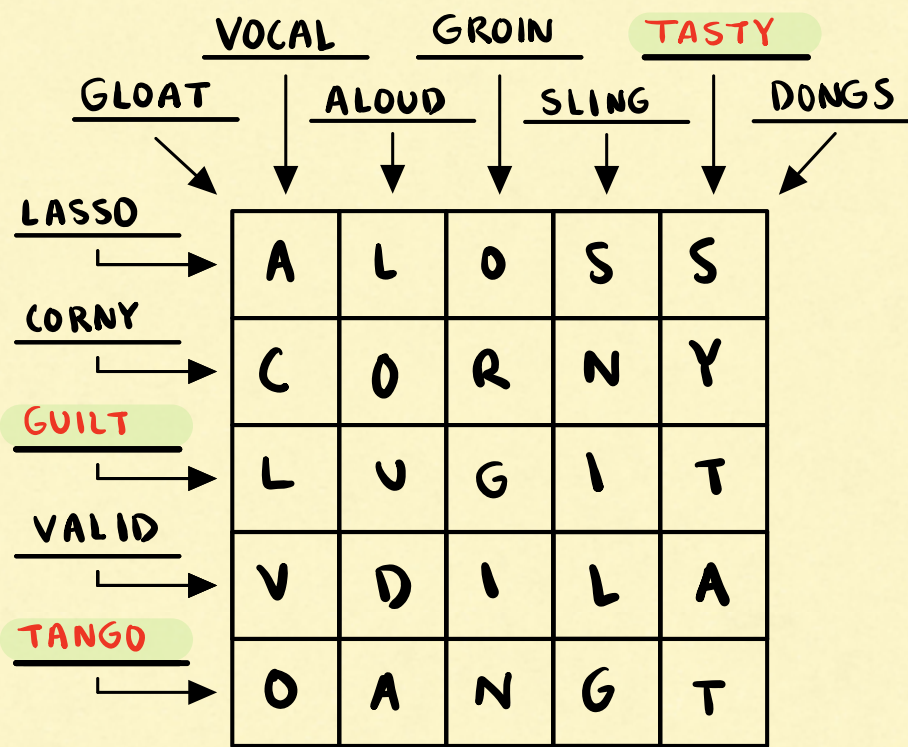


# UNSCRAMBLE GRID PUZZLES

An "unscramble grid" (a term I coined of course) is a grid where every row and column unscrambles to a word (scrabble/dictionary word). Often, the two main diagonals will also unscramble to a word, just for the added flair.

An example unscramble grid is given below. As your "warm-up" challenge, can you fill in the empty blanks?



Now that we understand unscramble grids, let's dive into some puzzles built about them!

Just to set the scene, 4 unscramble grid puzzles are given below, in varying difficulties, so if you get stuck with one try the next. Hope you enjoy!

① Fill in the unscramble grid so that the rows, columns, and main diagonals unscramble to the given words.

TRICE      TENET      RANKS  
AREAS    REARS    CANES    CATER

<u>ERASE</u> →	R	S	E	E	A
<u>CRANE</u> →	E	A	N	C	R
<u>RINSE</u> →	I	R	E	S	N
<u>TRACK</u> →	C	R	T	A	K
<u>TENTS</u> →	T	E	T	N	S

② Swap two letters so each row and column unscrambles to a word. Currently, exactly one row or column doesn't unscramble to a word. For this puzzle, the diagonals don't need to unscramble to words.

ROWED      TRACE      ALIKE  
                 QUACK    TRUMP

<u>QUITE</u> →	E	Q	T	U	I
<u>WREAK</u> →	W	K	E	R	A
<u>TRUCK</u> →	R	U	C	T	K
<u>PACED</u> →	D	C	A	P	E
<u>MOLAR</u> →	O	A	R	M	L

Blanks are provided, optionally, to keep track of unscrambled words

③ Insert the letters below so the rows, columns, and both main diagonals unscramble to valid words.

Letters:

X	Z	D	R
B	N	T	

	<u>TRIED</u>	<u>ROBOT</u>	<u>PRIZE</u>	
<u>OZONE</u>	↓	↓	↓	↓
<u>ATONE</u>	↓	↓	↓	↓
<u>INDEX</u>	↓	↓	↓	↓
<u>ERODE</u>	↓	↓	↓	↓
<u>EXERT</u>	→	→	→	→
<u>IDIOT</u>	→	→	→	→
<u>POINT</u>	→	→	→	→
<u>DRONE</u>	→	→	→	→
<u>ZEBRA</u>	→	→	→	→
	E	T	R	X
	I	O	T	D
	T	N	O	I
	D	E	O	N
	R	A	B	E

④ Fill in each of the light green boxes with a letter so the rows, columns, and both diagonals unscramble to a valid five-letter word.

Alphabet

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

↑ I often like seeing the alphabet when solving puzzles like these!

	<u>DANCE</u>	<u>JULY</u>	<u>ROOST</u>	
<u>EJECT</u>	↓	↓	↓	↓
<u>GRADE</u>	↓	↓	↓	↓
<u>BLAME</u>	↓	↓	↓	↓
<u>BANJO</u>	↓	↓	↓	↓
<u>COULD</u>	→	→	→	→
<u>BRIDE</u>	→	→	→	→
<u>MAJOR</u>	→	→	→	→
<u>CEASE</u>	→	→	→	→
<u>TANGY</u>	→	→	→	→
	C	D	U	L
	D	E	I	B
	A	R	J	M
	E	A	C	E
	N	G	Y	A



5) The unscramble grid to the right has every row and column unscramble to a valid word, but not the diagonals! Swap two adjacent rows or columns so that both diagonals unscramble to valid words. Only one swap is needed!

ELECT



THORN

E	A	R	T	O
O	C	P	H	E
H	G	T	I	H
P	R	E	E	L
N	I	E	R	L

TIP

Suppose you want to see how swapping the two rows to the right changes the diagonals

ECIEL ← old diagonals → NRIPO

E	A	T	R	O
O	C	H	P	E
H	G	I	T	H
P	R	E	E	L
N	I	R	E	L

Instead of rewriting the whole grid, you can use this trick to visualize the new diagonals

- 1) Draw a 2x2 square for each diagonal containing the letters in the rows to swap
- 2) Replace the 2 letters of the old diagonal with the other 2 letters in the box

OAIEL ← new diagonals → NRIRE

E	A	T	R	O
O	C	H	P	E
H	G	I	T	H
P	R	E	E	L
N	I	R	E	L