

That's Interesting!



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

Barry McGuigan - 40th anniversary of his World Boxing Title



This month marks the 40th anniversary of a memorable boxing match, that saw a young 24-year-old from Monaghan win the World Featherweight boxing title.

Barry McGuigan, nick named "The Clones Cyclone" had been boxing from a young age. He had represented Northern Ireland in the Commonwealth games and was a member of the Irish Olympic team in 1980.

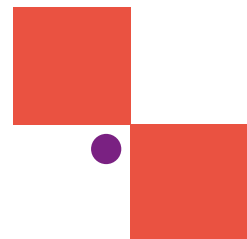
In 1981, he turned professional and after four years, during which he won a European title, he was given the chance to fight for the world featherweight title. This fight was against the current holder of the title, at the time, Eusebio Pedroza from Panama in Central America. Pedroza had held the title for seven years and was an experienced and strong fighter.



**Barry McGuigan and
Eusebio Pedroza**

Image source:
PA Images / Alamy Stock Photo

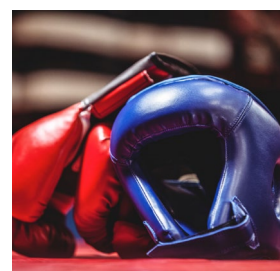
On 8 June, 1985, in a football stadium on Loftus Road in London, in front of a crowd of more than 28,000 people, McGuigan took on the biggest fight of his career. At a time in Northern Ireland when the relationship between Catholics and Protestants was very tense, all differences were put aside when the whole of Ireland watched the fight on television. In fact, 19 million people tuned in from all over the world, to watch the young Irish boxer take on the mighty Pedroza.



Such was his support at the stadium, that it took McGuigan 12 minutes to walk from his dressing room to the ring, as fans cheered him on. His dad, who was a singer, sang a verse of the old Irish ballad, "Danny Boy" just before the fight began. McGuigan said afterwards that this was a very emotional moment for him.

When talking about Pedroza, McGuigan himself said afterwards that "He was an amazing champion, a champion for seven and a half years, longest reigning featherweight champion in history, so I knew I had to perform, I had to peak, I had to be at my best".

McGuigan lived up to his word. The fight lasted a full 15 rounds with both men fighting their hearts out. It was an even contest for the first 6 rounds, then McGuigan knocked the champion down in the 7th round. However, he got back up and fought to the end. The final rounds were McGuigan's as Pedroza no longer had the strength to match the Irish man.



The whole of Ireland, north and south, celebrated. Up to 75,000 people lined the streets of Belfast to greet McGuigan on his return from London. However, the following day 250,000 showed up in Dublin as he was driven through the streets on an open top bus.

Unfortunately, his term as world champion was short lived. A year later in a fight held in the blistering heat of Las Vegas, McGuigan lost his title to Steve Cruz. In fact, he had to be brought to hospital after the fight because of heat exhaustion.

Later that year he also parted ways with his manager, Barney Eastwood because they had a falling out when McGuigan claimed he had not been properly prepared for the fight. Barry McGuigan retired from boxing in 1989.

A special event took place in his native Clones in Monaghan recently to mark the 40th anniversary of the fight when a special viewing of the world title fight was shown and Barry McGuigan himself along with family, friends and supporters attended.

Words that have silent letters



When you see a word that begins with **kn** the **k** is always silent.

know	knee	knot	knit	knob	knapsack
knew	kneel	knock	knife	knuckle	knowledge

When you see a word that begins with **wr** the **w** is always silent.

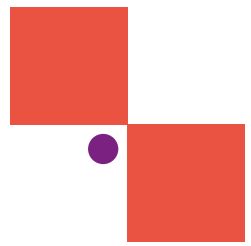
write	wrong	wrist	wrench	wreck
wrote	wrap	wrinkle	wreath	wren

Work on 3 words per day. When you feel you know them, cover the lists above and then fill in the blanks below.

