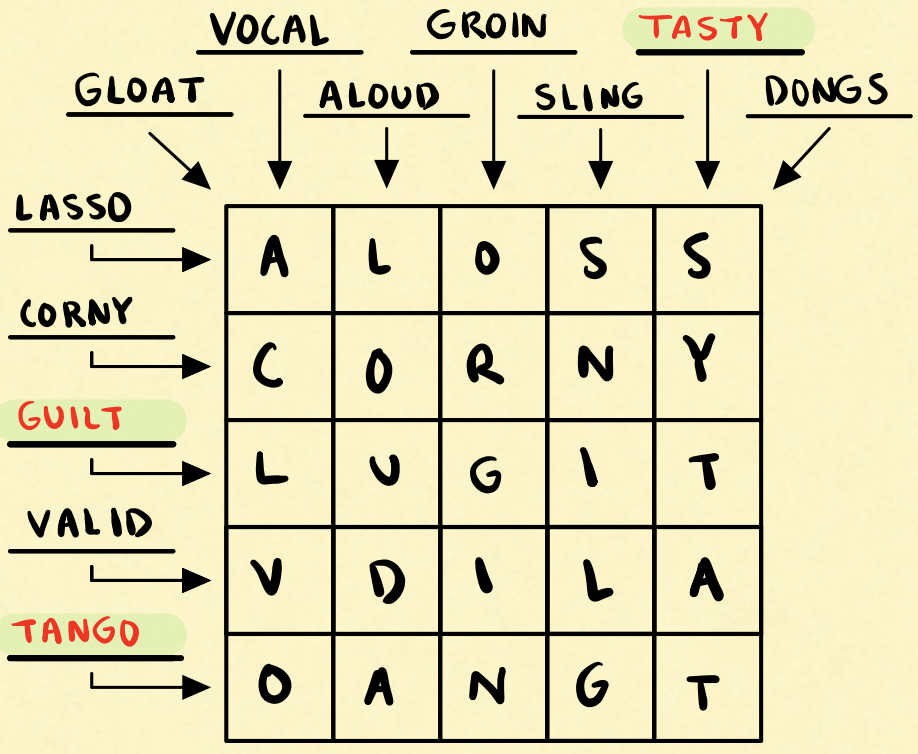
Unscramble Grid Puzzles

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?

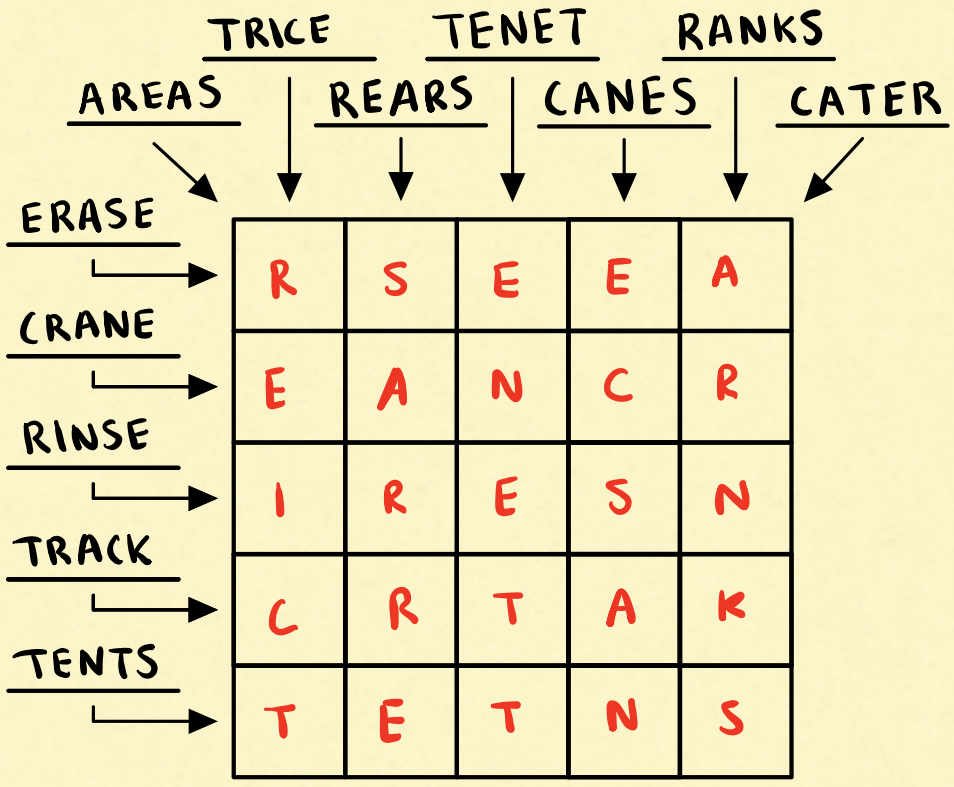


Now that we understand unscramble grids, let's dive into some puzzles built about them!

