

# JUST TOO GROSS

## WICKED WONDERFUL WORDIES

The First 288 of them...

by

Algot Runeman

Wicked Wonderful Wordies

1. It's
2. just
3. too
4. gross...

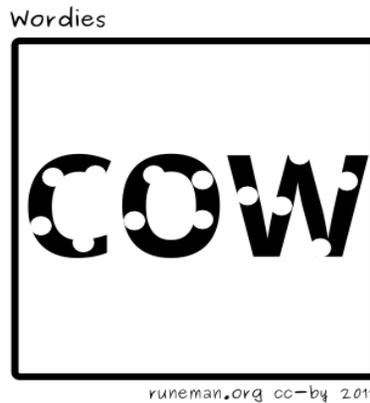
runeman.org cc-by 2023 \*\*

© Algot Runeman - 2024

This DRM-Free, self-published work is released using the Creative Commons Attribution-Share-Alike license.

The individual “wordie” puzzles were released under the CC-Attribution license, which makes them easier to reuse, but this whole collection requires that you not republish the book under any other license terms; you must share it so that others do not think you have some kind of exclusive rights to the book. Idioms are not under copyright, of course. That would be downright silly, so consider making your own wordies!

Wordie puzzles are an attempt to represent an idiom or a frequently heard phrase like “Holy Cow!”



The key to solving them is looking at the words or letters which are put in or around the box/frame of the puzzle. In this case, the word cow appears to be like Swiss cheese with holes in it. “Holey” is not the right word for the idiom, so you must let your mind do the extra connection from the holes to “Holy”. Some may be easier than others, probably because you know the idiom or phrase well. Others might be much harder because you have only a passing acquaintance with the target idiom.

I hope you won’t give up, and that over time, your ability to recognize an idiom will grow.

I didn’t come up with the Wordie idea myself. Wordies were a regular feature of *Games Magazine* for many years. I used them as weekly challenges for my students when I was a teacher of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades in the 1980s. The young people seemed to like them. They even made some themselves, and sheets of them also circulated through the school staff who often enjoyed the chance to solve them.

Traditionally, only letters or words make up the puzzles, but sometimes I’ve added rebus-styled wordies where a clipart image is involved. *Wicked Wonderful*, huh?

Now it is your turn. Feel free to pass copies of the pages around to your friends, and encourage them to develop deductive word skills.

The following pages are updated sheets of 12 puzzles which were put out online from 2013 to 2019. These are the first two gross of them. (Eew! Too gross. Yes, that’s a pun.)

“Wicked Wonderful” was added to the basic Wordies term along the way because I live in New England and “Wicked” is a regionalism. One of my fellow teachers used it all the time. It seemed fitting to make it part of these idiom puzzles. Thanks, Steve M. You’re Wicked, Stinkin’ Awesome!

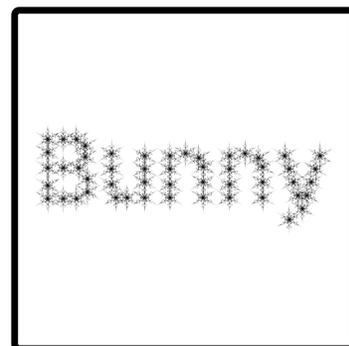
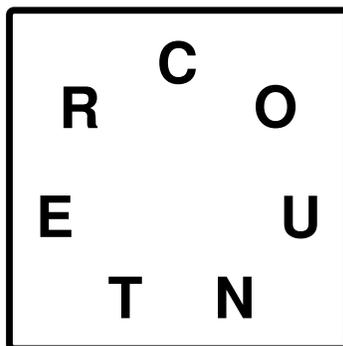
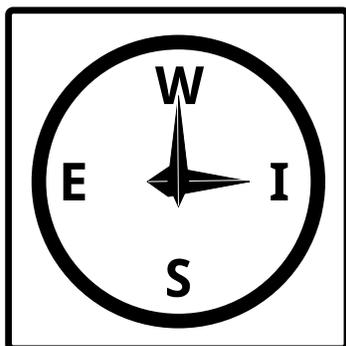
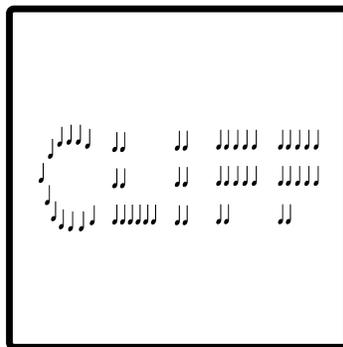
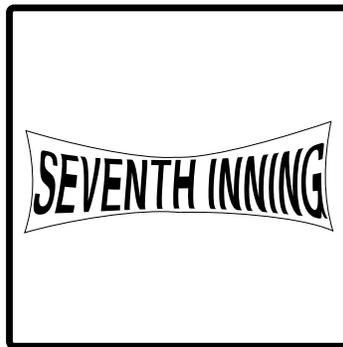
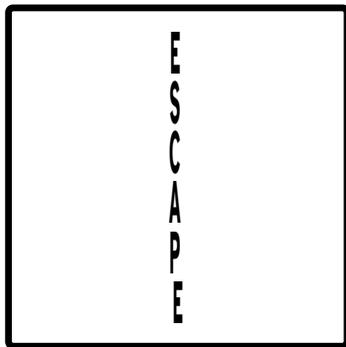
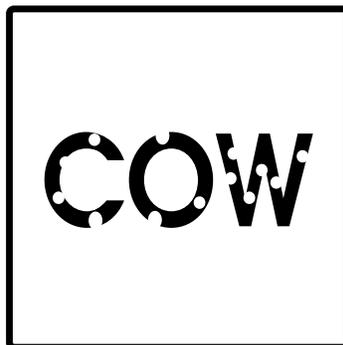
The answers were originally on sheets paired with the puzzles themselves, but in this book, the answer pages begin on page 25.

Enjoy.

\*\* “It’s just too gross for words.”

# WICKED WONDERFUL WORDIES 01

Wordies visually represent a word or short phrase, often a saying.  
See how many of these you can figure out.

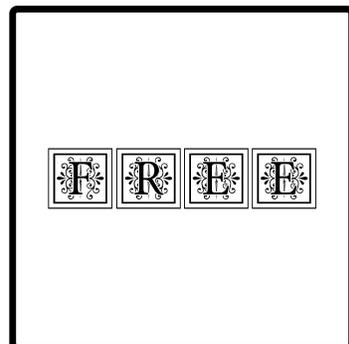
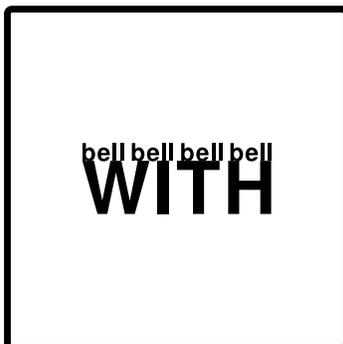
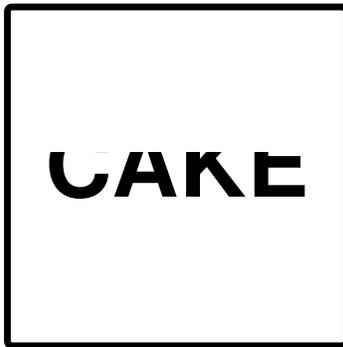
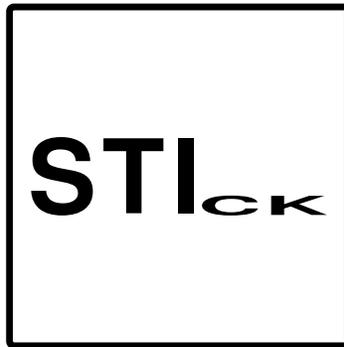
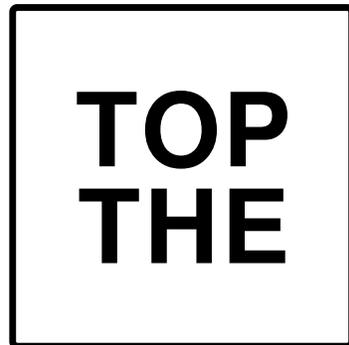
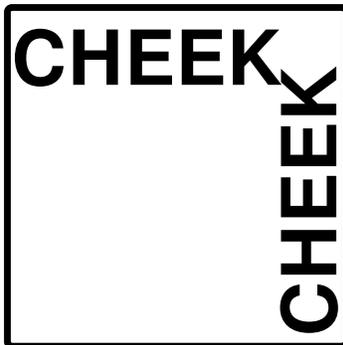
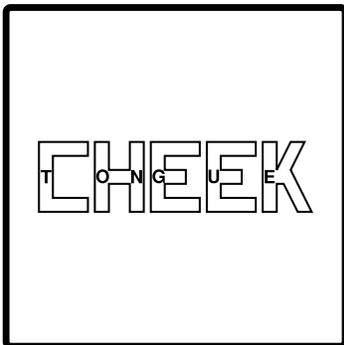
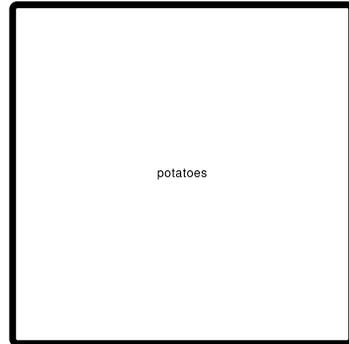
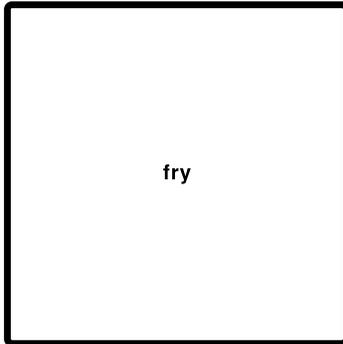
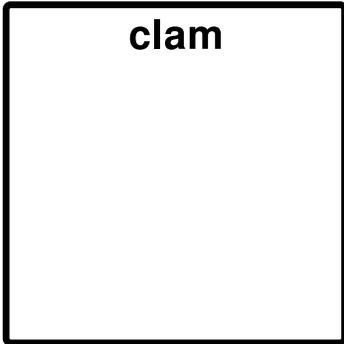


©Algot Runeman 2024 runeman.org/wordies/ You may freely duplicate this page - Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike license.

[Link to Wordies01 Answers](#)

# WICKED WONDERFUL WORDIES 02

Wordies visually represent a word or short phrase, often a saying.  
See how many of these you can figure out.



