

Word Pairs, Triples, and More – In Order
Uncle Bob

“ You and I are just like a couple of tots...” -
from “You Make Me Feel So Young,” Myrow and Gordon (1946)

Well, it wouldn't be “I and you,” would it? This page's quizzes make use of pairs of words – nouns in particular – that are often, or almost exclusively, used in a fixed order. Are you a people person, among the many we would not ordinarily refer to as person people? Can you put the cart before, or after, the horse in the following word pair challenges?

We couldn't stop there: You'll be challenged to make “orderly” groups of three or more in a chain connecting orderly pairs. Can you get your ducks in a row? A pair o' ducks, anyway?

Solutions can be found on page 3.

Part 1. Before or After?

Find a noun partner for each given noun from the pool below. Each pool member must be used once. Example: cable? Possible pair: cable television.

1. economy 2. water 3. job 4. back 5. event 6. army

The Pool: weekend, supply, recruit, pain, seat, media

Part 2. Make Pairs

Make ten ordered pairs from the pool below. Example pair: duck blind. In any complete solution each pool word will be used once.

The Pool:

walk, information, bank, eye, love,
language, affairs, play, fire, office,
law, overload, nature, barrier, exam,
world, data, power, puppy, safety

Part 3. Connect Three

Find a word to connect and complete two ordered pairs.

Example: extended ___ matters. Solution: extended family, family matters.

[No pool for this section. The first triple uses a compound word.]

1. yard ___ brain
2. blank ___ circus

3. garden ___ show
4. home ___ studio
5. position ___ tiger
6. end ___ line

Part 4. Make Eight Ordered Triples

From the pool below connect noun pairs in a chain of three. Although there may be multiple possibilities for a given triple, any complete solution will use each word in the pool once.

Example triple: camping equipment, equipment manager

The Pool:

player, patent, oven, pea, piano, fishing,
role, soup, record, participation, cameo, fly,
desk, captive, medicine, headline, playing, expedition,
audience, man, rack, convection, news, bowl

Part 5. Connect Longer Chains

Cautions: Chain #9 uses a compound noun. Although there may be multiple possibilities for a given chain, any complete solution will use each word in the pool once.

Example: sin, ___, ___, ___, ___, crackers would be
sin, city, block, party, animal, crackers.

1. sidewalk, ___, ___, lesson
2. country, ___, ___, scale
3. meat, ___, ___, number,
4. washing, ___, ___, ___, ___, appreciation
5. throat, ___, ___, ___, theory
6. math, ___, ___, ___, relations
7. sound, ___, ___, knocks
8. horror, ___, ___, ___, turkey
9. nerve, ___, ___, ___, captain

The Pool:

house, book, pet, child, room, light,
road, sheet, story, locker, gas, talk,
art, day, industry, labor, clearing, bed,
history, opportunity, music, problem, map, investment

Helpful resources for this article:

from [Ken Paterson](#)

from talkenglish.com

Solutions

Part 1. Before or After?

1. economy seat 2. water supply 3. weekend job 4. back pain 5. media event 6. army recruit

Part 2. Make Pairs

world affairs, information overload, data bank, law office, power play, puppy love, nature walk, fire safety, language barrier, eye exam

Part 3. Connect Three

1. yardbird, bird brain
2. blank media, media circus
3. garden variety, variety show
4. home movie, movie studio
5. position paper, paper tiger
6. end goal, goal line

Part 4. Make Eight Ordered Triples

fly fishing expedition, patent medicine man, cameo role playing, pea soup bowl, convection oven rack, record player piano, headline news desk, captive audience participation

Part 5. Connect Longer Chains

1. sidewalk, art, history, lesson
2. country, road, map, scale
3. meat, locker, room, number,
4. washing, day, bed, sheet, music, appreciation
5. throat, clearing, house, pet, theory
6. math, problem, child, labor, relations
7. sound, investment, opportunity, knocks
8. horror, story, book, talk, turkey
9. nerve, gas, light, industry, captain [gaslight is the compound word]