

# CROSSWORD

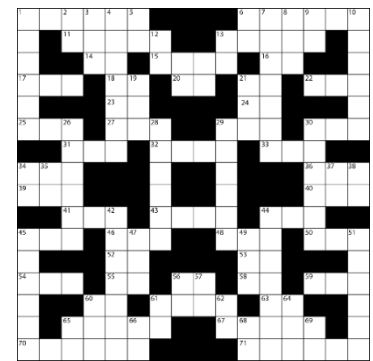
Puzzles are great for keeping the brain active!  
Create your own crossword for an older person to enjoy and complete.

## Equipment needed

- Pen, paper and a ruler
- Or iPad/computer

## Method

1. Think of a theme for your crossword! Then think of a series of words that are related to your theme.
2. Working backwards, think of a question or a statement that has one of your words as the answer. For example, if your theme is animals and your word is penguin, you could say "A black and white bird that cannot fly". You may need to brainstorm on a separate piece of paper. You could test your ideas out on a family member too.
3. Once you have all your questions and answers sorted, it's time to assemble your crossword!



If you are using a computer or iPad, you can use a crossword creation site such as:

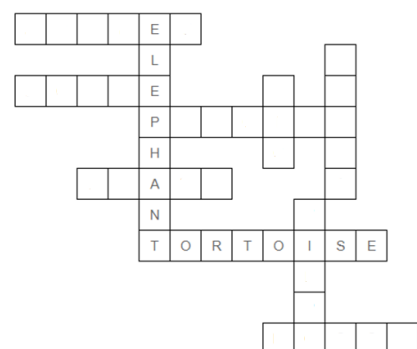
[worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/crossword/](https://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/crossword/)

This will automatically generate your crossword for you. You just need to type in all your questions/statements and the correct answers. Then skip to step 10 of this activity.

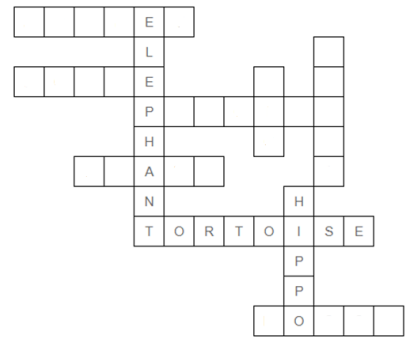
If you are creating your crossword by hand, if possible take a look at an old crossword from the internet or from a newspaper, as this will help you to structure your own crossword. Then complete steps 4-9:

4. On a rough piece of paper, arrange all of your answers into a grid pattern, with some words vertical and others horizontal. To do this, first find some answers that pair together through the final letter – the first word must end with the same letter that the second word starts with.

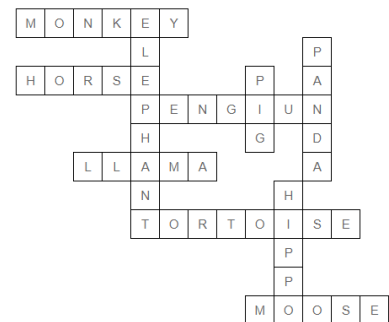
For example in the grid opposite, ELEPHANT and TORTOISE share the letter T. You can then write ELEPHANT vertical on your grid, with TORTOISE horizontal below, starting from the letter T in ELEPHANT.



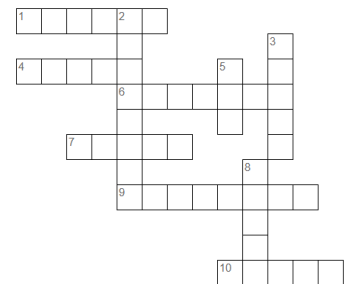
5. Once you have matched some words in this way see if you can match the remaining words through a different letter. For example in the grid shown here, HIPPO and TORTOISE could both be linked together through the letter I.



6. Repeat this step until you have linked all of your words together, using a mutual letter in another word.



7. Once you are happy with the format of your crossword, copy the shape neatly onto your final piece of paper, but this time leave the words out!



8. Once you have assembled your crossword, number every word. Make a note of whether that word is “across” or “down”.

9. Next to the crossword (or on a separate piece of paper if there isn't space) write out all the questions that correspond with the answers in your grid.

Label these questions to match the location of the answer. For example: 3 Down, 'National animal of China'. Answer – PANDA

**Across**

- 1 Primates that often have long tails
- 4 'Red Rum' was what type of animal?
- 6 Black and white bird that cannot fly
- 7 A relative of the camel, without the hump
- 9 These can live to over 150 years old
- 10 Largest animal in the deer family

**Down**

- 2 An animal with big ears and a very good memory
- 3 National animal of China
- 5 In the film, 'Babe' what type of animal was Babe?
- 8 This animal's name means 'river horse'

10. You are finished! Could you add some final touches by drawing or including some pictures to match your theme?

11. Once complete, take your crossword to your local care home! Alternatively, you could email it to the care home or send it in the post. You might also want to include a card alongside it, for older people to read.