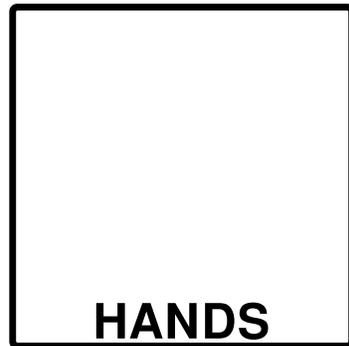
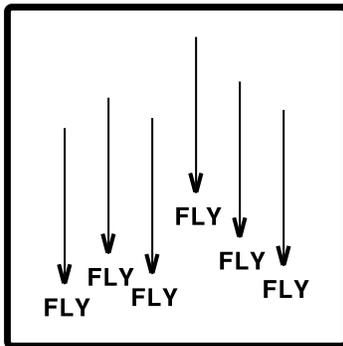
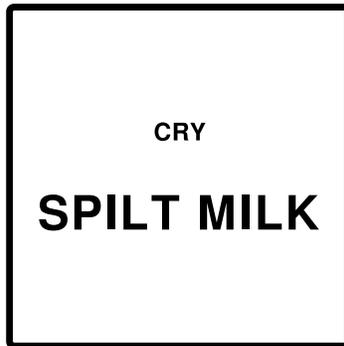
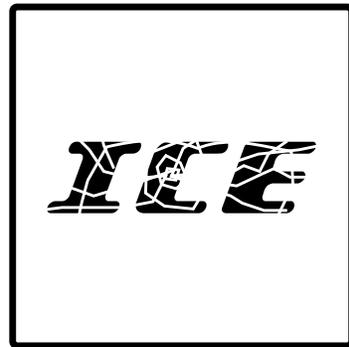
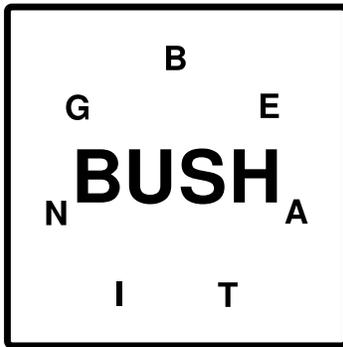
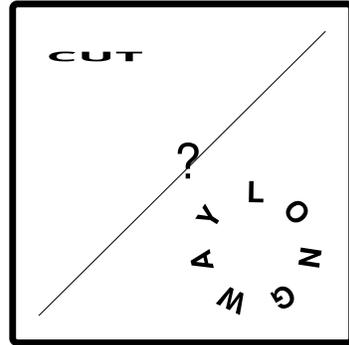
©Algot Runeman 2024 runeman.org/wordies/ You may freely duplicate this page - Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike license.

[Link to Wordies02 Answers](#)

# WICKED WONDERFUL WORDIES 03

Wordies visually represent a word or short phrase, often a saying.  
See how many of these you can figure out.

WILL WAY	WHIRL
WALL	WOOL
WAY WILL	WELL
WHALE	WILL WAY

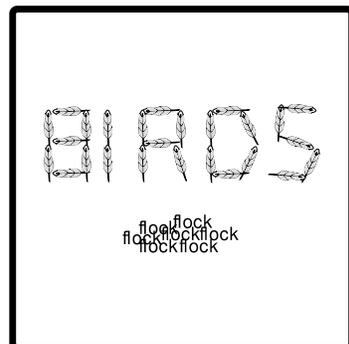
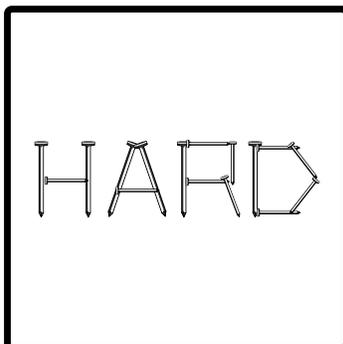
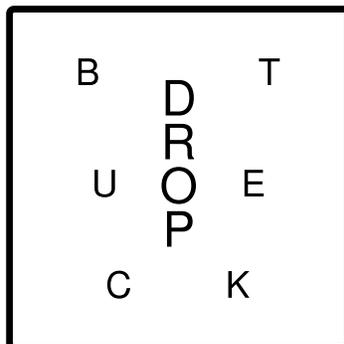
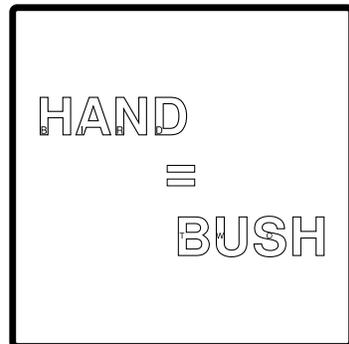
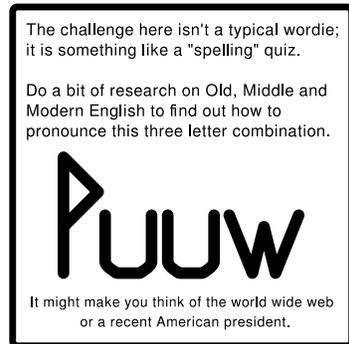
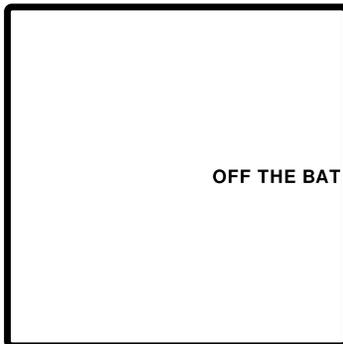
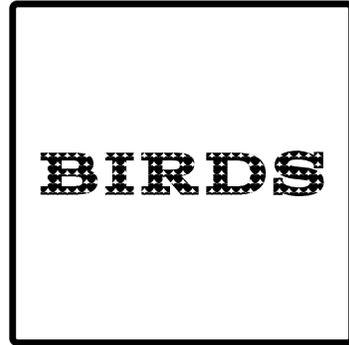
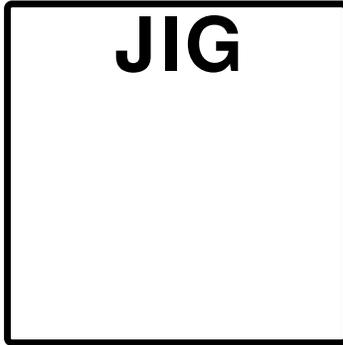
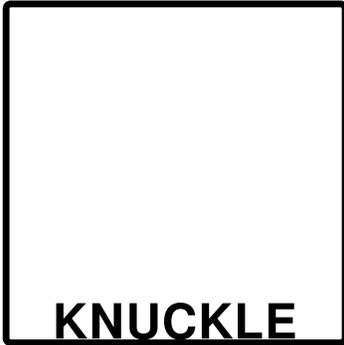


©Algot Runeman 2024 runeman.org/wordies/ You may freely duplicate this page - Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike license.

[Link to Wordies03 Answers](#)

# WICKED WONDERFUL WORDIES 04

Wordies visually represent a word or short phrase, often a saying.  
See how many of these you can figure out.

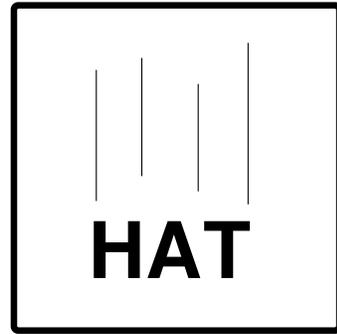
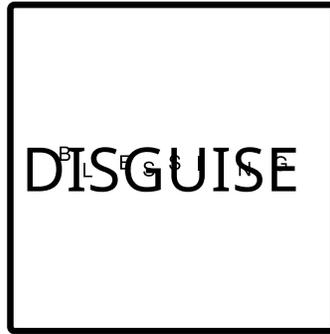
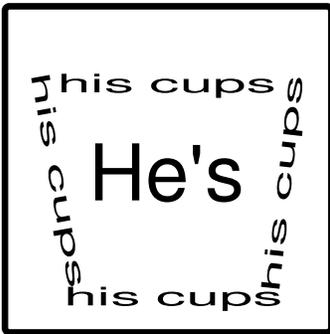
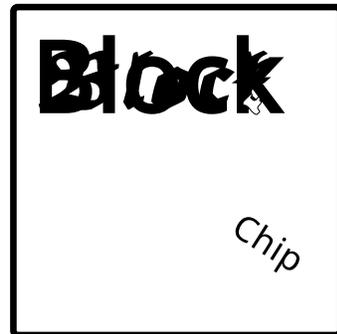
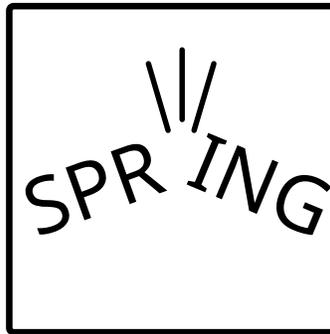
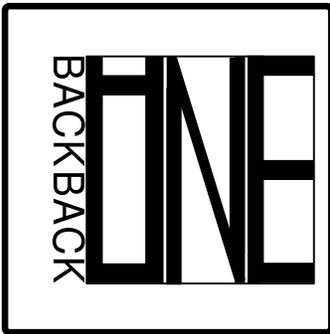
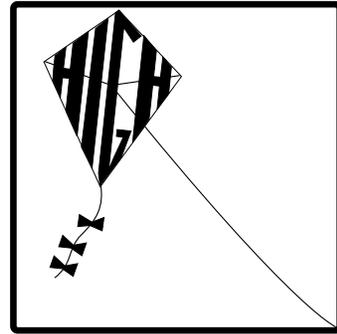
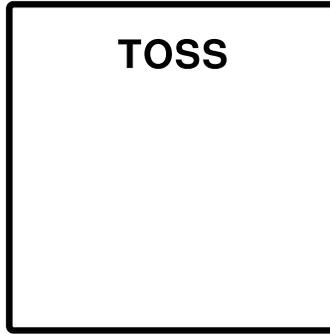


©Algot Runeman 2024 runeman.org/wordies/ You may freely duplicate this page - Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike license.

[Link to Wordies04 Answers](#)

# WICKED WONDERFUL WORDIES 05

Wordies visually represent a word or short phrase, often a saying.  
See how many of these you can figure out.



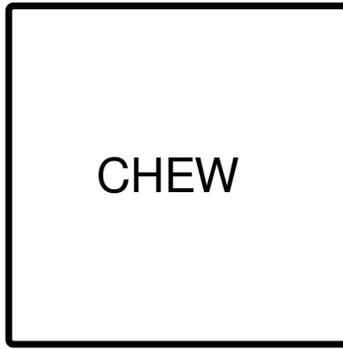
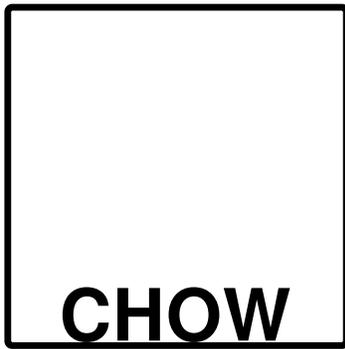
©Algot Runeman 2024 runeman.org/wordies/ You may freely duplicate this page - Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike license.

