

CHRISTMAS PUZZLES / The Language Quiz / set by John Morrish

Can we use a Bechdel test to see if you are a deepfake? Are you nomophobic or just have a touch of range anxiety? Seitan, veggan or cheegan? As we say hello again to acorns and adders, how about pitting your wits against the take of The Tablet's linguist on words new, old and those making an odd comeback

Words of the year

What are the new uses of these words in 2019?

- 1. Bechdel test?** **a.** A medical procedure used to detect the presence of a virus. **b.** A sporting fixture between second-tier nations. **c.** A way of judging the feminist credentials of a film or book.
- 2. Satoshi?** **a.** The smallest unit in the blockchain system of electronic currency. **b.** A judo throw. **c.** A type of cuisine based around raw fish.
- 3. Whatever?** **a.** A unit used to determine the range of electric vehicles (EVs). **b.** Undecided voters. **c.** An expression of indifference on the part of the speaker.
- 4. Deepfake?** **a.** Inaccurate observations of the ocean floor. **b.** Disparaging description of a political opponent. **c.** Removing a person from a still or moving image and replacing him or her with an image of someone else.
- 5. Nomophobia?** **a.** Fear of losing one's mobile phone. **b.** Fear of garden gnomes. **c.** Fear that there is nothing beyond death.
- 6. Femtech?** **a.** A women-only science college in the United States. **b.** Technology designed to serve female health. **c.** A method used for solving mathematical and engineering problems.
- 7. Sadfishing?** **a.** Going angling on your own. **b.** Going dating as an antidote to seasonal affective disorder. **c.** Using an exaggerated tragic story to garner attention on social media.
- 8. Seitan?** **a.** The Prince of Darkness. **b.** A meat substitute made from wheat gluten. **c.** A rare monkey.
- 9. Pronoun?** **a.** A word that functions as a noun phrase when referring to someone or something in a discourse. **b.** A person lying face downwards. **c.** A self-description highly controversial in the politics of gender.
- 10. Nano-influencer?** **a.** A diminutive piece of female underwear. **b.** On social media, a product endorser with a very small following. **c.** Someone who can persuade their grandmother to do anything.
- 11. Cancelled?** **a.** Of a person, shunned for some social or political faux pas. **b.** Of an event, called off permanently. **c.** Rehabilitated after being an "incel".
- 12. GOAT?** **a.** A domestic animal, *capra aegagrus hircus*. **b.** A lustful or lascivious man. **c.** Greatest Of All Time.
- 13. Blended family?** **a.** A smoothie created using related vegetables or fruits, i.e. cucumbers and courgettes. **b.** A family made from the union of two people with

children from previous relationships.

c. A popular animated series on Netflix.

14. Intersectionality? **a.** Overlapping forms of social disadvantage. **b.** Commonality between a series of mathematical elements. **c.** The problem of high-speed collisions on American roads.

15. Range anxiety? **a.** The feeling experienced by a small child when it loses sight of its parent. **b.** The feeling experienced by a cowboy when he loses control of his livestock. **c.** The feeling experienced by someone contemplating buying an electric car.

16. Wrimo? **a.** Someone taking part in NatNoWriMo, a challenge to write a novel during the month of November. **b.** Pet name for a snake or reptile. **c.** A device for scraping frost from a windscreen.

17. Self-partnered? **a.** A one-person commercial organisation. **b.** Single, unattached. **c.** Term for one's first solo parachute jump.

18. Flygskam? **a.** An Ikea lavatory brush. **b.** Swedish term meaning "flight shaming", encouraged by environmentalists.

c. A camera used to investigate ghosts.

19. Veggan? **a.** A vegan who eats eggs. **b.** A denizen of the planet Vegga. **c.** Asking for money in the street.

20. Cheegan? **a.** A variety of marijuana. **b.** A casual jacket worn by sports professionals. **c.** A vegan who eats cheese.

Words of which year

Each group of words is first recorded in English in a single year, 100 years apart. What were those years? Clue: this year is 2019.

Group One: blotting paper; boded; chestnut; hook-nosed; jerkin; lop; parmesan; prowler; unlucky; waistcoat.

