

Inklings

Cluepic

These pictures tell you how to act in an emergency. Can you work out the message?



Breakfast at Chertsey

Australian Red Cross provides a service called **Good Start Breakfast Club™**, with material support from Coles Supermarkets.

It's operated by volunteers, generally within school grounds. It's for children from 5 to 12 years who need a nutritious breakfast. I was recently at the launch of the **Good Start Breakfast Club™** at **Chertsey Primary School** with my personal assistant Nicole Schull. We enjoyed watching the children tucking into muffins, cereals and fruit. Speaking to parents and school staff, we learned that the effects of a good breakfast have been quite noticeable. Children have become more attentive and alert and generally happier.



Latin Pattern

The word **journal** is derived from the Latin *dies day* and yet it doesn't have a single letter in common with it. From the Latin dies (day) it became *diurnus* (of the day) into the Italian *giorno* to the French *jour*. It reminds me of our **Steps puzzle**, where we change a word one letter at a time, to form a very different word at the end.

Who Am I?

I was born at Blackheath, South London in 1950. My poor academic performance as a student was caused by dyslexia, but I had an excellent record in sports.

While still at school I started two business ventures - one growing Christmas trees and another raising budgerigars. They both failed.

At 16, I published a student magazine.

Since then I have been wildly successful in many diverse businesses and am well-known globally for adventure, philanthropy and travel.

One of my nicknames is The Pickle Man.

Who am I?

Wise Or Otherwise?

Not so wise American voters, that is. In 1950, in a senatorial primary election in America, George Smathers, who was running against Claude Pepper, worked at exposing Pepper's secret "vices". Smathers disclosed that Pepper's sister was a "**thespian**" and his brother a "**practicing homo sapiens**". Pepper himself was "**a known extravert**", he "**matriculated**" when he went to college, and he "**practiced celibacy**" before marriage. Apparently rural voters were horrified, and Pepper lost.



News Wordy

Ersatz (pronounced *ass-sats*)

"For the Kremlin's small and harried band of critics, the election is as ersatz a contest as any fought during the Soviet era."

Ersatz is a German word meaning **substitute**, usually of an inferior sort and became widely used during WWII, with substitutes being widely used in place of unavailable items, eg chicory instead of coffee.

Au courant (pronounced *roughly oak-oo-wrong*)

"a return to an old technique that's suddenly very au courant..."

It seems that no fashion review is complete without throwing in a few French terms, and this is no exception. **Au courant** is French for **up-to-date**. It also means well-informed on current affairs.

For more interesting facts and fun with words see **Crossed Wires in Christine's BIG Crossword on sale every month.**



COLOSSUS CROSSWORDS

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Hello!

Some English words cause a great deal of confusion and the **bail/bale** dilemma is a prime example. A tightly bound parcel of hay, cotton or paper, is a **bale**, from an old Germanic word from which we also get the word 'ball'.

To scoop water out of a boat is to **bail** out, and comes from the French **bailler** 'bucket'.

Then there's the **bail** money paid as a guarantee for a released prisoner, which comes from an old French word meaning 'custody', from the Latin **bajulare** 'to bear a burden'. Cricketers will know that the crosspieces on top of the wicket stumps are also **bails**, this time from the Latin **baculum** 'stick or rod'.

To **bail** somebody out of trouble refers to the legal meaning, but when you **bale** out of an aeroplane, it seems that the experts are divided. Does it come from the same **bailing** out of any sort of trouble or is it from the **bale** or bundle that is often thrown from a plane?

Then there's that other tricky pair, **baited** and **bated**. **Bait**

originally meant 'cause to bite' from the Old Norse **beita**.

This word then split into two meanings – one **bait** took an aggressive path to mean 'set dogs on someone' which then became 'persecute'. The other **bait** meant 'feed an animal' which is where we get the fisherman's **bait** and is also used to mean 'enticement'.

Bated, on the other hand, is only ever used in the phrase 'with **bated** breath' and comes from the word 'abated' as in the 'restrained' meaning. It is often incorrectly spelt as '**baited** breath'.



The expression was coined by Shakespeare, who uses it in Merchant of Venice, in which Shylock says to Antonio: "Shall I bend low and in a bondman's key/With **bated** breath and whispering humbleness/Say this/Fair sir, you spit on me on Wednesday last?"

Now I'm **baling** or **bailing** out of this column, awaiting your comments with **bated** breath.

Happy puzzling!

Christine Lovatt

Why not tackle the COLOSSUS TRIVIA CHALLENGE?
At the foot of the Colossus Crosswords you'll find a trivia question. See how many you can score out of 10.

Inklings Answers

Who Am I? – Richard Branson
Cluepic – Stay calm (from steak/arm)

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