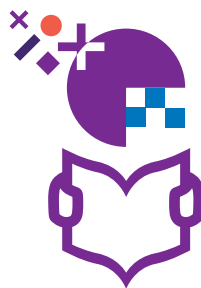


That's Interesting!



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NALA

A worksheet for adults to practise reading, writing, spelling and numbers.

A New Taoiseach



Simon Harris is the new Taoiseach and leader of the government. He became leader of the Fine Gael party following the shock resignation of Leo Varadkar who decided to stand down a few weeks earlier. Mr Harris was then voted in as Taoiseach by the majority of the TDs (Teachta Dála, member of Parliament in Ireland) currently elected. At 37, he is the youngest person to be appointed Taoiseach of Ireland.

Simon Harris grew up in Greystones in County Wicklow. His family were not involved in politics but the young Harris was always interested in community and current affairs. As a teenager he set up a support group for people with disabilities. His brother, Adam, has a condition known as Asperger's Syndrome.

Harris has been actively involved in politics since his early 20's. He was elected to Wicklow County Council in the 2009 local elections and was elected as a TD for Wicklow in the 2011 general election. At that time, he was known as the "baby of the Dáil" due to his election at the young age of 24. He has held several posts in government. From 2016 to 2020 he was Minister for Health and from 2020 he was Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

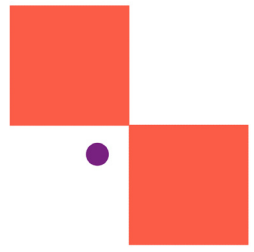


**Taoiseach Simon
Harris**

Image source:
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In his first speech as Taoiseach he promised to work hard for the country, to provide more housing, improve health care and provide better mental health services and services for people with disabilities. Simon Harris is married to Caoimhe who is a nurse and they have two children, Saoirse and Cillian.

The Stardust Tragedy



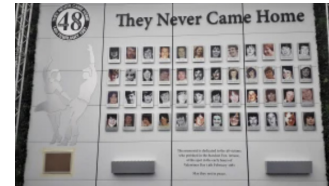
After 43 years the families of the victims of the Stardust Tragedy have finally been given the verdict that they had been fighting for. A jury returned a verdict that the 48 people who died in the fire were killed unlawfully.

A previous enquiry which was held back in 1982 had said that the fire had been started deliberately, however the families never accepted this.

A majority decision from the jury of seven women and five men found the blaze, which broke out in the early hours of Valentine's Day 1981, was instead caused by an electrical fault in the hot press of the bar.

48 young people all aged between 16 and 28 from the North Dublin area, died in the fire. Over 200 people were injured. As thick smoke filled the hall and the lights went out, panic and fear caused people to be crushed and trapped. Some of the exit doors were also locked.

The Taoiseach, Simon Harris, issued a public apology to the families on behalf of the state. He praised the families of the victims who fought for 43 years for justice for their loved ones who had been blamed in the wrong for causing this terrible fire.



Stardust memorial wall in Artane

He said that very many people had carried this tragedy with them over the years including the survivors and everyone who attended at the fire that night, the fire crews, the ambulance staff, the gardai, the army, the taxi drivers and the community in North Dublin.

The families have said they now believe their loved ones have been given back their good names instead of being blamed in the wrong.

Words that sound the same but have different uses and spelling

- **Your** I like your new shoes.
- **You're** (you are) You're my best friend.

Choose the correct word above for these.

1. Take _____ shoes off the chair.
2. I want to know what time _____ coming over.
3. _____ new coat is a lovely colour.
4. _____ always complaining about something.

- **There** There are 7 days in a week.
- **Their** Their car is parked outside.
- **They're** (They are) They're coming to my house for dinner.

Choose the correct word above for these.

1. _____ is a mouse in the house.
2. Tell them to hang up _____ coats.
3. Ask them if _____ coming over for a visit.
4. _____ car is parked outside.

- **His** His house is painted blue.
- **He's** (he is) He's my best friend.

Choose the correct word above for these.

1. My sister and _____ sister are best friends.
2. I heard that _____ moving to America.
3. _____ bike was stolen last night.
4. _____ always late for work.