Group Two: back-stop; bewilderment; coal bunker; conk; gas fitter; hip! hip! hurrah!; introspective; night shelter; no-show; personnel.

Group Three: ballroom; centrifuge; crockery; elusive; flood tide; gabby; gumption; reading made easy; thoroughgoing; whack.

Group Four: affirmation; great seal; haberdashery; hardware; havoc; o'clock; prison-house; satisfy; sureness; unrevoked.

Group Five: bagel; broadband; car bomber; flash-forward; go-getting; meltdown; paddling pool; payphone; snooty; wonky.

Group Six: audibility; diagram; libellous; palatable; patronising; recondite; rudimentary; self-esteem; telescope; urban.



Nature notes

All these words made a comeback this year. How so? Conker; bluebell; newt; weasel; bramble; dandelion; acorn; forget-me-not; magpie; adder.

All change

All these slang terms mean the same thing. What is it? Shrapnel; squids; paper; monkeys; bacon; buckaroos; Lady Godiva; bunce; Arthur Ashe; Cheddar.

Rest in peace

These words and expressions are said to have died out, not having been spotted recently in a database of 4,000 magazines. When did they disappear, and what did they mean? **1.** Doobie; **2.** Gnarly; **3.** Burn rubber; **4.** Airhead; **5.** Knuckle sandwich; **6.** Gadzooks; **7.** Sweetmeat; **8.** RapsCALLION; **9.** Pelf; **10.** Esurient.

Back to the future

What do these words and expressions have in common? Fit for purpose; due to; ongoing; unacceptable; equal; yourself; speculate; invest in; meet with; ascertain; disappointment; I note your concerns; lot; got; I am pleased to learn.

Animal magic

What do these words have in common? Happy; ball; want; outside; look; come; play; beach; mad; help; no; OK; park; love you.

An ill wind

Which British institution mandated the following changes to the language its staff use about environmental matters? Climate change – **climate emergency** or **climate crisis**. Climate sceptic – **climate science denier** or **climate denier**. Global warming – **global heating**. Carbon emissions or carbon dioxide emissions – **greenhouse gas emissions**. Biodiversity – **wildlife**. Fish stocks – **fish populations**.

Answers on page 33

CHRISTMAS PUZZLES / Prize Acrostic / devised by Martin Redfern

Enter answers to the 23 clues A-W in the appropriate columns of the vertical grid, transferring the individual letters of each answer to the corresponding squares of the horizontal grid. When completed, the

horizontal grid displays a single extended quotation, and the lines to the left of the horizontal grid and across the top of the vertical grid display the author and source of that quotation.