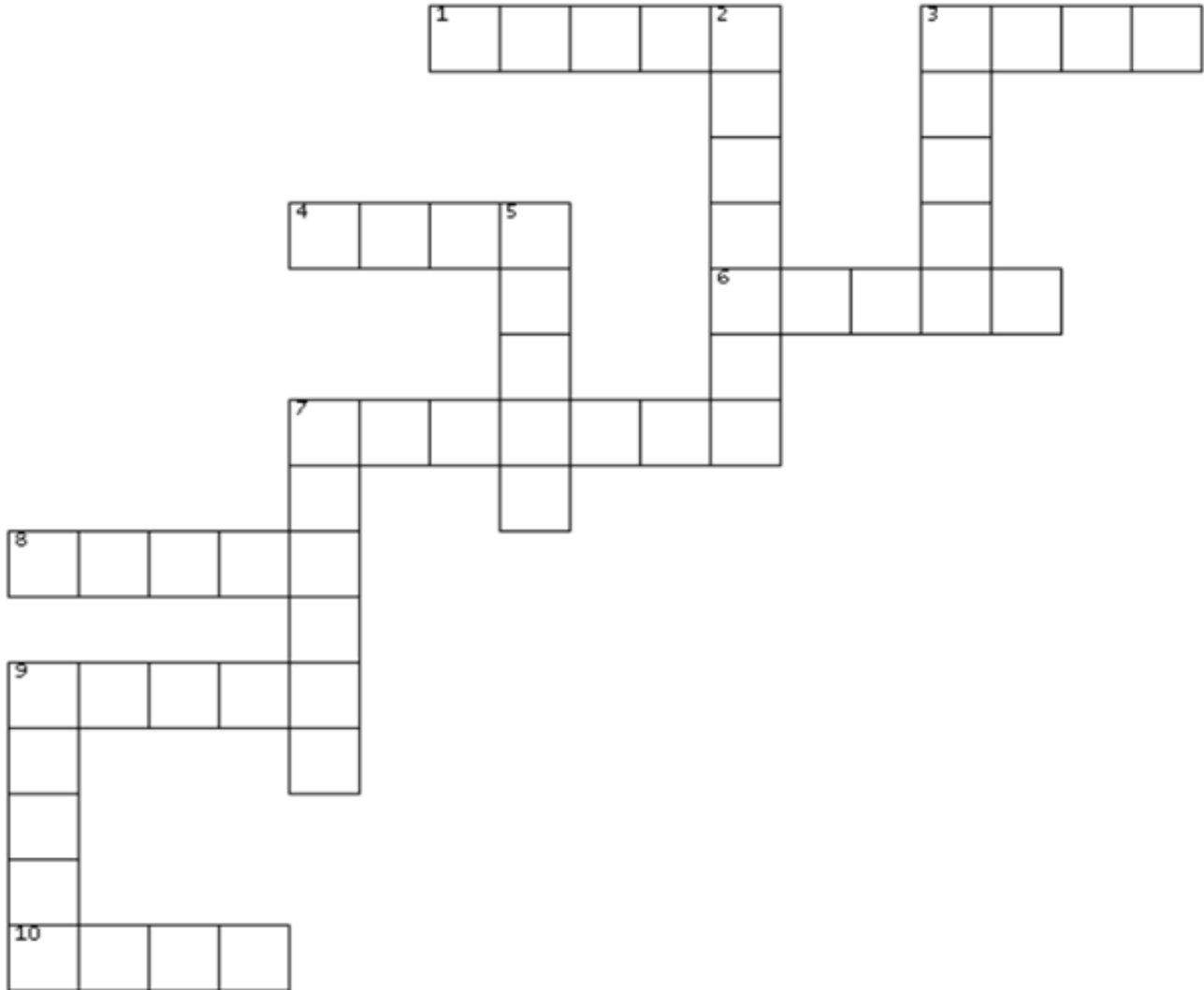
Pick a word from the lists above that has the **same meaning** as the words or phrases below.

- Door handle _____
- Use needles and yarn _____
- Used for cutting _____
- Use pen and paper _____
- Not right _____
- Small bird _____
- Cover it up _____
- Line on your skin _____
- Tap on the door _____
- Information _____
- Damage _____
- Where you wear a watch _____
- A joint in the middle of your leg _____

Crossword



The answers to the clues are all in the wordlist on page 3.



Across

1. Do not use the doorbell, just _____ on the door.
3. A small bird.
4. I _____ him years ago when we were in school together.
6. _____ down on your knees.
7. As we get older our skin starts to _____.
8. We eat with a fork and a _____.
9. You wear your watch on this.
10. She taught me how to _____ a scarf with needles and wool.

Down

2. When I punched the wall, I hurt my _____.
3. She _____ a book last year.
5. If your answer is not right, it is _____.
7. She hung a nice _____ on her front door.
9. That car is so old, it is a _____.



There are 60 seconds in 1 minute.

There are 60 minutes in 1 hour.

There are 24 hours in 1 day.

There are 52 weeks in 1 year.

There are 12 months in 1 year.

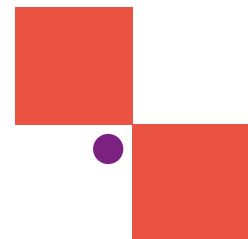
Answer the following questions.

1. Tom is paying back a loan to the credit union. He pays €150 per month.
How much will Tom have paid back:
a) After 1 year? _____ b) After 3 years? _____
2. Tina can cycle 10 km in an hour. How long will it take her to cycle:
a) 5km _____ b) 15km _____ c) 30km _____
3. How many minutes are there in:
a) 2 hours = _____
b) $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour = _____
c) $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours = _____
d) $\frac{1}{4}$ of an hour = _____
4. How many hours are in:
a) 120 minutes = _____
b) 150 minutes = _____
c) 30 minutes = _____
d) 75 minutes = _____
5. Jean saves €50 every week.
At the end of 5 years, how much will she have saved? _____

Answers

Q1 a. €1800 b. €5400, Q2 a. 30mins (1/2 hr) b. 1hr 30mins c. 3 hours, Q3 a) 120min b) 45m c) 90m d) 15m
Q4 a) 2 hours, b) 2 1/2 hours, c) 1/2 hour, d) 1 1/4 hours, Q5 €13,000

Notes



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).



Call us on **Freephone 1 800 20 20 65**

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 training options.



National Adult Literacy Agency

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