60 Easy Crossword Puzzles for ESL

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SAMPLE PAGES

Jeffrey Hill
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If you enjoy doing these crosswords, check out my two printed books of crossword puzzles which are available on Amazon:

And my other PDF e-book with slightly more difficult crosswords, available here:
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Introduction
Crossword puzzles have been around since the beginning of the twentieth century and have been used in language teaching since the 1950s at least. It is easy to see why, since crossword puzzles are not only a fun way to acquire and revise vocabulary (unlike boring word lists!), they also exercise your brain.

As a language teacher myself (at the EM Normandie business school in France), I have created dozens of crossword puzzles for my students over the years, and this collection brings together some of those, as well as many new ones created especially.

Although some people think of crosswords as being a bit old-fashioned, they have kept up with the digital age and many crosswords can now be found on the Internet or in the form of apps. The good news is that all of the crosswords in this collection are available online for free. So whether you're completing the grids using pencil and paper, a keyboard and mouse, or just your fingers on a touchscreen, happy puzzling!

The Puzzles
The puzzles in this collection are suitable for learners at elementary level and above (A2+ on the Common European Framework).

Each puzzle is based on a particular theme, and most, if not all, of the answers are connected with that theme. In all, over 1,000 different words are used, most of which are high-frequency items. And, of course, you'll find a lot more related words used in the clues.

All the puzzles use British-style grids, which have more black squares than their American counterparts. British English (BrE) grammar and spelling is used throughout, except where American English (AmE) is indicated. So, 'travelled', not 'traveled', and 'colour', not 'color', etc.

To access the online version of the crossword, either click on the blue screen icon to the right of the grid at the top, or scan the QR code next to it.

Solutions to the puzzles are given at the end of this PDF e-book, as well as separate word lists for each puzzle, and a global word list featuring all the words used in the puzzles in alphabetical order.

Notes for Learners
If you are not familiar with crossword puzzles, don’t worry — it’s very easy! The aim is to use the clues to find the words you need to fill in the grid. Clues can be either Across (i.e., horizontal) or Down (i.e., vertical). For example, if the clue for 3 down is 'Not married (6)', this means that you are looking for a word with six letters which will fit vertically in the grid with the first letter on the square with the number three in it (the answer is 'single', by the way).

There are three main types of clue used in this collection. We’ve already seen an example of the first one: the definition. Another common type of clue involves filling in a gap. For example, 'Chickens ____ eggs (3)'. Here, you need a three-letter word that will fill the gap in the sentence (the answer is 'lay').

Finally, there are a small number of 'cryptic' clues, just to make you think a bit harder. For example, 'The shortest month?' in the Days, Months, Seasons crossword. Any ideas? The answer is 'May'. Perhaps you were thinking of 'February', which is a good guess, but doesn’t fit as it has too many letters. In fact, May is the shortest month in terms of the number of letters it has!
1. ACTION WORDS

ACROSS
1. To ____ the dishes (4)
2. To ____ a football (4)
5. To ____ a book (4)
7. To ____ an omelette (4)
8. To ____ a bank (3)
9. To ____ a car (4)
11. To ____ a prize (3)
12. To ____ the phone (6)
15. To ____ the bed (3)
18. To ____ a cigarette (5)
19. To ____ a pint of beer (5)
20. To ____ a living (4)
21. To ____ the table (3)

DOWN
1. To ____ TV (5)
3. To ____ your hair (4)
4. To ____ your teeth (5)
6. To ____ a lorry (5)
10. To ____ a marathon (3)
13. To ____ the garden (5)
14. To ____ a bicycle (4)
15. To ____ a letter (5)
16. To ____ a shower (4)
17. To ____ the piano (4)
4. **AMERICA**

**ACROSS**
1. America has 50 of these (6)
4. Microsoft (abbr.) (2)
6. American multinational (abbr.) (2)
8. Iowa has a lot of ____ farms (3)
9. Another term for America (3)
10. ____ Vegas (3)
11. The singer known as 'The King' (5)
13. Employee of 14 Down? (3)
15. New York is known as the ____ Apple (3)
17. The president lives in the ____ House (5)
18. Car maker and 38th president (4)
20. Ten-cent coin (4)
21. Informal word for an American (4)

**DOWN**
1. Famous American department store (5)
2. As American as ____ (5,3)
3. America's national symbol (5)
5. The American flag is known as the ____ and Stripes (5)
7. Home of the American film industry (9)
12. The Statue of ____ (7)
14. Government organization that collects information about other countries (3)
16. Automobile manufacturer (abbr.) (2)
18. Federal police department (abbr.) (3)
19. President assassinated in 1963 (abbr.) (3)
6. ANIMALS

ACROSS

3 An adult male cow (4)
5 Grizzly, polar or teddy? (4)
6 Small animal with long ears and soft fur (6)
7 Peter and the ____ (children’s story) (4)
8 Animal kept by farmers for its wool or meat (5)
11 Salmon or cod, for example (4)
12 The internet’s most popular animal (3)
13 It goes ‘quack’ and likes ponds (4)
15 An amphibian with long back legs (4)
16 The world’s largest mammal (5)

