

A Time Like No Other

2020 will be remembered as the year of the big lockdown. When a virus that began in China in late 2019 travelled across continents and brought the world to an almost stand still.

Everyday life as we know it has changed. To stop the spread of the virus we are required to stay at home and stay within a 5km distance of our homes at all times unless we have a reason to travel outside of this. Many new words such as **pandemic**, **social distancing**, **self-isolation** and **quarantine** have become part of our everyday language and all our over 70's are asked to stay **cocooned**.

Schools are closed, pubs, restaurants and other businesses have stopped trading and everyone who can is working from home. School children and students have had to adjust to learning and doing classes online. All sports events have been called off. Religious ceremonies have all been postponed. A funeral mass can only be attended by 10 family members and for the first time in living memory people cannot attend Sunday mass here in Ireland. Our heroes are now the thousands of health care workers on the front line along with shop workers, lorry drivers, public transport drivers and postmen/women who are keeping the country running.

However, these strange and challenging times have shown us the goodness and kindness that people are capable of as we all pull together to stay safe. In March the government put out a call for volunteers, retired health care workers and anyone who would be willing to give a hand during this Covid crisis.



Within days 30,000 people had signed up. Members of GAA clubs, Tidy Towns groups and other community organisations across the country are delivering food and medicines and checking in on older people. Many communities are putting on street entertainment especially for older people who have been asked to stay within their own homes.

A dance teacher in one neighbourhood holds a dance exercise street class every morning for all the residents. An apartment block in Dublin's inner city holds bingo nights, the caller sits on the green outside while the residents remain on their balconies. A Cork man holds film nights every week using a projector to show old films on the wall of a building nearby while the residents sit and enjoy the film from their own gardens. All done while keeping a social distance. Neighbours are looking out for each other and offering levels of support that has not been seen in many years.

An Post delivered postcards to every household which can be posted free to friends anywhere in Ireland. Postmen/women have volunteered their services to keep an eye on older people especially those living alone. Motor cyclists and other drivers are delivering supplies free of charge to hospitals and nursing homes. Food companies are giving free meals to health care staff in busy hospitals and people have given rooms and apartments to frontline health workers so they can stay near the hospitals.

Famous singers here in Ireland and across the world are performing online, from their own homes to fundraise for charities and to help buy personal protective equipment (PPE) for health workers. Irish singer Bressie, has sent out 200 ukuleles to people who are cocooning around the country who can then learn to play by following a YouTube lesson online every week for 6 weeks.

Each county has now set up a **Community Response Forum** made up of members of the county council, health service, Vincent de Paul, An Garda Síochána and An Post. Anyone who is cocooning, self-isolating or in need of support, information or help of any kind can contact the service for assistance.

The national number is 0818 222 024. This number is available every day from 8am to 8pm, You can also visit www.gov.ie/together

More homophones

Words that sound the same but have a different spelling and meaning

aloud/allowed	ceiling / sealing	knew / new	some / sum	waist / waste
band/banned	sight / site	pain / pane	stairs / stares	where / were
board / bored	heal / heel / he'll	real / reel	through / threw/ true	wood / would

Choose the correct word from the list above

- _____ did I leave my glasses?
- A table is made of _____.
- I bought a _____ car.
- I broke the _____ of my shoe.
- Smoking is not _____ indoors.
- I hope my sore finger will _____ soon
- I have a _____ in my ear.
- I need to paint the _____ of my room.
- There are a lot of steps on that _____.
- He climbed in _____ a window.
- Put all your _____ in the bin.
- Is it _____ or is it a fake?
- I _____ her years ago.
- That maths _____ is difficult.
- Can you read it _____ so we can hear you.

Write down the **past tense** of these action words (the first one is done for you)

Everyday_	yesterday
• I make	<u>I made</u>
• I say	_____
• I think	_____
• I buy	_____
• I see	_____
• I am	_____
• I drive	_____
• I hear	_____
• I know	_____
• I bring	_____
• I sing	_____
• I try	_____
• I sleep	_____