A 81	B 58	C 22	D 152	E 255	F 25	G 257	H 113	I 15	J 220	K 140	L 246	M 57	N 181	O 3	P 144	Q 310	R 78	S 34	T 130	U 227	V 51	W 213	
A 106	B 274	C 65	D 72	E 63	F 146	G 119	H 129	I 170	J 115	K 209	L 136	M 150	N 240	O 95	P 260	Q 26	R 253	S 302	T 201	U 280	V 23	W 256	
A 133	B 91	C 216	D 4	E 7	F 20	G 276	H 185	I 189	J 74	K 84	L 187	M 211	N 308	O 148	P 96	Q 229	R 99	S 207	T 180	U 191	V 196	W 79	
A 188	B 231	C 161	D 125	E 41	F 200	G 13	H 62	I 272	J 134	K 159	L 141	M 208	N 120	O 298	P 296	Q 244	R 197	S 112	T 46	U 45	V 311	W 18	
A 217	B 105	C 40	D 215	E 265	F 67	G 234	H 273	I 94	J 262	K 92	L 29	M 85	N 267	O 279	P 290	Q 6	R 16	S 155	T 103	U 226	V 179	W 247	
A 287	B 288	C 236	D 60	E 71	F 127	G 158	H 297	I 117	J 10	K 269	L 70	M 228	N 284	O 266	P 224	Q 157	R 116		T 82	U 149	V 314	W 52	
A 245	B 5		D 304	E 38	F 8	G 59	H 165	I 239	J 202	K 36	L 286		N 143	O 183	P 35	Q 47	R 17		T 264	U 154	V 93	W 164	
	B 124		D 42	E 307	F 182	G 77	H 198	I 153	J 27	K 214	L 1		N 277	O 122	P 199	Q 128	R 172		T 156	U 223	V 218	W 135	
	B 163		D 190	E 300	F 177	G 131	H 11	I 299	J 139	K 9	L 259		N 32	O 160	P 14	Q 221	R 44		T 56	U 114	V 250	W 232	
	B 19		D 258	E 230	F 138	G 102	H 33	I 37		K 69	L 104		N 12	O 76		Q 235	R 241		T 75	U 194	V 238	W 98	
	B 254		D 237	E 313	F 306	G 151	H 169	I 123		K 285	L 233		N 242	O 225		Q 61			T 173		V 108	W 278	
	B 205		D 126	E 243	F 89	G 28	H 305	I 176		K 30	L 50		N 193	O 31		Q 121			T 222		V 2		
	B 101		D 248	E 219	F 210	G 249	H 68	I 204		K 147	L 86			O 109		Q 263			T 292		V 145		
			D 24	E 88	F 107	G 87	H 137	I 49			L 168			O 309		Q 73			T 282		V 118		
			D 110	E 295		G 54	H 21	I 111			L 289			O 64		Q 175					V 66		
			D 294	E 53		G 184	H 261				L 271			O 192		Q 212					V 43		
			D 166	E 142		G 203	H 83				L 303					Q 90					V 291		
			D 55	E 178		G 268	H 270									Q 162					V 252		
			D 312	E 100		G 171	H 251									Q 293					V 281		
			D 80	E 174		G 301	H 48									Q 97					V 167		
			D 275	E 132		G 39										Q 186					V 206		
				E 283		G 195																	

- A. Rivalled MC involved in death throes (7)
- B. "... strange heart beating where it lies? - - - - - loins engenders there / The broken wall." (W.B. Yeats) (1,7,2,3)
- C. "Out of this - - - - - , danger, we pluck this flower, safety." (*Henry IV*) (6)
- D. "If I had the use of my body, I would - - - - - ." Samuel Beckett (5,2,3,2,3,6)
- E. "As - - - - - on the banks of the Nile." (Richard Brinsley Sheridan) (10,2,2,8)
- F. "Shostakovich's - - - - - , composed in 1943, was first performed on November 4 of that year in Moscow, under the direction of Evgeny Mravinsky." (Richard Freed) (6,8)
- G. "Australia ... must be so pretty, with all - - - - - flying about." (Oscar Wilde) (3,4,6,9)
- H. "Keep your eye clear - - - - - , trust the feel of what nubbed treasure ..." (Seamus Heaney) (2,3,4,2,3,6)

- I. "For at the window of my house I - - - - - casement." (Proverbs, AV) (6,7,2)
- J. English city dwelling provides American gay meeting place (9)
- K. "Young boys and girls are level now with men; the - - - - - there is nothing left remarkable." (*Antony and Cleopatra*) (4,2,4,3)
- L. "I caught a cold in - - - - - open." (James Joyce) (3,4,3,4,3)
- M. A shimmering surface gloss (6)
- N. "I - - - - - name perfectly; but I just can't think of your face." (William Archibald Spooner, attrib.) (8,4)
- O. "Thou hast greedily gained of thy neighbours by - - - - - forgotten me, says the Lord." (Ezekiel, AV) (9,3,4)
- P. Ant, he says, burst into sailors' song (3,6)
- Q. "The children of Israel eat not of the - - - - - , - - - - - is upon the hollow of the thigh."