Words with mp



amp

camp	ramp
damp	cramp
lamp	stamp

emp

empty
temper

imp

dimple
pimple
simple

ump

bump	lump	stump
dump	pump	grumpy
jump	plump	trump

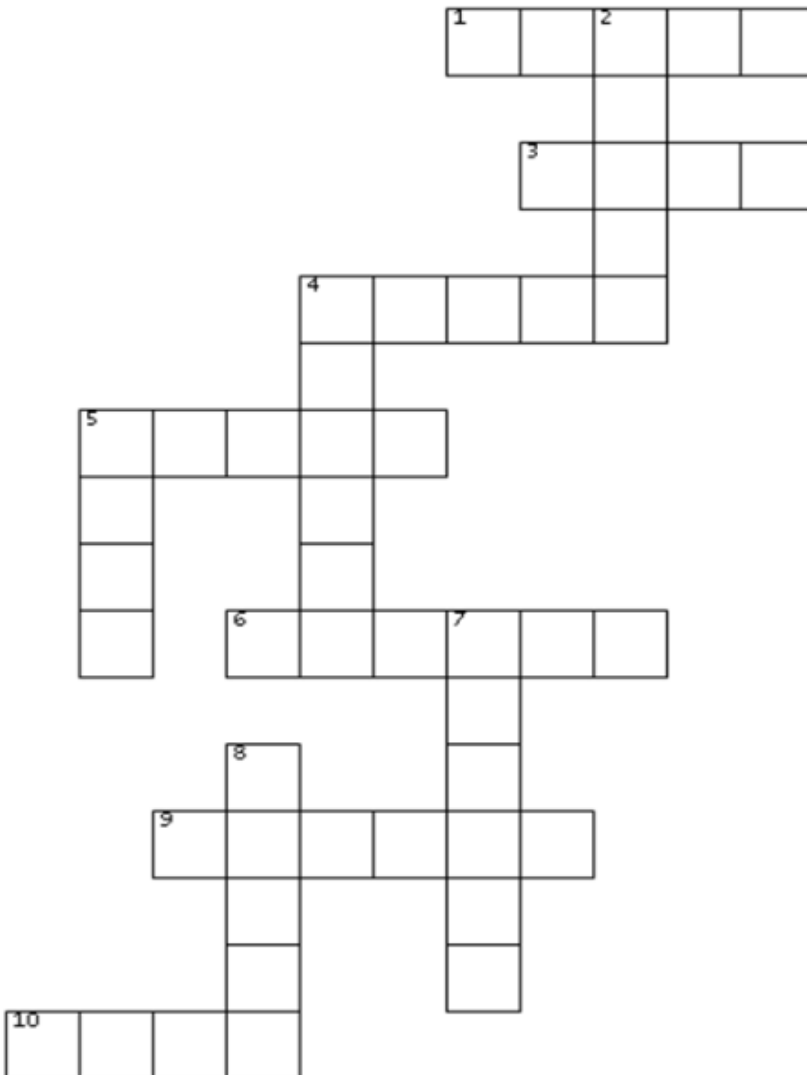
Choose a word from the list to place in each of these sentences.

1. The clothes were still _____ when I took them off the clothes line.
2. The runner got a _____ in his leg after running the marathon.
3. It is illegal to _____ rubbish on the roadside.
4. When I banged my head, I had a big _____ on it.
5. She has a terrible _____ and gets angry easily.
6. When she smiles she has a _____ on her cheek.
7. I had no bother working out that sum, it was _____.
8. It is getting dark, I will turn on the _____.
9. An Post has increased the price of the postage _____.
10. The hall was full of people at 8pm, by 10pm it was _____.
11. The heart is the organ that has to _____ blood around our body.
12. We put in a _____ so that the hall is wheelchair accessible.

Crossword



The answers are all from the list of **mp** words on the previous page.



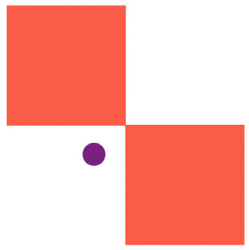
Clues

Across

1. Opposite of full (5)
3. A place where rubbish is thrown (4)
4. Put this on a letter to post it (5)
5. A pain in your leg (5)
6. Someone who gets angry easily is said to have a t..... (6)
9. Another word for angry (6)
10. Lift your two legs in the air together (4)

Down

2. A little bit fat (5)
4. Easy (6)
5. Another word for a tent (4)
7. A red raised spot on your skin (6)
8. The name of the former American president (5)



Long multiplication, you can use your calculator if you wish.

1.

A car dealership makes a profit of €856 on every car sold.

In January they sold 35 cars.

In February they sold 45 cars.

How much profit did they make over the 2 months? _____

2.

Paul saves €25 every week.

How much will he have saved after 3 years? _____

3.

There are 48 seats on the bus.

Each passenger pays €8 for a ticket.

a. When the bus is full how much money does the bus company make? _____

b. If the bus was full every day in the month of April, how much money did the bus company make that month? _____

4.

Tom is building a fence around his house. There are 3 sides.

Each side needs 4 posts and 4 rails.

If each rail costs €15 and each post costs €20, how much will the fence cost him? _____



Further help is available

If you need help with these worksheets, or with reading, writing, maths or digital skills, you can contact the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA).



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You can study online on our Learn with NALA website www.learnwithnala.ie or with a tutor over the phone or we can give details of your local Education and Training Board.



National Adult Literacy Agency
Áisíneacht Náisiúnta Litearthachta do Aosaigh

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