[Link to Wordies05 Answers](#)

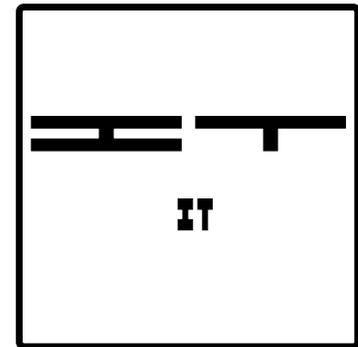
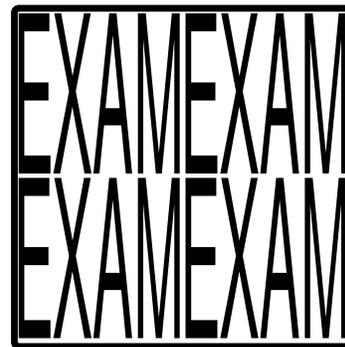
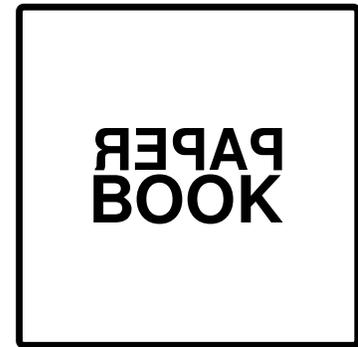
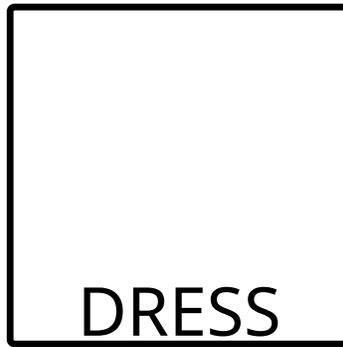
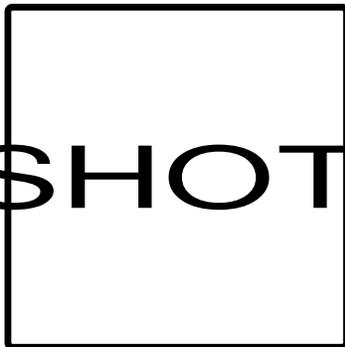
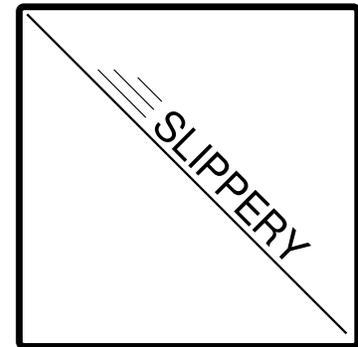


# WICKED WONDERFUL WORDIES 07

Wordies visually represent a word or short phrase, often a saying.  
See how many of these you can figure out.



SOMZOMOS

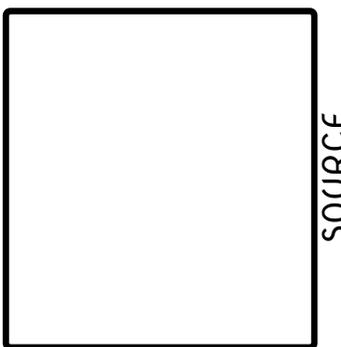
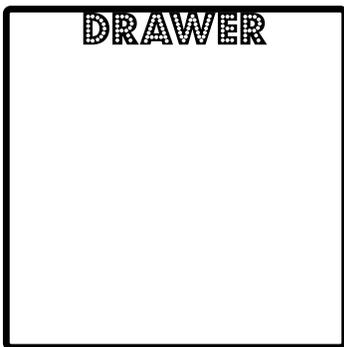
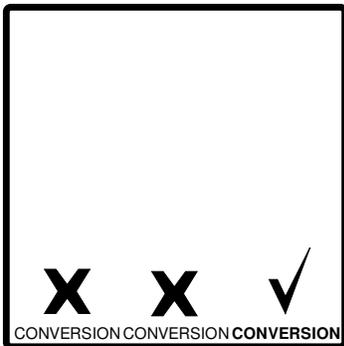
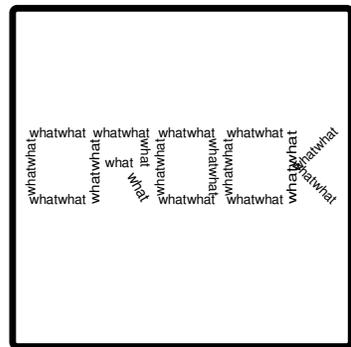
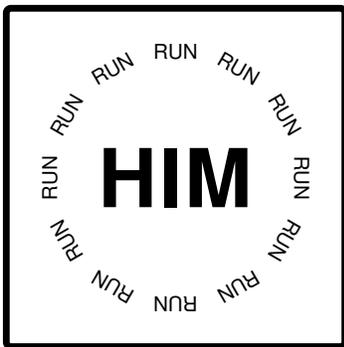
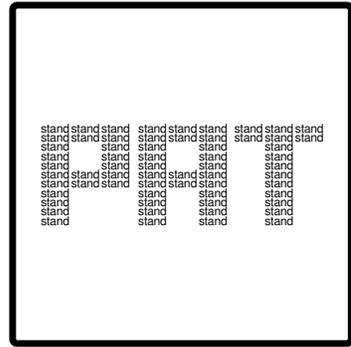
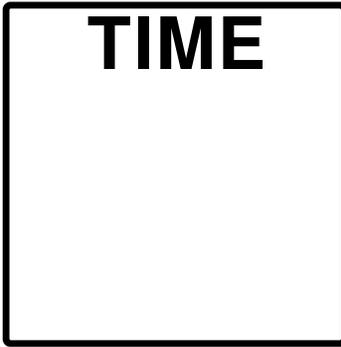
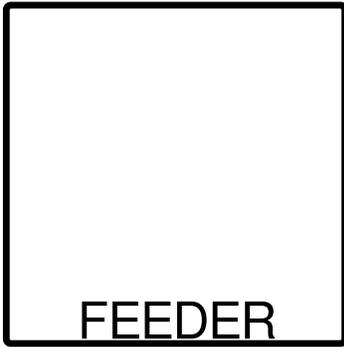


©Algot Runeman 2024 runeman.org/wordies/ You may freely duplicate this page - Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike license.

[Link to Wordies07 Answers](#)

# WICKED WONDERFUL WORDIES 08

Wordies visually represent a word or short phrase, often a saying.  
See how many of these you can figure out.



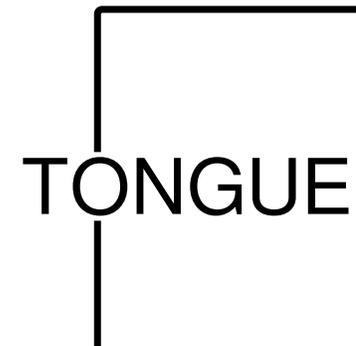
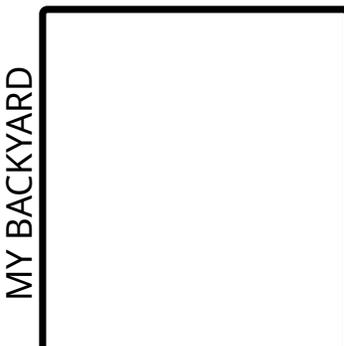
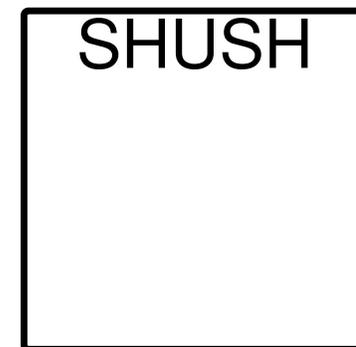
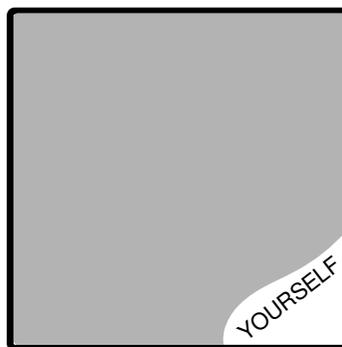
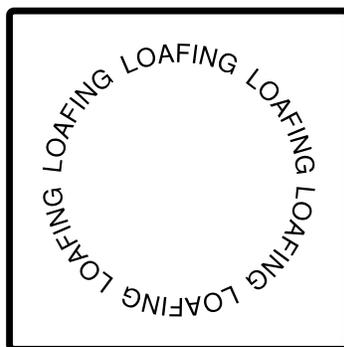
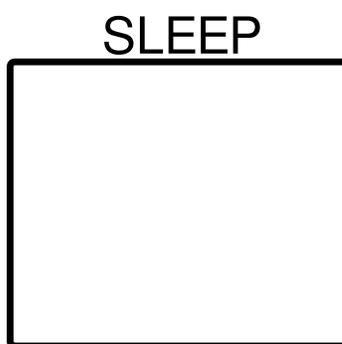
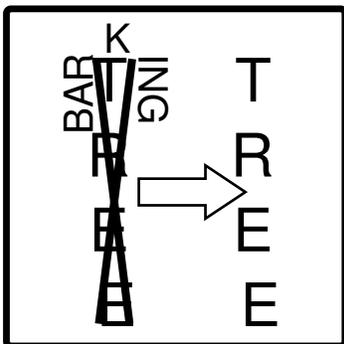
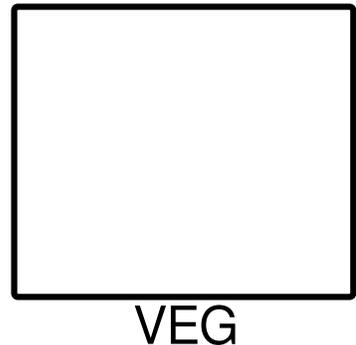
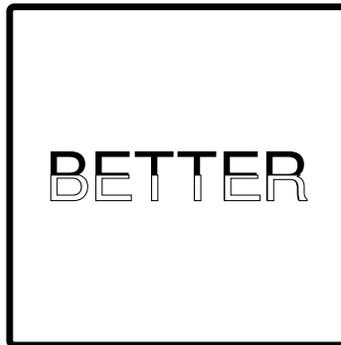
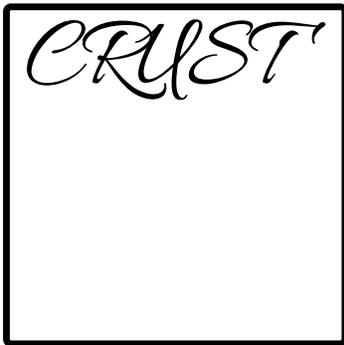
©Algot Runeman 2024 <http://runeman.org/wordies/> You may freely duplicate this page - Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike license.

[Link to Wordies08 Answers](#)

# WICKED WONDERFUL

## WORDIES 09

Wordies visually represent a word or short phrase, often a saying.  
See how many of these you can figure out.

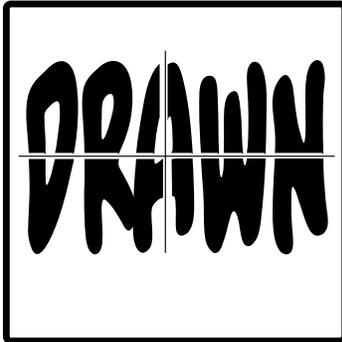


©Algot Runeman 2024 <http://runeman.org/wordies/> You may freely duplicate this page - Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike license.