- (Genesis, AV) (5,5,6,5)
- R. "If righteousness come by the law, then Christ is - - - - - ." (Galatians, AV) (4,2,4)
- S. Find foreign articles below (5)
- T. "Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb? - - - - - and still by Faith he trod, / Eyes still dazzled by the ways of God." (Vachel Lindsay) (5,4,5)
- U. Reportedly, whichever unit of inductance follows learner driver uncovers the Chancellor of Birmingham City University (5,5)
- V. "The friends that have it I do wrong / Whenever I remake a song, / Should know what issue is at stake: - - - - - ." (W.B. Yeats) (2,2,6,4,1,6)
- W. "A key feature of [*Annales d'histoire économique et sociale*] ... was the desire to break free from the dominant historical paradigm of the - - - - - ." (Richard J. Evans) (6-5)

	1 L	2 V	3 O	4 D	5 B	6 Q	7 E	8 F	9 K	10 J	11 H	12 N	13 G	14 P	15 I	16 R	17 R	18 W	19 B	20 F	21 H	22 C	
23 V	24 D	25 F	26 Q	27 J	28 G	29 L	30 K	31 O	32 N	33 H	34 S	35 P	36 K	37 I	38 E								
39 G	40 C	41 E	42 D	43 V	44 R	45 U	46 T	47 Q	48 H														
49 I	50 L	51 V	52 W	53 E	54 G	55 D	56 T	57 M															
58 B	59 G	60 D	61 Q	62 H	63 E																		
64 O	65 C	66 V	67 F	68 H	69 K	70 L	71 E	72 D	73 Q	74 J	75 T	76 O	77 G	78 R	79 W								
80 D	81 A	82 T	83 H	84 K	85 M	86 L	87 G	88 E	89 F	90 Q	91 B	92 K	93 V	94 I	95 O	96 P							
97 Q	98 W	99 R	100 E	101 B	102 G	103 T	104 L	105 B	106 A	107 F	108 V	109 O	110 D	111 I	112 S	113 H							
114 U	115 J	116 R	117 I	118 V	119 G	120 N	121 Q																
122 O	123 I	124 B	125 D	126 D	127 F	128 Q	129 H	130 T	131 G	132 E	133 A	134 J	135 W										
136 L	137 H	138 F	139 J	140 K	141 L	142 E	143 N	144 P	145 V	146 F	147 K	148 O	149 U	150 M	151 G	152 D	153 I	154 U	155 S	156 T	157 Q		
158 G	159 K	160 O	161 C	162 Q	163 B	164 W	165 H	166 D	167 V	168 L	169 H	170 I	171 G	172 R	173 T	174 E							
175 Q	176 I	177 F	178 E	179 V	180 T	181 N	182 F	183 O	184 G														
185 H	186 Q	187 L	188 A	189 I	190 D	191 U	192 O	193 N	194 U	195 G	196 V	197 R	198 H	199 P									
200 F	201 T	202 J	203 G	204 I	205 B	206 V	207 S	208 M	209 K	210 F	211 M	212 Q	213 W	214 K	215 D	216 C	217 A						
218 V	219 E	220 J	221 Q																				
222 T	223 U	224 P	225 O	226 U	227 U	228 M	229 Q	230 E	231 B	232 W	233 L	234 G	235 Q	236 C	237 D	238 V	239 I	240 N	241 R	242 N			
243 E	244 Q	245 A	246 L	247 W	248 D	249 G	250 V																
251 H	252 V	253 R	254 B	255 E	256 W	257 G	258 D	259 L	260 P	261 H	262 J	263 Q	264 T	265 E	266 O	267 N	268 G	269 K	270 H				
271 L	272 I	273 H	274 B	275 D	276 G	277 N	278 W	279 O	280 U	281 V	282 T	283 E	284 N	285 K	286 L	287 A	288 B	289 L	290 P	291 V			
292 T	293 Q	294 D	295 E	296 P	297 H	298 O	299 I	300 E	301 G	302 S	303 L	304 D	305 H	306 F	307 E	308 N	309 O	310 Q	311 V				
312 D	313 E	314 V																					

PRIZES: This year we are offering a £75 Amazon voucher to the sender of the first correct solution opened on Friday 10 January 2020. Each of the five runners-up will receive a £25 Amazon voucher. Photocopies will be accepted. The editor's decision is final. Post your entries to: **Acrostic, The Tablet, 1 King Street Cloisters, Clifton Walk, London W6 0GY.** Please include an email address, if available. The answers and the winners' names will appear in *The Tablet* dated Saturday 18 January 2020.

