



Word Search Sampler

Word Search is a familiar and popular pastime for many people. If the person with dementia used to enjoy these puzzles but now seems to have difficulty completing them, it is possible that the puzzles are too challenging and are no longer appropriate for them. By offering them the specially designed puzzles in these word searches, with no hidden words on a diagonal, right-to-left or down-to-up, they might be more successful.



IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

Please take the time to read these Quick Start instructions. While the activity may seem easy enough to present, these instructions outline some simple steps that can make a big difference in the results. It only takes a minute and can really help. Refer to the “*Keys to Presenting an Activity*” for tips and ideas about how to present an activity most effectively. You may also want to refer to our article “*Success with Word Search*” in the Learning Center on our website at keepingbusy.com.

Overview

There are three levels of Word Search:

- Level One - Easiest: Four hidden words in a 6 x 6 grid
- Level Two - Medium: Six hidden words in a 10 x 10 grid
- Level Three - Most Difficult: Ten hidden words in a 15 x 15 grid

At all levels the hidden words run only from left to right and down. There are no diagonals, backwards words or words that run up. Be aware that the smaller font in the Level Three 15 x 15 puzzle may be too small for some people to read comfortably.

IMPORTANT: Always start with the easiest puzzle in your set, in this case the Level One 6 x 6 grid puzzle with 4 hidden words. Only move to a more advanced level if the person is able to complete the puzzle with no assistance. There is no benefit in “pushing” the person, it is much more important that they do the puzzle successfully on their own.

If the person enjoys the activity, you may want to look at our full Word Search activities. We offer “Grab & Go” sets of 6 puzzles in single or multi-levels, and full Word Search books with 24 multi-level puzzles. All of our word searches are laminated and come with a wet erase marker making them easy to clean and re-use. You can download additional free word search puzzles (and other activities) from the Learning Center on our website at keepingbusy.com.

Completing the Puzzle

1. Place the puzzle in front of the person. Give them time to look it over. Follow their lead, and if they point to a word in the word list (PLANT, for example), encourage them to locate the word in the grid, but use as few words as possible giving them time to find it.
2. To help them get started, suggest that they point to the first letter of the word (P in our example) in the grid, give them time to look at the letters around the P on their own.
3. If they struggle after finding the first letter, ask them if there is an L (the second letter) to the right or below it. Help them only as much as necessary and use actions as much as possible.
4. When they find the word, praise them and demonstrate how they should circle the letters of the hidden word and draw a line through the word in the list.
5. When they find the next word, encourage them to circle the answer and draw a line through the word in the list. If they are still finding it too difficult, trace over all of the words from the list in the grid of letters so that they look bolder.
6. If they were able to complete this puzzle readily, ask them if they would like to try a different level (if available).

“Regular” Word Search Puzzles

It is possible that once the person has been successful with the Level Three 15 x 15 puzzles they may be able to do some easier “regular” word searches.

Whether they are aware of it or not, most people have tricks for completing puzzles. If the person used to do word searches, it is likely that they had a methodology for doing them. It is possible that they started having troubles with them because on their own they were no longer able to break the task down into the steps necessary to complete it. Maybe their secret was to start with the longest word in the list, the words with uncommon letters such as Q, V or Z or the double letter combinations. Previously they could do it without thinking about it, but now they need your help to get started.

1. Place the puzzle in front of the person and give them time to get started on their own.
2. If they are stuck, suggest they start with one of the hidden words that appears from left to right. If they need more help, ask them to point to the places where the first letter of the word appears on the grid. Once they find the first letter, give them time, and if they don't see the word, ask if the letter to the right is the same as the second letter in the word. Be as consistent as possible in your cueing.
3. If they have trouble, try covering up the rows below the word (for a horizontal word) or the columns to the right of it (for a vertical word) to make it less distracting.
4. Try to come up with a list of the steps that the person can follow. Give them the written list and explain to them that they can follow the steps on the sheet to help guide them to solve the puzzle on their own.
5. If, even after following these steps they are not able to successfully do the puzzle, congratulate them on what they've done, but next time go back to an easier puzzle.

Questions?

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would love to hear from you.

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K I N D K M
H Z M T L I
C A R E O N
G D N I V R
I M A Y E U
S H R Y O Q

MOTHER'S
DAY
CARE
KIND
LOVE
MAY

U R I H U G
N S O N G K
S X M E T L
T G E T C A
P L A G P D
J T L M A Y

MOTHER'S
DAY
HUG
LADY
MEAL
SON

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

MOTHER'S
DAY
BIRTH
CANDY
ROSES
TULIPS
WARMTH
WISDOM

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

MOTHER'S
DAY
DOTING
MAMA
MOMMY
MOTHER
PARENT
WISE

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

MOTHER'S
DAY

APPRECIATE
CARNATION
CELEBRATE
CHERISH
HOLIDAY
JEWELRY
MEMORIES
SWEETHEART
THANKS
TRADITION

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

MOTHER'S
DAY

AFFECTION
CHOCOLATE
FEELINGS
FLOWERS
GRATEFUL
HERITAGE
OFFSPRING
PERFUME
PRESENT
SUNDAY