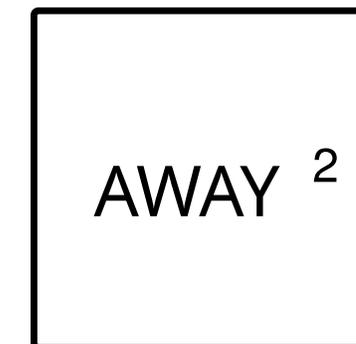
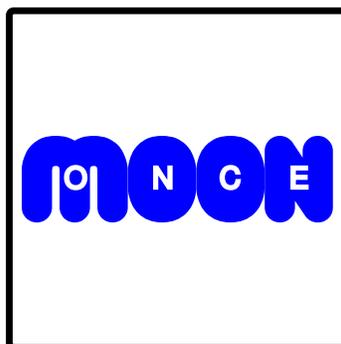
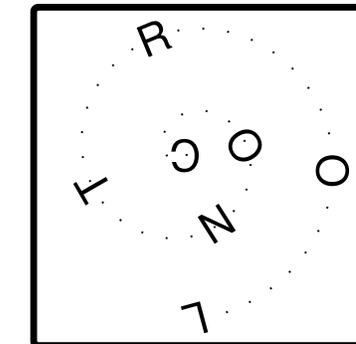
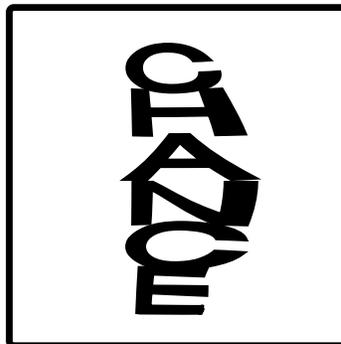
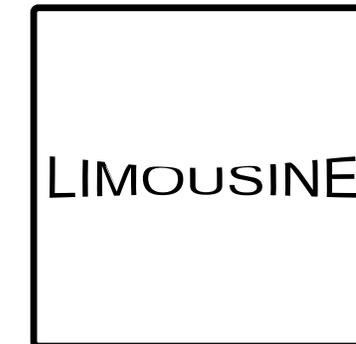
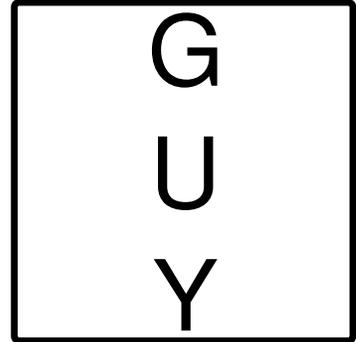
[Link to Wordies09 Answers](#)

# WICKED WONDERFUL WORDIES 10

Wordies visually represent a word or short phrase, often a saying. See how many of these you can figure out.



CARROT

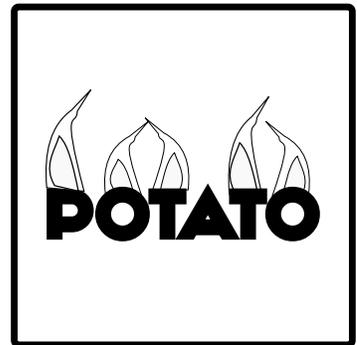
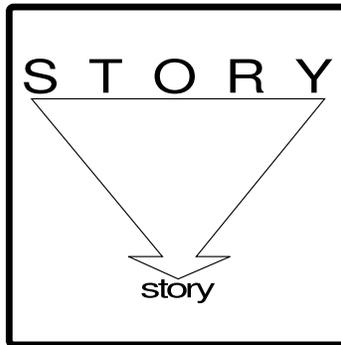
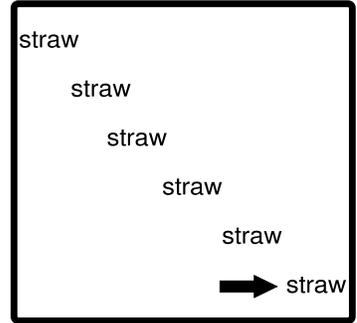


©Algot Runeman 2024 <http://runeman.org/wordies/> You may freely duplicate this page - Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike license.

[Link to Wordies10 Answers](#)

# WICKED WONDERFUL WORDIES 11

Wordies visually represent a short phrase, an idiom or a saying.  
See how many of these you can figure out.

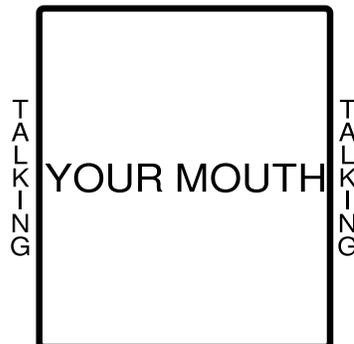
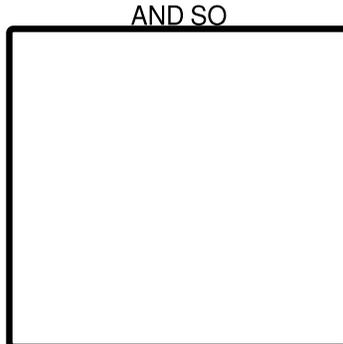
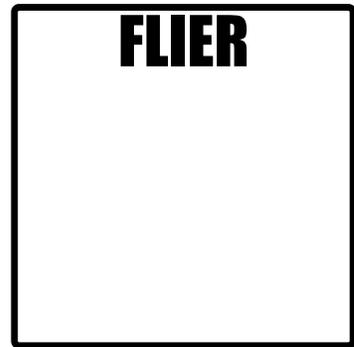
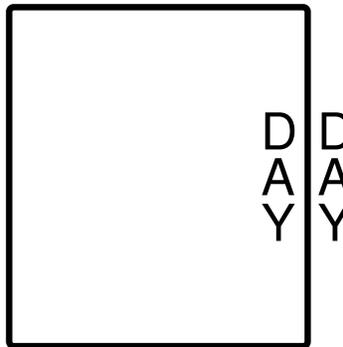
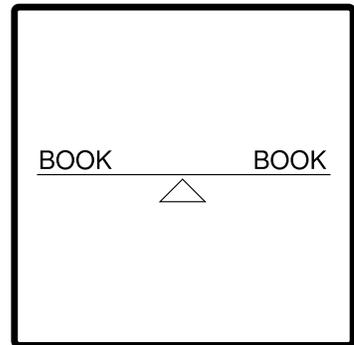
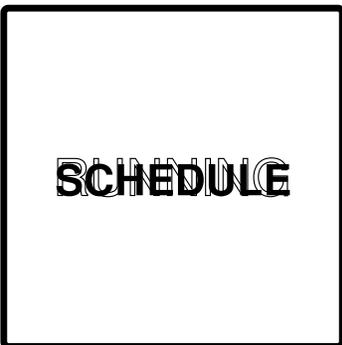
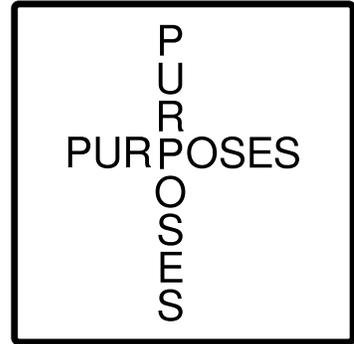
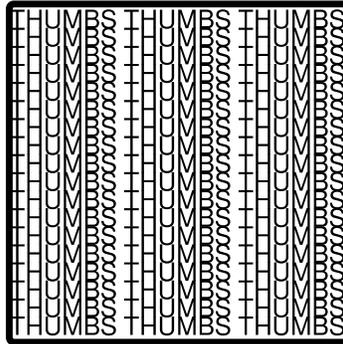
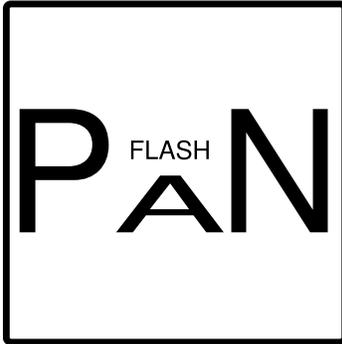


©Algot Runeman 2024 <http://runeman.org/wordies/> You may freely duplicate this page - Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike license.

[Link to Wordies11 Answers](#)

# WICKED WONDERFUL WORDIES 12

Wordies visually represent a word or short phrase, often a saying.  
See how many of these you can figure out.

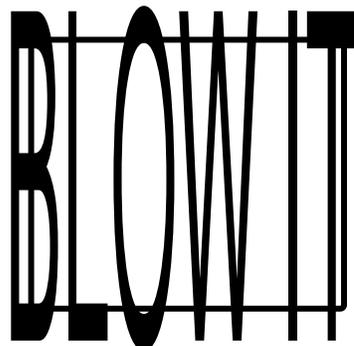
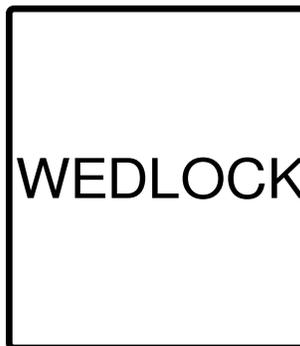
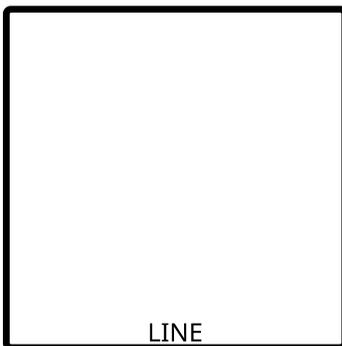
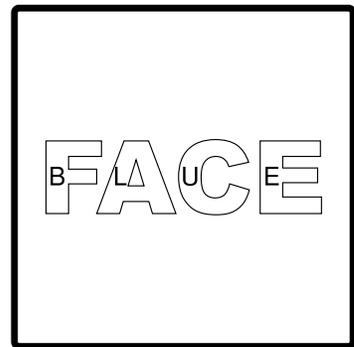
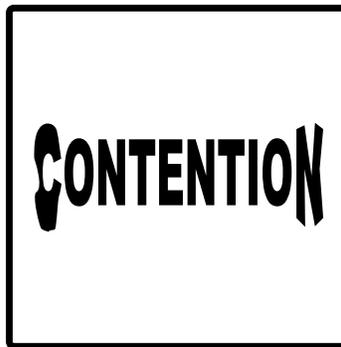
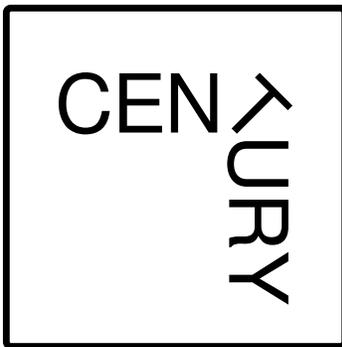
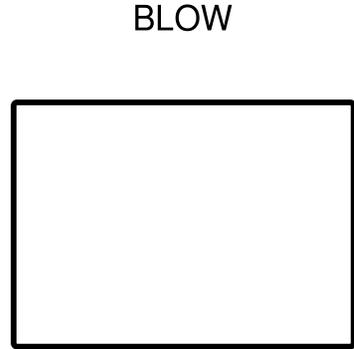
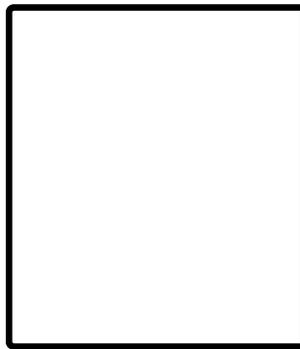
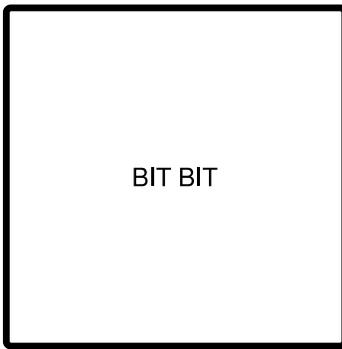
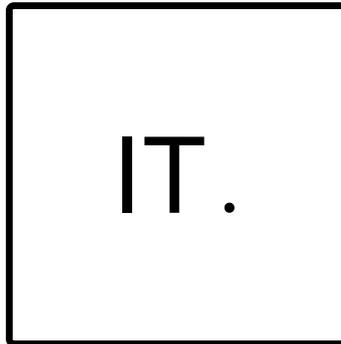
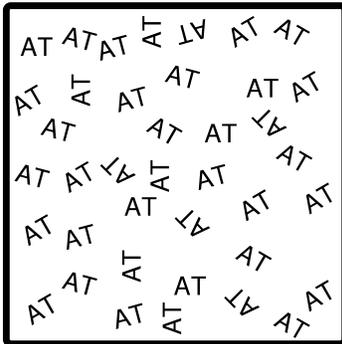


©Algot Runeman 2024 <http://runeman.org/wordies/> You may freely duplicate this page - Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike license.