Maths

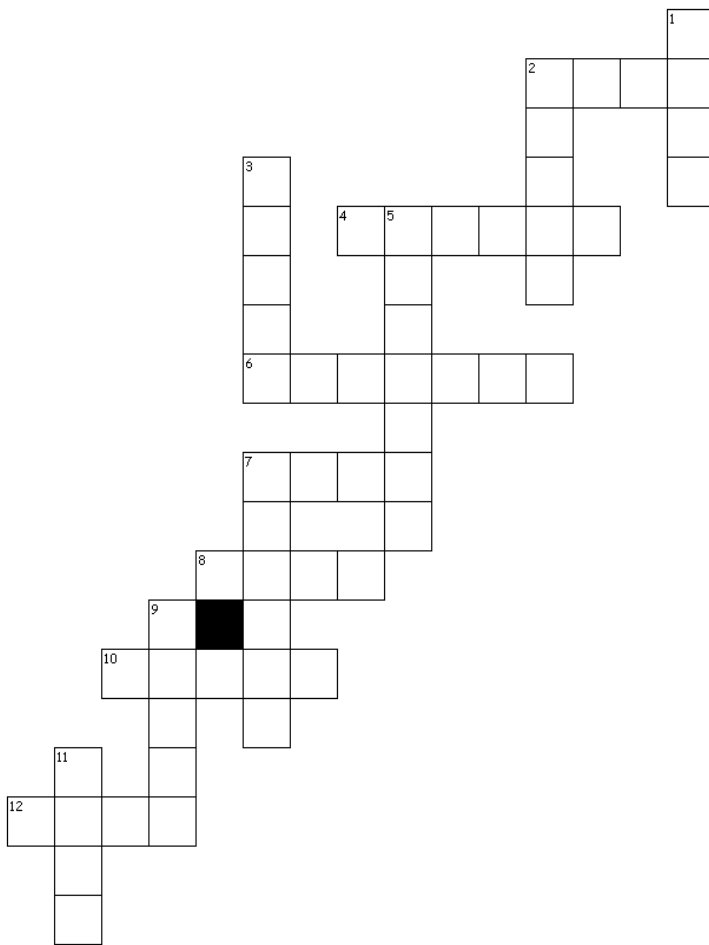
- Ann has a car loan for € 12,000. She will also pay 10% interest on the loan. She will repay the loan and interest over 5 years.
 - How much will she have to repay each year?
 - If she repays the loan every month, how much will she pay per month?
- Tom works 40 hours each week. He works $\frac{1}{5}$ of his hours at the office and the rest from home.
 - How many hours does he work at the office?
 - How many hours does he work from home?
- I need to buy 3 loaves of bread. In shop X, I can buy a loaf for € 2.20, if I buy 2, I get a 3rd loaf free. In shop Y the same loaf costs €2.30 but if I buy 3 loaves, I will get a 20% discount.
 - How much will I pay for 3 loaves in shop X?
 - How much will I pay for 3 loaves in shop Y?
- I can buy 8 oranges for € 4.80.
 - How much will I pay for 10?
 - How much will I pay for 4?

answers

1.	a €2640	b €220
2.	a 8	b 32
3.	a €4.40	b €5.52
4.	a €6	b €2.40

Crossword

The answers to the clues are all homophones from the list



Across

2. Is it _____ or false? (4)
4. When something is not allowed – it is... (6)
6. I like to walk _____ the woods (7)
7. The place where the house is built (4)
8. I had to replace a _____ of glass (4)
10. I have nothing to do I'm _____ (5)
12. U2 is one (4)

Down

1. I need to buy a _____ of thread (4)
2. She _____ the ball to the other player (5)
3. You go to Specsavers to get this tested (5)
5. You are not _____ in here (7)
7. When someone looks at you for a long time (6)
9. _____ you like more tea? (5)
11. A toothache is a _____ in your tooth (4)

Unscramble these food words and find them in the word search

The first one is done for you

- Bread and (uttbre) butter
- fish and (hicps) _____
- strawberries and (rcame) _____
- Bacon and (bbagcae) _____
- Sausage and (rshaer) _____
- Curry and (irce) _____
- (baens) on toast _____
- Crackers and (eechse) _____
- Rhubarb and (usctrda) _____
- Turkey and (mah) _____

p n o c b y e x r k
g j h v q b s r i d
a w o w r x e g c t
n m j x n e e a e j
r e t t u b h j n k
a c r e a m c s f s
x p d s x j t m a g
s d n s r j u k q r
o x c v q j c u z v
h o w t g v q z a h
l f c n k d y y m k
i s a o a w f h t l
j e b a w w z c d h
d f b o t p u k a n
h t a r x s s m d t
j z g n t p w k t a
m q e a i b e y t o
k b r h c p e p g g
h d c e d b p f d n
w n z d a o y o h k

Write the **plural** of these words:

child children
knife knives
brush _____
boss _____
woman _____
mouse _____
tax _____
berry _____
toy _____
lady _____
tooth _____
branch _____
army _____
echo _____
hero _____
thief _____
pony _____
cliff _____

If you need help with reading,
writing, numbers or technology
freephone NALA on **1800 20 20
65** or text the word **Learn to
50050**

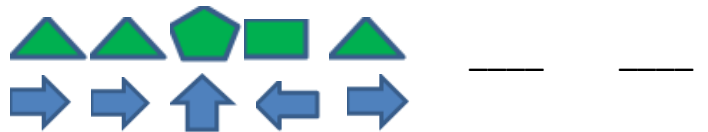
Think of a word that means the **opposite** of these:

awake asleep
empty _____
wealthy _____
heavy _____
wrong _____
long _____
dark _____
expensive _____
under _____
thick _____
stale _____

Maths

Finish the following patterns:

- 2, 4, 6, 8, __, __, __
- 10, 20, 30, 40, __, __, __
- 40, 35, 30, 25, __, __, __



- 2, 1, 1, 2, 1, 1, 2, __, __.
- X, X, O, X, X, O, __, __, __



