



## 1. Name of the tool/ Link

Puzzle maker: [https://www.puzzle-maker.com/crossword\\_Design.cgi](https://www.puzzle-maker.com/crossword_Design.cgi)

## 2. Short description of the tool

Crosswords are generally used for entertainment but can also be used for teaching purposes.

Puzzle maker is a popular online crossword puzzle generator that is extensively used in educational context because of its didactic potential. It actively involves the learner in the learning process and can supplement learners' reading work while working on a particular topic. Language teachers can utilize this tool to motivate learners to recall and relate prior knowledge to similar situations or new ideas, help learners to practise new terminology and improve vocabulary skills, or serve just as a vocabulary assessment tool.

Additionally, puzzle maker has potential to allow users to practice and improve spelling, because each word has to be spelled out correctly letter-by letter, otherwise misspelling/typos will impact the rest of the puzzle. Crosswords can be centred on a theme where the words can be related to one another or part of a semantic set. This supports learning new vocabulary within a specific context.

## 3. Which language competences can be developed with the help of this tool?

- Vocabulary range
- Orthographic control
- Adapting language
- Linking to previous knowledge

## 4. The requirements concerning the tool

**Puzzle maker** can be used as a free service by language teachers, with no registration and no specific software required (only an internet connection).

The tool allows for design of paper-based crossword puzzles where the output must be printed and then the answers entered by learners. The length of the crossword is adjustable and space for additional answers and questions can be expanded.

## 5. Language of the tool

The default language for the tool is English. However, one can design crosswords in different languages, even if the alphabet in the target language has special characters, e.g. Umlaut for German, acute accent for French or Spanish or kreska for Polish.

## 6. Suggested language level (A1-C2)

A1  A2  B1  B2  C1  C2



## 7. What competences from DigCompEdu Framework does the tool develop?

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 2. Digital Resources                         | 2.2 Creating and modifying   |
| 3. Teaching and Learning                     | 3.1 Teaching                 |
| 4. Assessment                                | 4.1 Assessment strategies    |
| 6. Facilitating Learners' Digital Competence | 6.3 Digital content creation |

## 8. How can the tool be used by teachers/learners?

Puzzle maker can be used by language teachers to generate worksheets to:

- Create learning situations where new knowledge is associated to what is already known.
- Deepen vocabulary learning as it requires learners to compare ideas and purpose.
- Match synonyms-exercises for higher proficiency levels.
- Introduce new vocabulary and refer to semantic characteristics.
- Assess spelling.
- Engage learners in content creation activities and encourage them to create vocabulary revision exercises for their peers.

## 9. Case study – example

1. Type the title and subtitle of the task in the boxes.

**Make your crossword puzzle here**

<b>Instructions:</b> Start each line with an answer word, then type a slash "/" character, then the clue. Press the Enter key after each clue. Your clues can be as long as you want. <input type="button" value="More..."/>	<b>Example:</b> Delaware / The first state. Rhode Island / The only state with two unique words in its name. Hawaii / A true island state.
Title <input type="text"/>	Subtitle <input type="text"/>

2. Start each line with the answer word (which will be the word guessed), then type a slash character ( / ), followed by the clue or question - please note that this order has to be respected.
- Answer left / clue or questions right.



- Press the Enter key once or twice to signal the end of the clue and start the next line. Do not number your entries.

### Make your crossword puzzle here

#### Instructions:

Start each line with an answer word, then type a slash "/" character, then the clue. Press the Enter key after each clue. Your clues can be as long as you want. [More...](#)

#### Example:

Delaware / The first state.  
Rhode Island / The only state with two unique words in its name.

#### Title

Professions & Occupations

#### Subtitle

Find appropriate crossword clue answers

#### Enter your words & clues here.

Then click [Create Puzzle](#)

Answer word(s) first, a slash, then clue. e.g.: water / Drink this daily ↵ Enter

Accountant / a person that works with the money and accounts of a company.  
 Architect / a person that design building and houses.  
 Baker / They make bread and cakes and normally work in a bakery.  
 Dentist / a person that can fix problems you have with your teeth.  
 Electrician / a person that makes new reports in writing or through television.  
 Lawyer / a person that defends people in court and gives legal advice.  
 Fisherman / a person you go to see when you are ill or hace some type of health problem.  
 Farmer / a person that works on a farm, usually with animals.  
 Judge / a qualified person that decides cases in a law court.  
 Librarian / a person that works in a library.  
 Florist / a person that works with flowers.  
 Designer / a person who has the job of designing things.  
 Fireman / a person hat puts out fires.