[Link to Wordies12 Answers](#)

# WICKED WONDERFUL WORDIES 13

Wordies visually represent a short phrase, an idiom or a saying.  
See how many of these you can figure out.

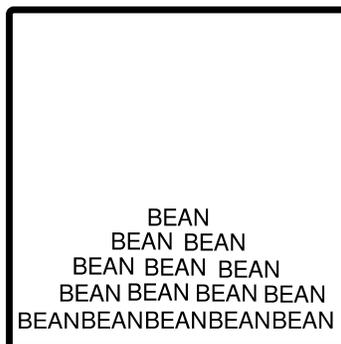
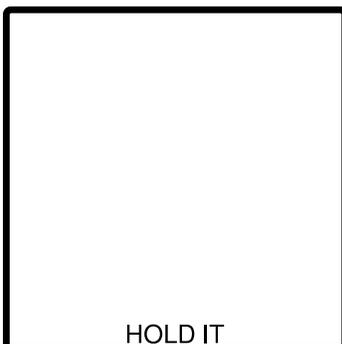
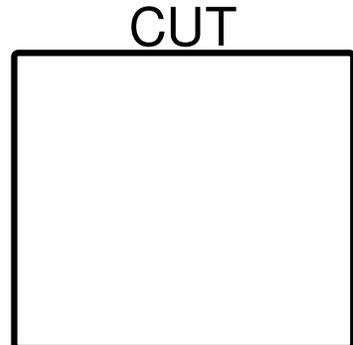
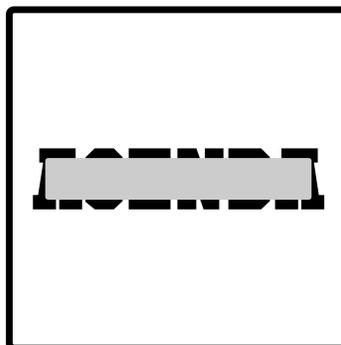
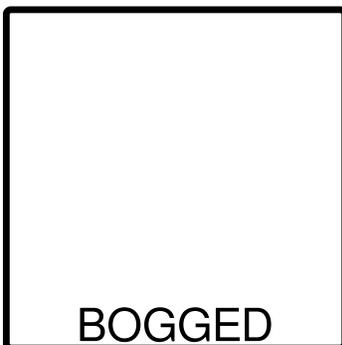
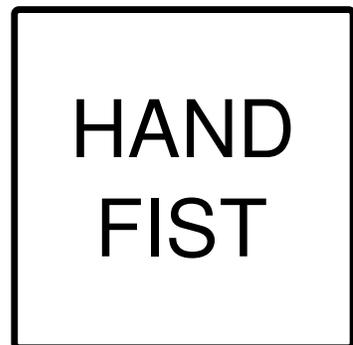
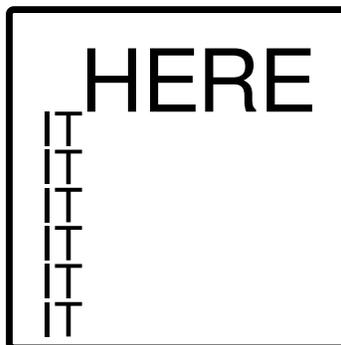
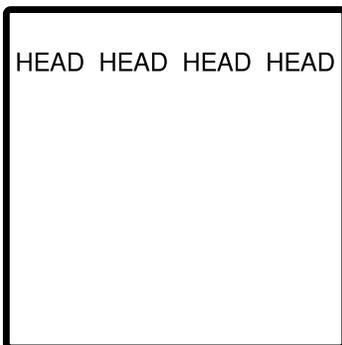
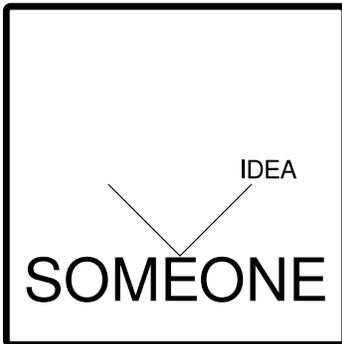


©Algot Runeman 2024 <http://runeman.org/wordies/> You may freely duplicate this page - Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike license.

[Link to Wordies13 Answers](#)

# WICKED WONDERFUL WORDIES 14

Wordies visually represent a short phrase, an idiom or a saying.  
See how many of these you can figure out.

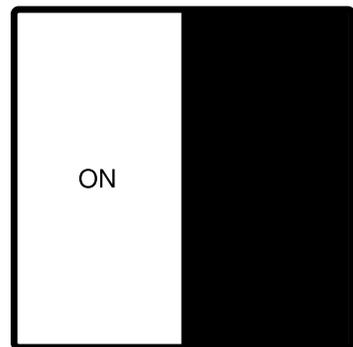
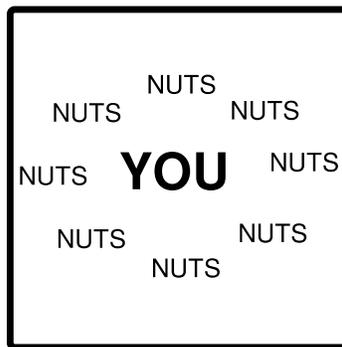
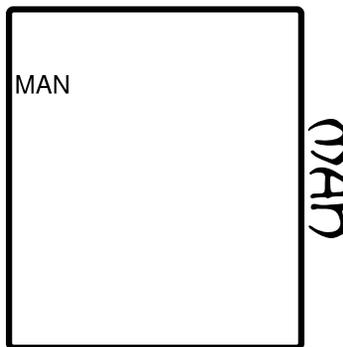
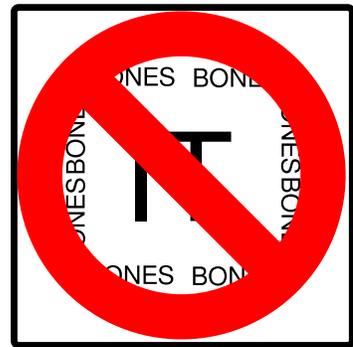
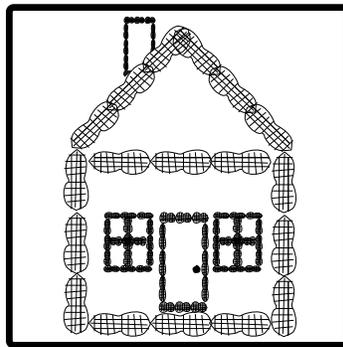
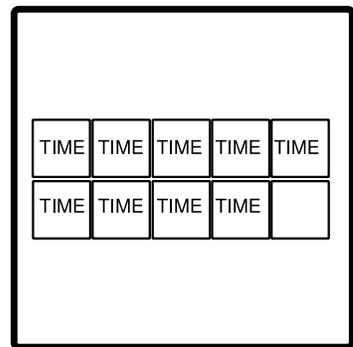
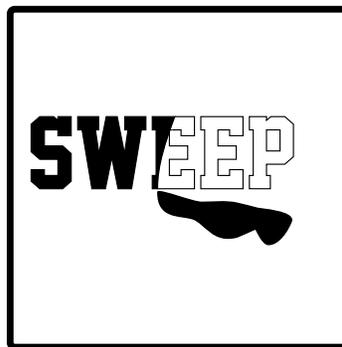
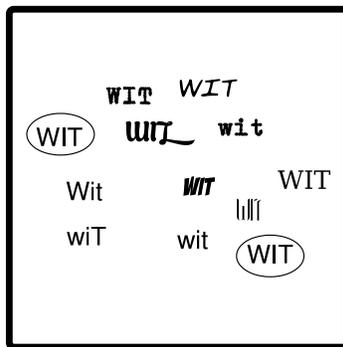
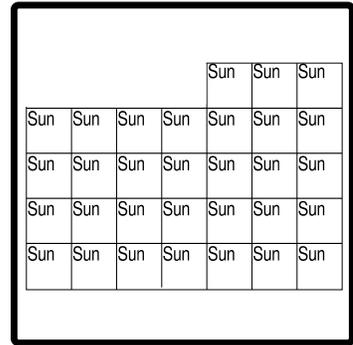
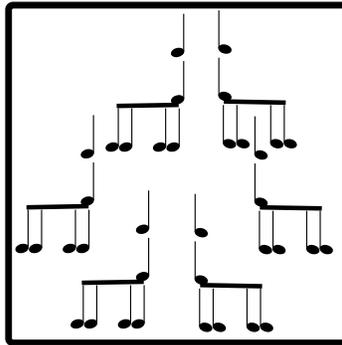
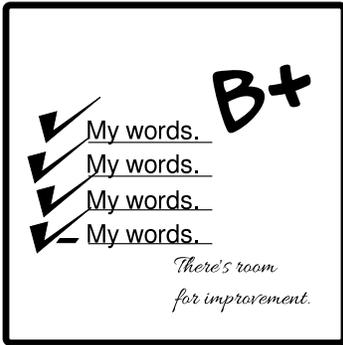


©Algot Runeman 2024 <http://runeman.org/wordies/> You may freely duplicate this page - Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike license.

[Link to Wordies14 Answers](#)

# WICKED WONDERFUL WORDIES 15

Wordies visually represent a word or short phrase, often a saying. See how many of these you can figure out.