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.

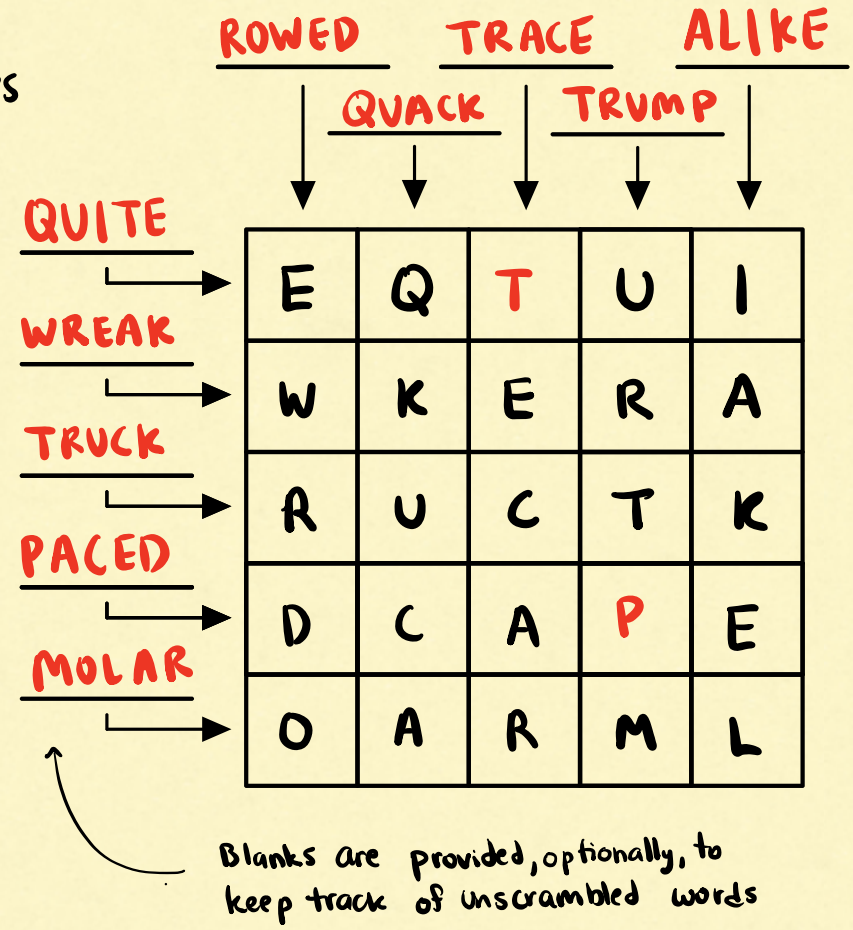
Hope you enjoy!