SUDOKU

Level: Challenging

Solution to the 30 November puzzle

1								5
	6	2	5		9	7	3	
	8	5				4	9	
		6	4		3	2		
				2				
		7	8		1	3		
	7	4				9	2	
	5	1	7		2	6	4	
2								7

Each 3 x 3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. The solutions will appear in the 11 January 2020 issue.

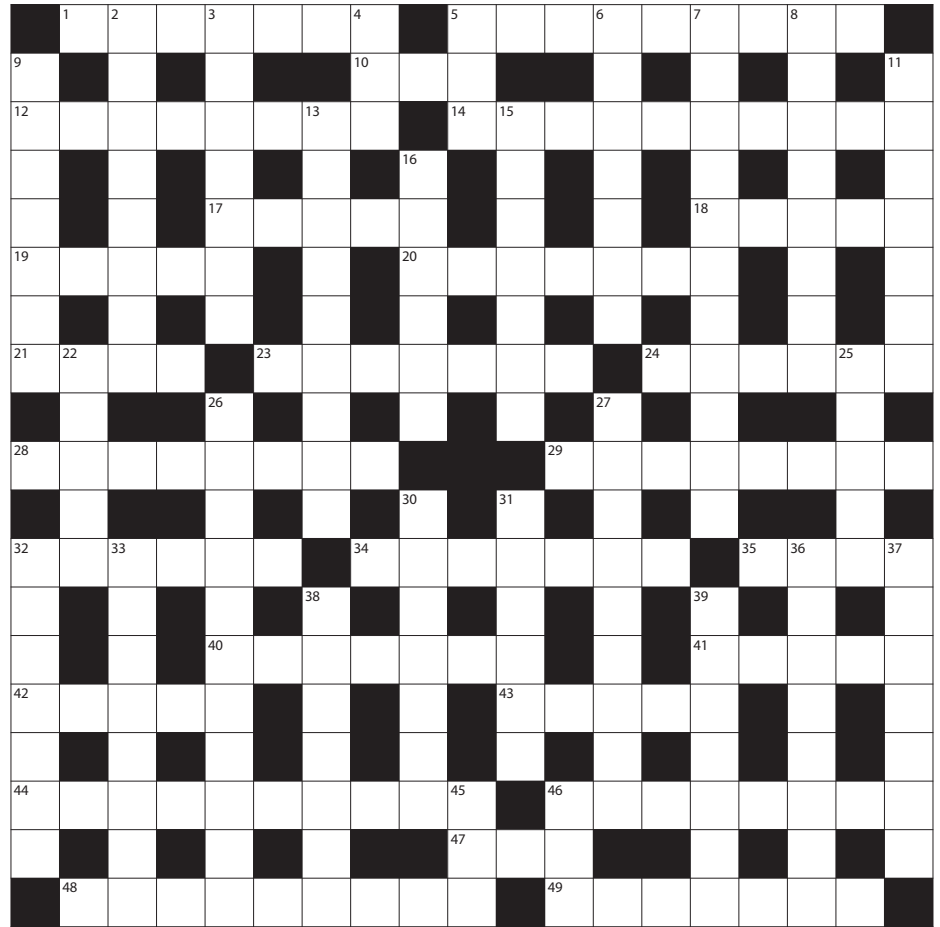
7	6	2	8	9	4	3	1	5
8	9	5	7	1	3	2	6	4
3	1	4	2	5	6	8	7	9
9	5	6	3	7	1	4	8	2
1	3	8	5	4	2	6	9	7
4	2	7	6	8	9	1	5	3
5	7	1	4	2	8	9	3	6
6	4	9	1	3	5	7	2	8
2	8	3	9	6	7	5	4	1