DOWN

1 It gives us honey (3)
2 A large animal with a very long neck (7)
3 Animal covered in feathers, with two wings for flying (4)
4 The plural of ‘mouse’ (4)
8 A danger to swimmers and surfers (5)
9 America’s national symbol (5)
10 A young dog (5)
12 A young cow (4)
13 Man’s best friend (3)
14 Animal kept by farmers for its milk or meat (3)
8. Body

ACROSS
1  The front part of your head (4)
4  Your body is covered in this (4)
5  The upper front part of your body (5)
7  It joins the head to the rest of the body (4)
10  The middle part of the body (5)
11  The part in the middle of your leg, where it bends (4)
12  You use this for tasting and speaking (6)
16  One of the five senses (5)
19  You have a big one and a little one on each foot (3)
20  An adult usually has 32 of these (5)
21  Excuse me for not speaking clearly, I’ve got a ____ in my throat (4)

DOWN
1  The part of your body at the end of your leg (4)
2  The bottom part of your face, below your mouth (4)
3  You can only see this part of your body in a mirror (4)
4  A blind person cannot ____ (3)
6  One of the five senses (5)
8  Body part used for seeing (3)
9  Fingers are the long thin parts on the ____ of your hand (3)
12  Hard white object inside your mouth used for biting and chewing (5)
13  Body part used for smelling and breathing (4)
14  Plural form of 1 Down (4)
15  One part of the skeleton (4)
17  Body part used for hearing (3)
18  Body part used for standing, walking, running, etc. (3)
Solutions

1. ACTION WORDS

|---------------|----------|-------------|-----|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|

2. ADVERBS

|----------|---------|------|-----|----------|-----|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|---|-------|-------|------|

3. AGRICULTURE

|----------|-------|-----|------|---|-----|----|-------|---|-----|-----|-----|---|---|-----|-----|---|-------|------|

4. AMERICA

|----------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-------|--------|---|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|---|-------|------|-----|

5. AMERICAN ENGLISH

|---------|--------|-----|-----|-----|----------|---------|--------|-------|---------|--------|------|-----|-----|-------|---------|

6. ANIMALS

|-------|-----|--------|----|-----|----|-------|---------|----|-----|--------|--------|-------|----|-----|-------|-------|-----|

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### Word Lists (by puzzle)

#### 1. ACTION WORDS
- abroad (6)
- almost (6)
- always (6)
- outside (7)
- sometimes (9)
- Elvis (5)
- Sears (5)
- stars (5)
- White (5)
- states (6)
- Liberty (7)
- Hollywood (9)
- fish (4)
- frog (4)
- mice (4)
- wolf (4)
- eagle (5)
- puppy (5)
- shark (5)
- sheep (5)
- whale (5)
- rabbit (6)
- giraffe (7)

#### 2. ADVERBS
- up (2)
- ago (3)
- bad (3)
- far (3)
- too (3)
- hard (4)
- here (4)
- late (4)
- left (4)
- more (4)
- soon (4)
- very (4)
- least (5)
- never (5)
- often (5)
- there (5)
- worst (5)

#### 3. AGRICULTURE
- hay (3)
- pig (3)
- sow (3)
- crop (4)
- lamb (4)
- land (4)
- milk (4)
- pork (4)
- rams (4)
- field (5)
- flock (5)
- grows (5)
- horse (5)
- plant (5)
- wheat (5)
- farmer (6)
- tractor (7)
- shepherd (8)

#### 4. AMERICA
- GE (2)
- GM (2)
- MS (2)
- Big (3)
- CIA (3)
- FBI (3)
- JFK (3)
- Las (3)
- pig (3)
- spy (3)
- USA (3)
- dime (4)
- Ford (4)
- yank (4)
- apple pie (5,3)
- eagle (5)

#### 5. AMERICAN ENGLISH
- ma (2)
- pa (2)
- yo (2)
- cab (3)
- gas (3)
- guy (3)
- pal (3)
- yay (3)
- line (4)
- mail (4)
- math (4)
- yard (4)
- candy (5)
- check (5)
- pants (5)
- purse (5)
- truck (5)
- faucet (5)
- subway (6)
- freeway (7)
- realtor (7)
- apartment (9)

#### 6. ANIMALS
- bee (3)
- cat (3)
- cow (3)
- dog (3)
- bear (4)
- bird (4)
- bull (4)
- calf (4)
- duck (4)

#### 7. AUSTRALIA
- emu (3)
- pub (3)
- Cook (4)
- poms (4)
- reef (4)
- dingo (5)
- Opera (5)
- Perth (5)
- rugby (5)
- Aussie (6)
- sharks (6)
- Sydney (6)
- cricket (7)
- Brisbane (8)
- boomerang (9)
- crocodile (9)

#### 8. BODY
- ear (3)
- end (3)
- eye (3)
- leg (3)
- see (3)
- toe (3)
- back (4)
- bone (4)
- chin (4)
- face (4)
- feet (4)
- foot (4)