

CROSSWORD PUZZLING

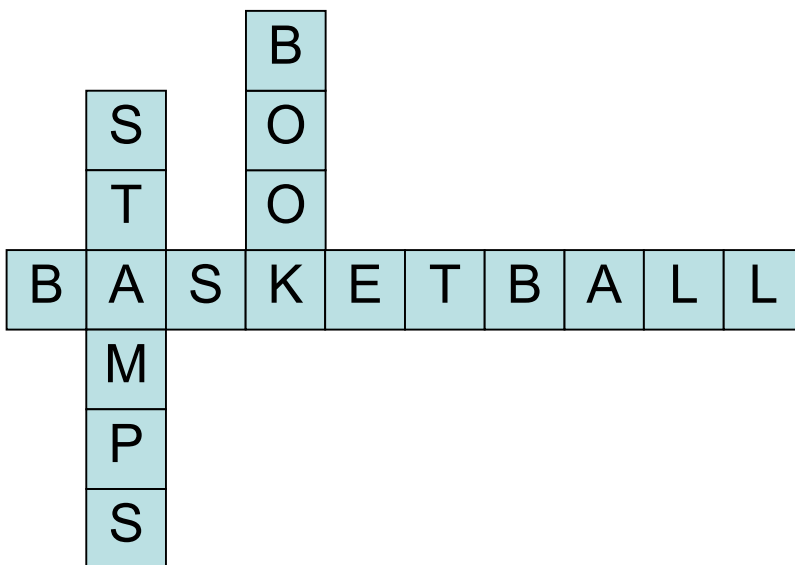
Solving crossword puzzles is fun. But have you ever thought about creating your own? It's not as hard as it looks. To create a good crossword puzzle, first list all the words you want to have in your puzzle. Start with about 20 words. Here's a good list you could use:

chalk	winner	cook
lemonade	yellow	guitar
magic	basketball	book
baseball	America	twinkle
school	stamps	night
stone	lake	mailbox

Now find some graph paper and a pencil with a good eraser. Take the longest word from your list and write it in the middle of the graph paper. Make sure you only write a single letter within each square! And write the word horizontally, like this:

B	A	S	K	E	T	B	A	L	L
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Next, find some other words on your list that have some of the same letters as the first word. Write them in the vertical direction so that they overlap the first word, like this:



Now just keep going! Keep trying to add words from your list. Here's where your eraser will come in handy. Don't be afraid to erase words and try again. And if you think of a word that's not on your list that you could use, that's fine, too. Use the new word and add it to your list.

Eventually, you'll get most of your words to fit together. When you do, you'll be ready to move on to the next step, which is coming up with clues for your crossword puzzle. This is where you can really have some fun. For example, clues for "lemonade" could be "A cool drink" or "Something sold at a stand." A clue for "twinkle" could be "Something stars do." You can also make fill-in-the-blank clues, such as "United States of ____" or "Electric ____." The possibilities are endless!

To match the clues to the words, number the first letter of each word in your crossword puzzle, then number your clues to match. Crossword puzzle numbering

starts at the top of the puzzle and works its way left-to-right down to the bottom.

Congratulations! You've created a crossword puzzle! But before you share your puzzle with your friends, draw an empty grid for them to fill in.

Happy crossword puzzling!