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



---

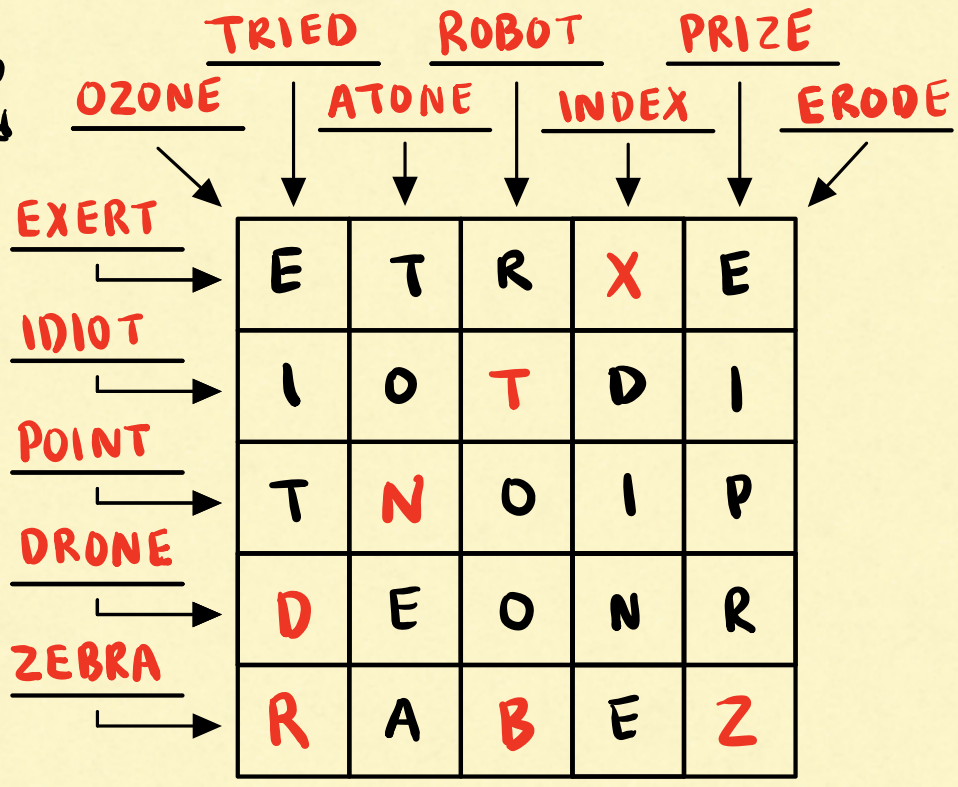
② Swap two letters so each row and column unscrambles to a word. Currently, exactly one row or column doesn't unscramble to a word. For this puzzle, the diagonals don't need to unscramble to words.



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	



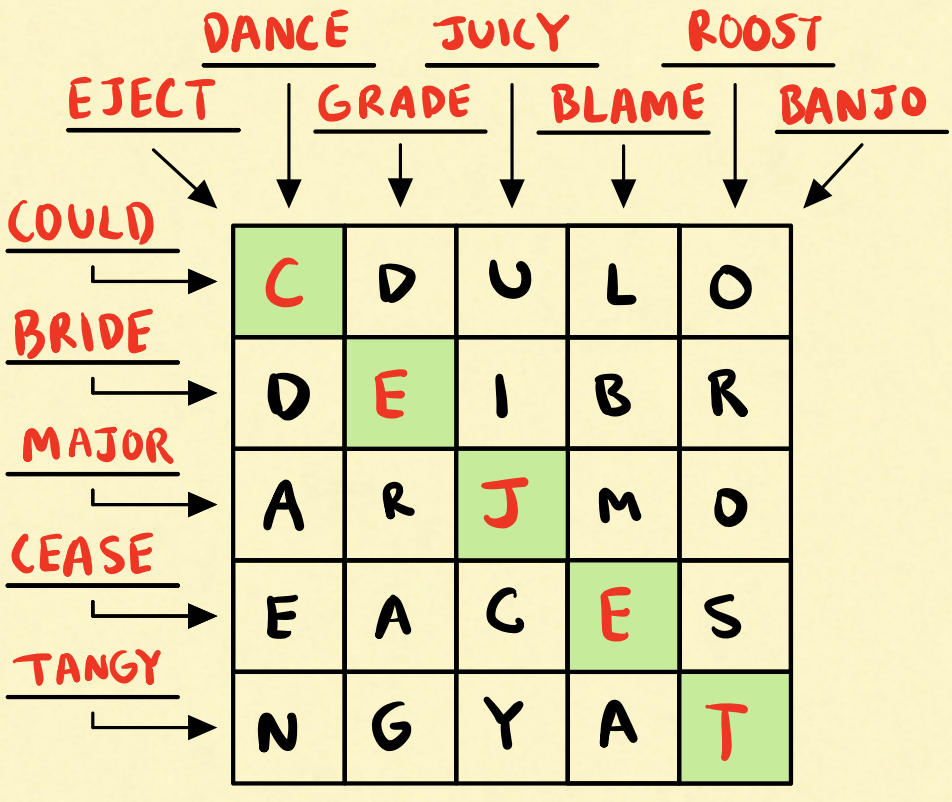
---

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!



(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 2×2 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