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 this book 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 3 is not included in this sample activity):

- Level One: Four hidden words in a 6 x 6 grid
- Level Two: Six hidden words in a 10 x 10 grid
- Level Three: 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. When they have completed the puzzle, offer them another one. If they were able to complete this puzzle readily, ask them if they would like to try a different level (if available).

Questions?

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

donna.ray@keepingbusy.com   Keeping Busy Inc.
www.keepingbusy.com   500 Stonehurst Rd. N.
800-834-8290   Lunenburg, NS B0J 2C0

N	Y	N	W	R	D
V	A	Y	L	L	X
Y	H	R	E	D	F
S	T	R	A	W	A
M	V	U	F	B	L
Y	K	B	X	V	L

AUTUMN

FALL

LEAF

RED

STRAW

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

AUTUMN

BONFIRE
FOLIAGE
FROST
GOURDS
ORANGE
YELLOW