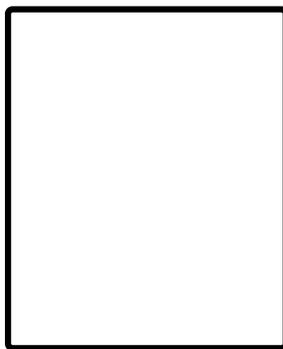
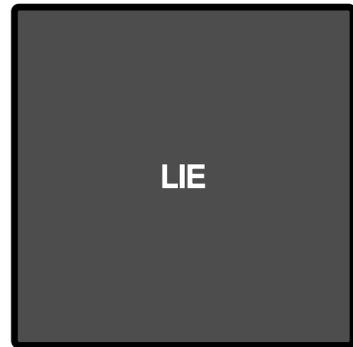
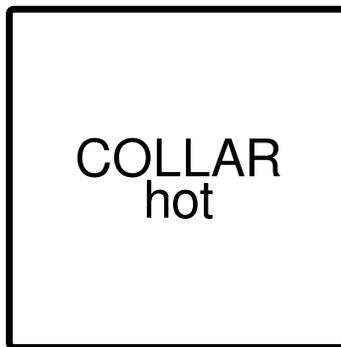
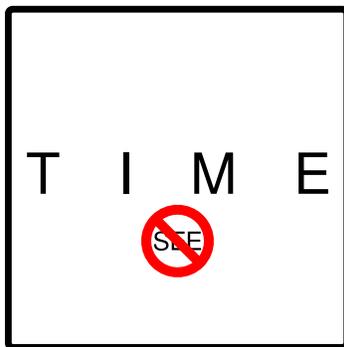
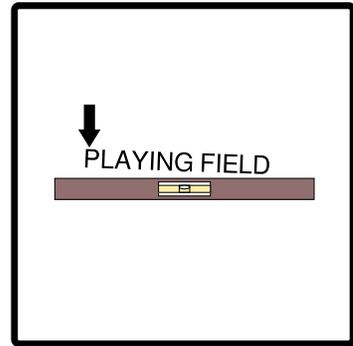
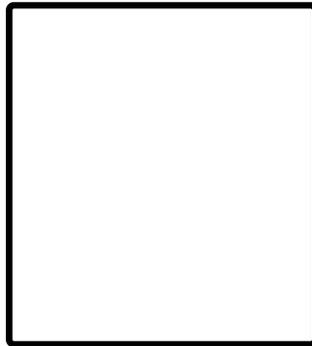


©Algot Runeman 2024 <http://runeman.org/wordies/> You may freely duplicate this page - Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike license.

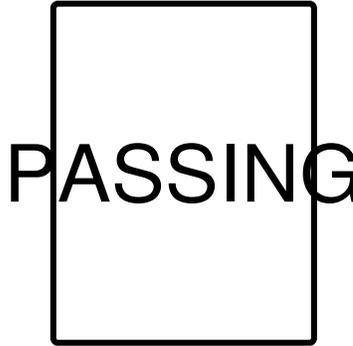
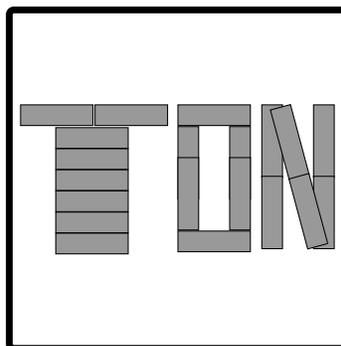
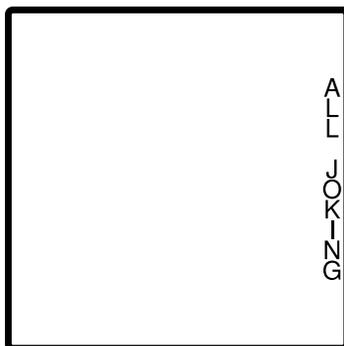
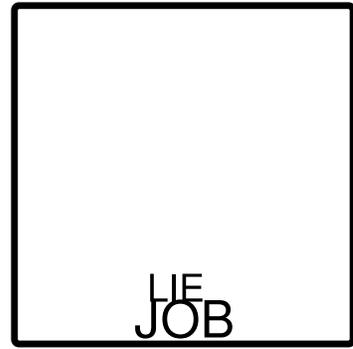
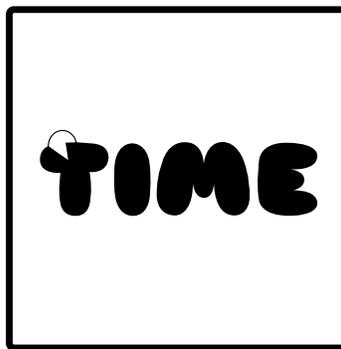
[Link to Wordies15 Answers](#)

# WICKED WONDERFUL WORDIES 16

Wordies visually represent a word or short phrase, often a saying.  
See how many of these you can figure out.



INSIDE

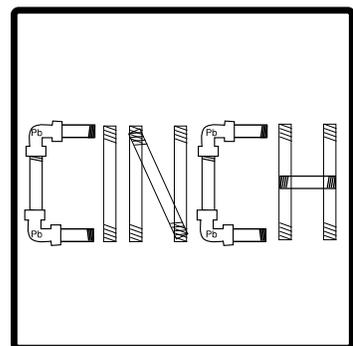
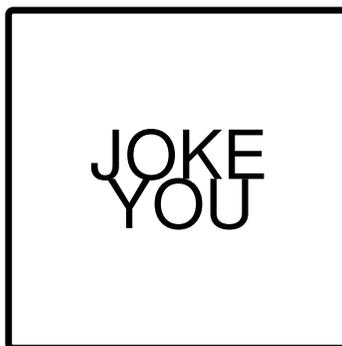
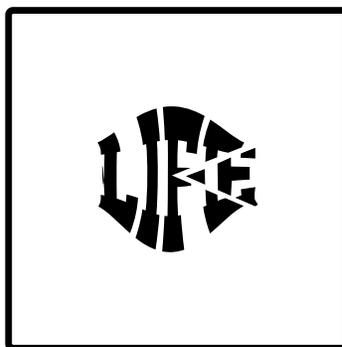
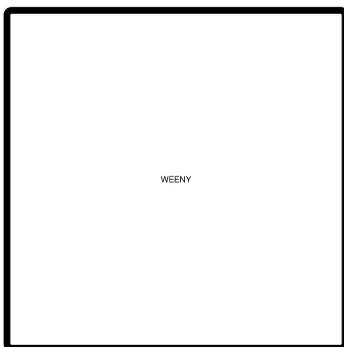
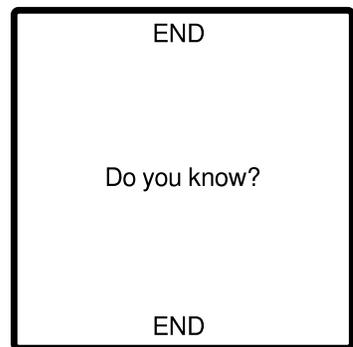
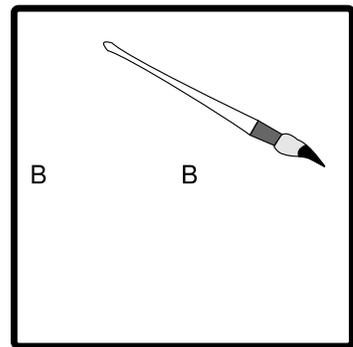
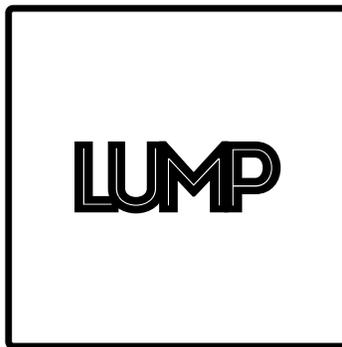
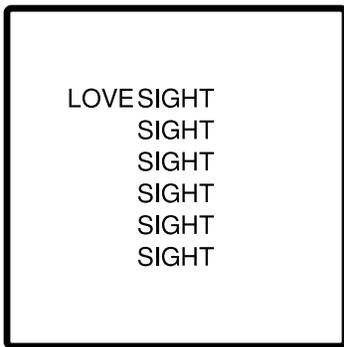


©Algot Runeman 2024 <http://runeman.org/wordies/> You may freely duplicate this page - Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike license.

[Link to Wordies16 Answers](#)

# WICKED WONDERFUL WORDIES 17

Wordies visually represent a word or short phrase, often a saying.  
See how many of these you can figure out.

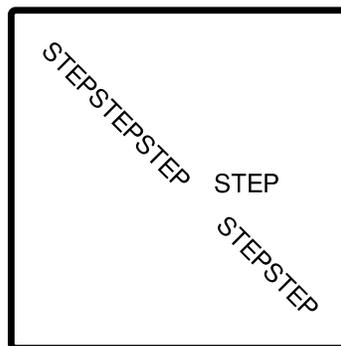
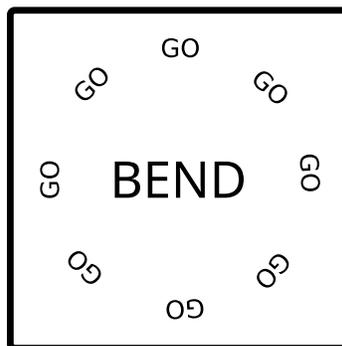
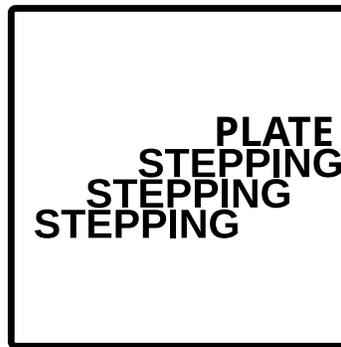
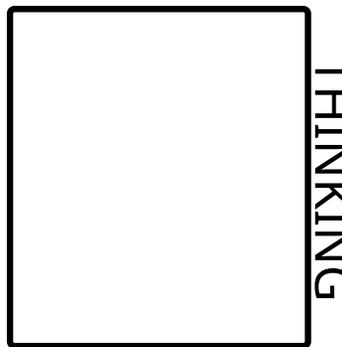
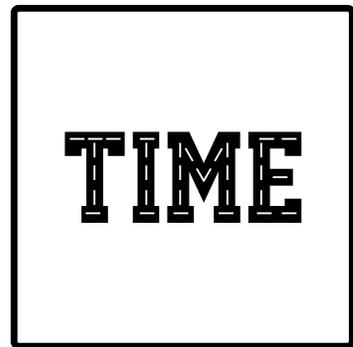
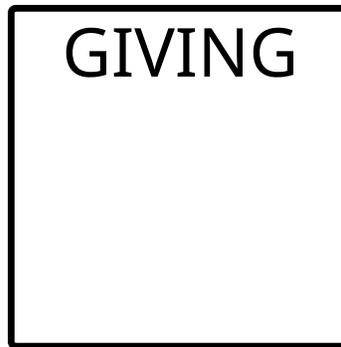
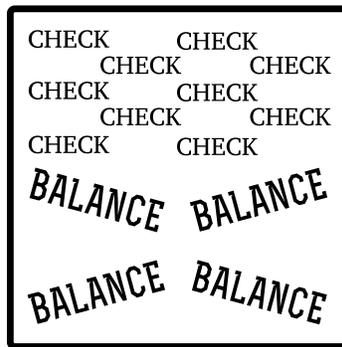


©Algot Runeman 2024 <http://runeman.org/wordies/> You may freely duplicate this page - Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike license.

[Link to Wordies17 Answers](#)

# WICKED WONDERFUL WORDIES 18

Wordies visually represent a word or short phrase, often a saying.  
See how many of these you can figure out.