- On the next page, in the upper left-hand corner, you have the option to integrate a list of answer words into the worksheet to facilitate the task.

## Preview Solution Page

Hover mouse here to see answer key.

## Options

Puzzle type:

crossword

Make it a worksheet (adds "Name \_\_\_\_").

Provide a list of answer words (word bank).

- The puzzle grid is created in 3 versions: one version labelled as "Good" is for free and available only as a printed version, Better and Best versions require payment but offer many additional functions, such as editing, adding pictures and colours, etc.

### Tools

[Edit](#) to change clues, answers or title.

[Open](#) to see your other puzzles.

[Save](#) to save puzzle & changes online.

[Print / Next](#) when ready to print or buy.

Buyers & subscribers can get the puzzle as a PDF file, an interactive crossword, or graphics file (jpg, png, svg, etc).

[Contact us](#) [Start a new puzzle](#)

### Preview Solution Page

Hover mouse here to see answer key.

### Options

Puzzle type:

crossword

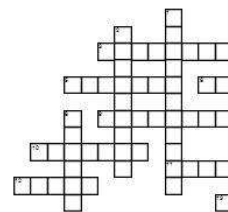
Ever miss something said in class?

Try Perfect!

Ever wonder if your notes are correct?

[www.i](#)

As email



- ACROSS
- a person you go to see when you are ill or hace some type of
  - a person that works with flowers.
  - a qualified person that decides cases in a law court.
  - a person that design building and houses.
  - a person that puts out fires.
  - a person that works with the money and accounts of a compa
  - They make bread and cakes and normally work in a bakery.
  - a person that defends people in court and gives legal advice.
- DOWN
- a person that makes new reports in writing or through televisio
  - a person that works in a library.
  - a person that can fix problems you have with your teeth.
  - a person who has the job of designing things.
  - a person that works on a farm, usually with animals.



**Free Html Puzzle**

**What's different about the free puzzle:**

- Your puzzle will print out like a web page, having the URL, date and time, etc in the corners.
- There may be advertising on your puzzle.
- It will look better than the Preview at left.
- You don't get a PDF file that is easy to save and email.

**Your Total Is US \$ 0.00**

Click to print:

6. The free version of puzzle maker doesn't provide the answer key, which entails the direction words in English and can also include advertising text (this can be cut, however, when using, e.g. a copying machine). Paid subscribers can access the puzzle as an interactive crossword, or graphics file (jpg, png, etc). and allows users to save and adapt the worksheet online.

**Professions & Occupations**  
Find appropriate crossword clue answers

**ACROSS**

- 1 a qualified person that decides cases in a law court.
- 5 a person that works with electric circuits.
- 7 a person that defends people in court and gives legal advice.
- 9 a person that can fix problems you have with your teeth.
- 10 a person who has the job of designing things.
- 12 a person that catches fish.
- 13 a person that works on a farm, usually with animals.

**DOWN**

- 1 a person that makes new reports in writing or through television.
- 2 a person that puts out fires.
- 3 a person that designs building and houses.
- 4 a person that works with the money and accounts of a company.
- 6 a person that works in a library.
- 8 a person that works with flowers.
- 10 a person you go to see when you are ill or have some type of health problem.
- 11 They make bread and cakes and normally work in a bakery.

**WORD BANK:** ACCOUNTANT, ARCHITECT, BAKER, DENTIST, DESIGNER, DOCTOR, ELECTRICIAN, FARMER, FIREMAN, FISHERMAN, FLORIST, JOURNALIST, JUDGE, LAWYER, LIBRARIAN

## 10. Things you have to bear in mind when using the tool

- The free service of this tool will only support printed puzzles.
- Puzzle maker can be used for different language proficiency levels.
- Remember that a correct order must be followed - answer left / clue or questions right.
- Let long clues wrap to the next line automatically without pressing the Enter key.
- You can use the slash character inside the clue.
- Consider designing smaller puzzles so that the whole chain fits on one page and avoid extremely long answers.
- If the puzzle has too many answers/clue pairs – the result will be tiny boxes and tiny fonts. This can be of disadvantage for learners with low-literacy skills.



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



## 11. Similar tools

Suchsel (for German) [www.suchsel.net](http://www.suchsel.net)

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-  
ShareAlike 4.0 International License