Across

- 1** Places of Marian devotion such as Walsingham (7)
- 5** Aquarium favourites named after divine messenger? (9)
- 10** Valve and pipe for supply of fluids and gas (3)
- 12** ----- & Caius, one of the oldest colleges of Cambridge University (8)
- 14** Inlay technique using polished coloured stones to produce images (6,4)
- 17** Morning prayer of the Divine Office (5)
- 18** International Catholic news agency reporting on "the world seen from Rome" (5)
- 19** "----- on earth, and mercy mild," "Hark! The Herald Angels" carol (5)
- 20** "Full in the ----- Heart of Rome", Cardinal Wiseman's hymn of papal devotion (7)
- 21** Initial reference to the motto of the Jesuits (1.1.1.1.)
- 23** Lithuanian capital dedicates five weeks to lengthy Christmas celebrations (7)
- 24** Carol beginning "On Christmas night all Christians sing" (6)
- 28** Florentine sixteenth-century mannerist painter of portraits and religious works (8)
- 29** "Troll the ancient ----- carol", from "Deck the Halls" (8)
- 32** Cardinal Newman was canonised on the day known as the "Miracle of -----" (6)
- 34** Henri -----, exponent of modern art born 31 December 1869 (7)
- 35** Fairy-tale giant as in "Jack and the Beanstalk" (4)
- 40** Collective name of three waterfalls on the Canada/US border (7)
- 41** "Christians, -----, salute the happy morn", opening of John Byron carol (5)
- 42** State boasting the tallest living Christmas tree in US [in Coeur d'Alene] (5)
- 43** "Sweet singing of the -----", refrain from "The Holly and the Ivy" (5)
- 44** Dwelling, inhabitants of which should not throw stones! (10)
- 46** Relating to country of original Good King Wenceslas (8)
- 47** Pope (XIII) who wrote the prayer "Holy Michael Archangel" (3)
- 48** Theological study of all things relating to the Blessed Virgin (9)
- 49** Mainly Catholic country where Midnight Mass is called "Misa de Gallo" (7)

Down

- 2** How Mary described herself at the Annunciation (8)



- 3** "When ----- hang by the wall", seasonal features in song from Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost* (7)
- 4** French abbreviation for female saint (3)
- 5** Mobile phone software on screen allowing tasks to be performed (3)
- 6** Native country of the Catholic composer Arvo Pärt (7)
- 7** Composer of "Silent Night", or "Stille Nacht", words by Fr Joseph Mohr (5,6)
- 8** Very attractive ladies that knock one out! (8)
- 9** Herod -----, King of Judaea, under whom St Peter imprisoned and St James martyred (7)
- 11** Entrance area of a church separated from the nave (7)
- 13** US state where annual Cajun and Creole Christmas celebrations held (9)
- 15** Town visited by St Paul (now Konya in Turkey) recorded in Acts 13 & 16 (7)
- 16** "Willows whiten, ----- quiver", "The Lady of Shalott", Tennyson (6)
- 22** ----- Paklar, emerging international soprano from 6 Down (5)
- 25** A senior figure or leader in a Christian community (5)
- 26** Karol -----, leading Polish composer, works include *Stabat Mater* and *Children's Rhymes* (11)
- 27** Fictional bell-ringer associated with cathedral that suffered terrible fire last April (9)
- 30** Capital city where the native Christmas greeting is "Feliz Navidad" (7)
- 31** Book of the Old Testament also known as Ecclesiasticus (6)
- 32** The leaves of a plant or tree (7)

- 33** Dame Kiri -- -----, Catholic-educated, world-renowned opera singer (2,6)
- 36** Fr Romano -----, influential twentieth-century German theologian, wrote the classic *The Lord* (8)
- 37** Time of day when Vespers is prayed (7)
- 38** Fuel for seasonal illumination which the Wise Virgins kept in good supply (4,3)
- 39** Blessed Dominic -----, received (St) Newman into the Catholic Church (7)
- 45** Cathedral city in Cambridgeshire (3)
- 46** --- Cratchit, Scrooge's clerk in Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* (3)

Answers: See page 33

Solution to 30 November crossword No. 685

Across: 7 Maize; 8 In a tree; 10 Nascent; 11 Inset; 12 Stentorian; 16 Seminarian; 10 Hairy; 21 Beneath; 23 Reel off; 24 Never.
Down: 1 Omens; 2 Rinse; 3 Here; 4 Listen; 5 Manitoba; 6 Drastic; 9 Extant; 13 Tennyson; 14 Esther; 15 Imbided; 17 Rebuff; 18 Halve; 19 Chore; 22 None.

Winner: Eileen Reynolds, of Brockley, south-east London.

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