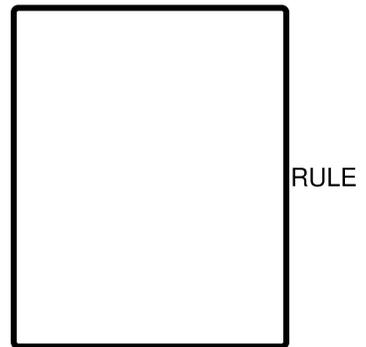
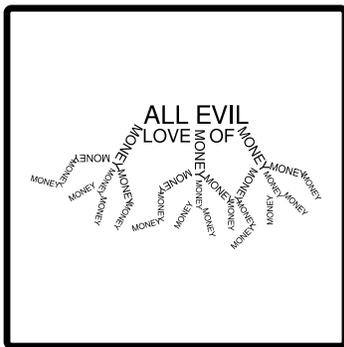
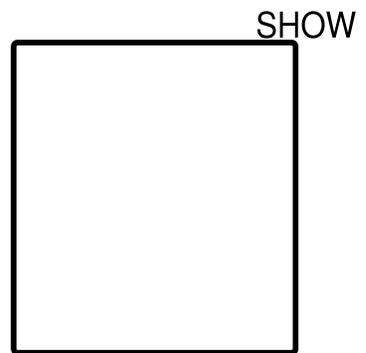
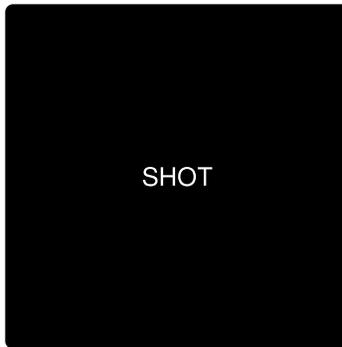
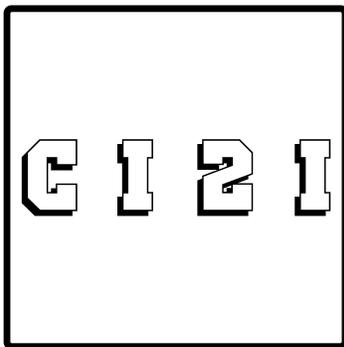
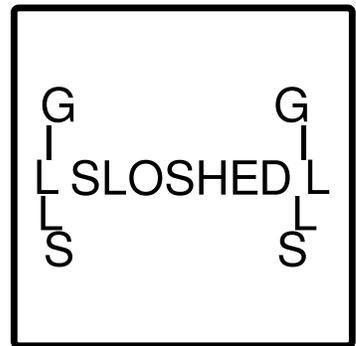
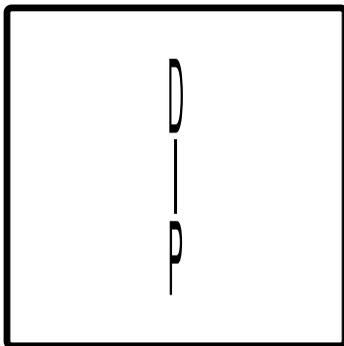
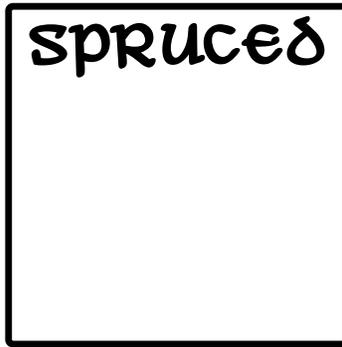
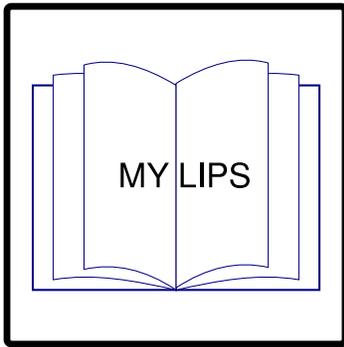


©Algot Runeman 2024 <http://runeman.org/wordies/> You may freely duplicate this page - Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike license.

[Link to Wordies18 Answers](#)

# WICKED WONDERFUL WORDIES 19

Wordies visually represent a word or short phrase, often a saying.  
See how many of these you can figure out.

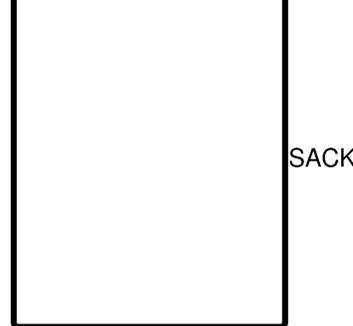
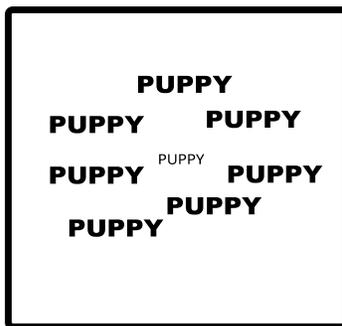
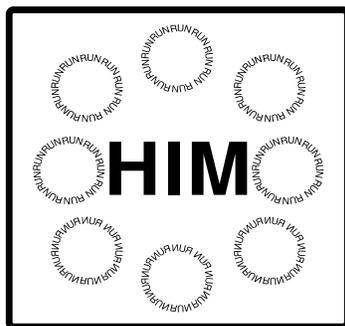
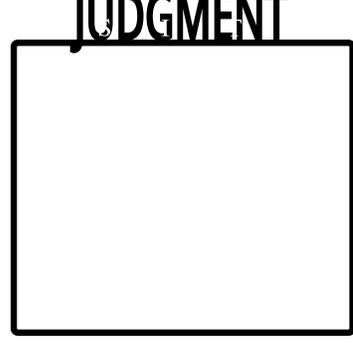
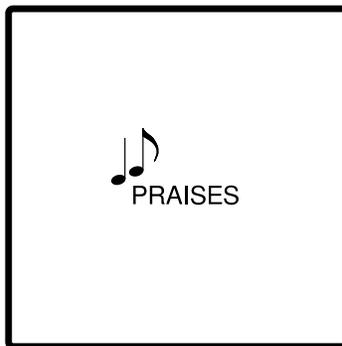
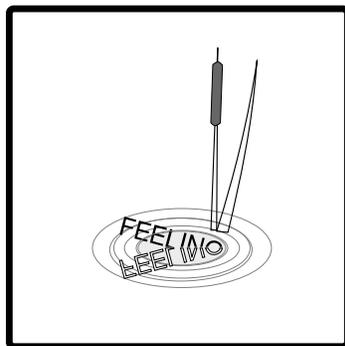
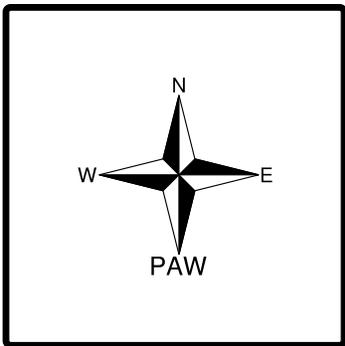
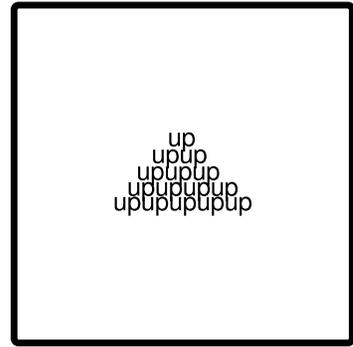
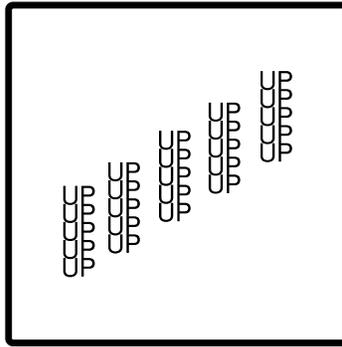


©Algot Runeman 2024 <http://runeman.org/wordies/> You may freely duplicate this page - Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike license.

[Link to Wordies19 Answers](#)

# WICKED WONDERFUL WORDIES 20

Wordies visually represent a word or short phrase, often a saying.  
See how many of these you can figure out.

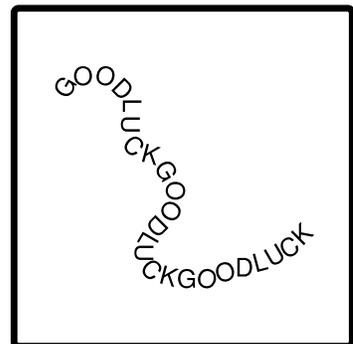
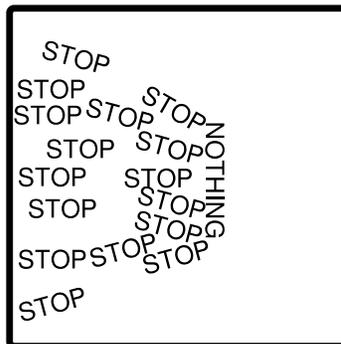
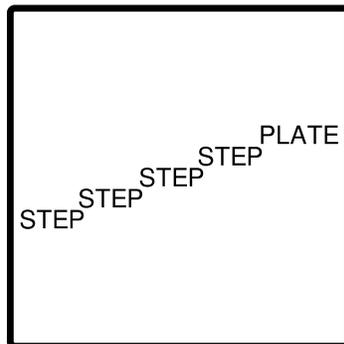
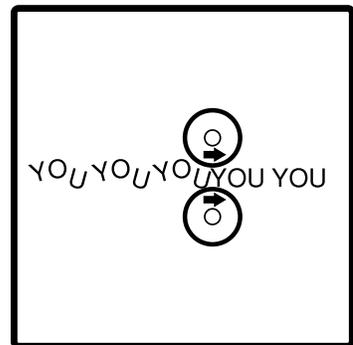
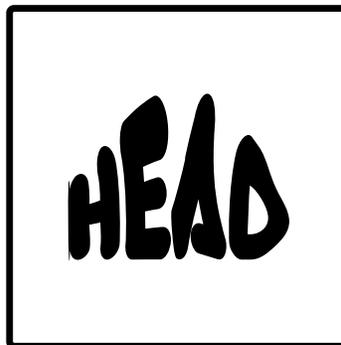
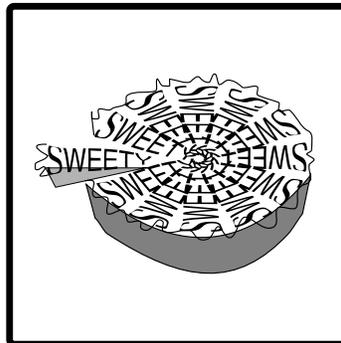
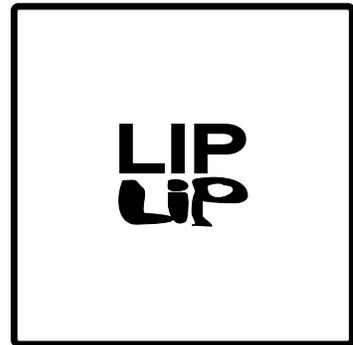
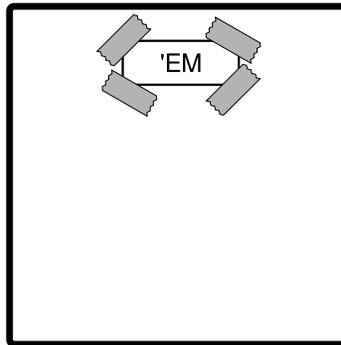
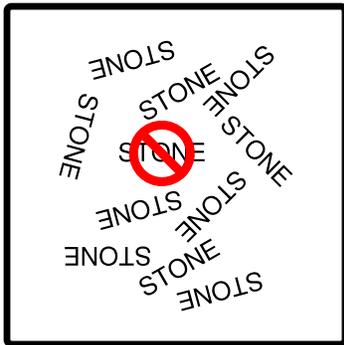


©Algot Runeman 2024 <http://runeman.org/wordies/> You may freely duplicate this page - Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike license.

[Link to Wordies20 Answers](#)

# WICKED WONDERFUL WORDIES 21

Wordies visually represent a word or short phrase, often a saying.  
See how many of these you can figure out.



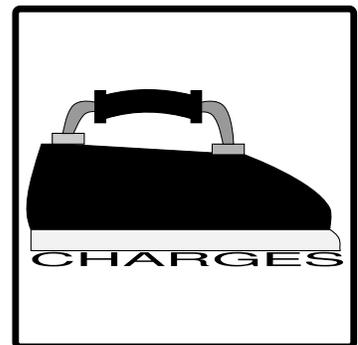
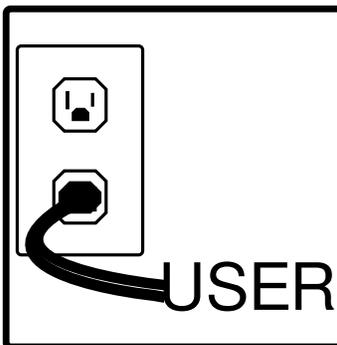
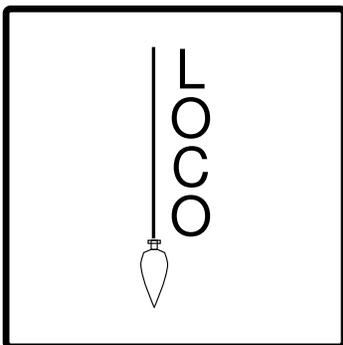
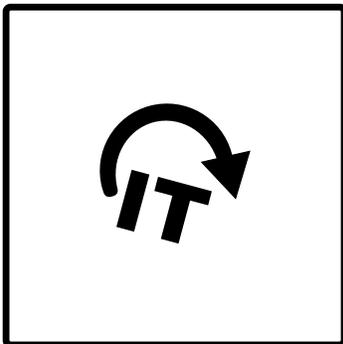
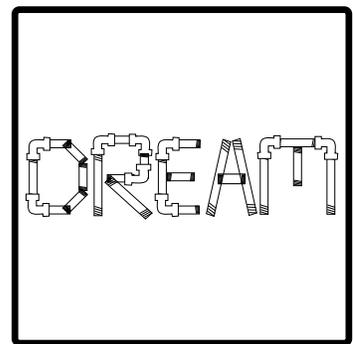
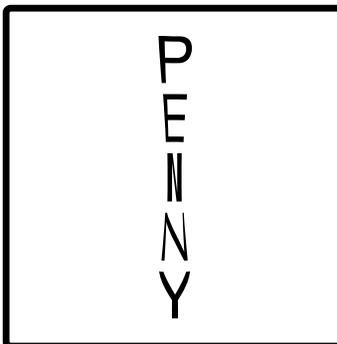
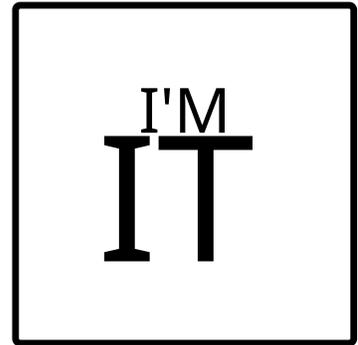
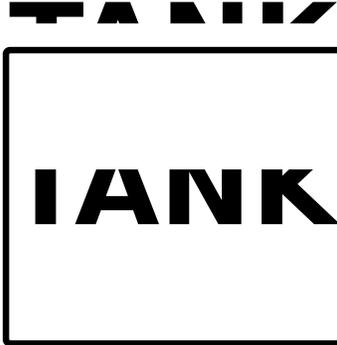
©Algot Runeman 2024 <http://runeman.org/wordies/> You may freely duplicate this page - Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike license.

[Link to Wordies21 Answers](#)



# WICKED WONDERFUL WORDIES 23

Wordies visually represent a word or short phrase, often a saying.  
See how many of these you can figure out.



©Algot Runeman 2024 <http://runeman.org/wordies/> You may freely duplicate this page - Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike license.

[Link to Wordies23 Answers](#)



# Answer Keys

There may well be other interpretations, These are the idioms or common phrases which fit each of the puzzles.

## Wordies01

mind over matter	holy cow	undertaker is the job
narrow escape	seventh inning stretch	split infinitive
dangling modifier	cliff notes	short order cook
clockwise	counter clockwise	snowbunny

## Wordies02

clam up	small fry	small potatoes
tongue in cheek	turn the other cheek	over the top
short end of the stick	piece of cake	high on the hog
slap on the wrist	with bells on	fancy free

## Wordies03

where there's a will, there's a way	holding hands	(take the) sort cut or the long way round?
counterintuitive	under the weather	for sale by owner
get along swimmingly	beating around the bush	breaking the ice
cry over spilled milk	dropping like flies	hands down

## Wordies04

knuckle down	the jig is up	love birds
needle in a haystack	right off the bat	w-w-w
sweeping it under the rug	light at the end of the tunnel	a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush
drop in the bucket	hard as nails	birds of a feather flock together

## Wordies05

chip on the shoulder	a toss up	high as a kite
back to square one	spring break	chip off the old block
he's in his cups	"Right on, Man!"	under the gun
dangerous rip tide	blessing in disguise	at the drop of a hat

## Wordies06

bend over backwards	break a leg	cup of joe
every cloud has a silver lining	get over it	go out on a limb
great minds think alike	fingers crossed	dark horse
break someone up	(have a) gut feeling	green room

## Wordies07

Chow down	Chew someone out	Close but no cigar
Flip the bird (at someone)	Chock full	Slippery slope
A long shot	Dress (someone) down	Paperback book
Cram for an exam	Starry-eyed	The long and the short of it (is)...

## Wordies08

bottom feeder	(time's up) or (it's high time)	stand pat
give him the runaround	don't shoot the messenger	what a crock!
third down conversion	cut rate	after all is said and done
top drawer	outsource	over the hump

## Wordies09

upper crust	my better half	veg out
barking up the wrong tree	a sleepover	jump on the bandwagon
loafing around	paint yourself into a corner	shush up
not in my backyard	breaking bread	stick out your tongue

## Wordies10

drawn and quartered	carrot top (redhead)	(to be a) standup guy
up and coming	fly by night	stretch limousine
hump day	fat chance	spiral out of control
fooling around	once in a blue moon	squared away

## Wordies11

costs an arm and a leg	cut corners	it's the last straw
he's on the ball	the whole nine yards	Take it with a grain of salt
sitting on a fence	making a long story short	hot potato
adding insult to injury	squared away	actions speak louder than words

## Wordies12

a flash in the pan	(to be) all thumbs	at cross purposes
running behind schedule	bend someone's ear	balance the books
(to be) at large	day in, day out	high flier
plain as the nose on your face	and so on	talking out of both sides of your mouth

### Wordies13

at random	it's beside the point	between a rock and a hard place
bit by bit	black out	(it will) blow over
turn of the century	a bone of contention	blue in the face
the bottom line	born out of wedlock	blow it out of proportion

### Wordies14

bounce an idea off someone	a twist of fate	dead in the water
heads up	have it up to here	(making it) hand over fist
bogged down	hidden agenda	a cut above
hold it down!	just a hill of beans	turn over a new leaf

### Wordies15

mark my words	musical chairs	a month of Sundays
match wits	making a clean sweep	nine times out of ten
nuthouse	too much on my plate	no bones about it
odd man out	nuts about you	on the bright side

### Wordies16

in one ear and out the other	look out for number one	level the playing field
long time no see	hot under the collar	little white lie
inside out	in the nick of time	lie down on the job
all joking aside	like a ton of bricks	just passing through

## Wordies17

love at first sight	lump together	making a bee line
in a split second	in full flight	know which end is up
teenie-weanie	slice of life	land on your feet
jumping through hoops	the joke's on you	lead pipe cinch

## Wordies18

stay in line	hands-on learning	wet behind the ears
checks and balances	giving up	stitch in time (saves nine)
thinking outside the box	stepping up to the plate	take it the wrong way
go round the bend	step out of line	take it for a spin

## Wordies19

read my lips	(to be) spruced up	square shooter
skinny dip	slim chance	sloshed to the gills
see eye-to-eye	shot in the dark	show off
the root of all evil	rough going	rule (something) out

## Wordies20

square deal	stack up	pile up
southpaw	split hairs	split second
sinking feeling	sing praises	sit in judgment on
run circles around him	runt of the litter	sack out

## Wordies21

no stone unturned	stick 'em up!	stiff upper lip
stick out your tongue	sweetie pie	Sunday best
tail between his legs	swelled head	straighten you out
step up to the plate	stop at nothing	string of good luck

## Wordies22

staying inside the lines	stand on ceremony	stand and be counted
on the take	split up	spot check
(eggs) over easy	two bits, four bits, six bits, a dollar	six of one, half dozen of the other
put on airs	to see fit	round the clock

## Wordies23

to be on top of it	top off the tank	I'm on it!
pat on the back	penny pincher (pinchpenny)	pipe dream
putting the right spin on it	put you through the mill	don't make waves
plumb loco (crazy)	power user	press charges

## Wordies24

on your deathbed	once upon a time...	out in left field
out for blood	pull the wool over his eyes	knock-on effect
button your lip	round of applause	breaking news
that about sums it up	two birds with one stone	over the top

## Acknowledgments

These puzzles are a kind of wordplay for me. I have enjoyed puns for most of my life. I have even read that puns may be a skill which can indicate an agile mind. Because of that, I encourage you to explore these Wicked Wonderful Wordies and do your best to develop your wordplay skills.

I currently use Inkscape (<http://inkscape.org>) to create and to publish the puzzles. Fonts used in the individual wordies are typically from open-source collections.

The title page font is **Buried Before BB** from <https://blambot.com>, a resource of endless value. Each page heading is **ManlyMen BB** from the same site which is done by Nate Peikos, the comics letterer and font designer who has non-profit licenses for many of his superb fonts.

You don't need any particular software to make your own wordies, of course, but Inkscape is great Free Software (AKA open source), and makes wordie creation easy.

Thanks to Rodolfo for volunteering to give feedback for this book. There are “dozens” of other people who have given feedback and encouragement in the years since I began making and sharing wordies. This compilation comes long after my memory allows me to identify each by name. Thank you all for your inspiration and support.

### *Could there be a sequel?*

Some people would probably say it would be...

