

That's Interesting!



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

Fuel protests in Ireland



Fuel protests were held across Ireland recently as hauliers, agricultural contractors, bus drivers and other transport workers took action against rising fuel prices. They were also joined by members of the public. The cost of diesel and petrol had increased sharply since fighting began in the Middle East.

The protests began on Tuesday 7 April 2026, with slow moving tractors, buses and lorries causing major traffic delays. These actions later turned into blockades of bigger roads and motorways as well as on O'Connell Street in Dublin. Fuel depots in Galway, Foynes (County Limerick) and Whitegate (County Cork) were blockaded, preventing oil deliveries from entering or leaving.

Fuel shortages soon followed, with hundreds of petrol stations around the country running out. There were serious concerns that emergency services and people attending medical appointments would not be able to travel. Gardaí tried to clear the blockades and arrested some protesters in an effort to reopen the oil depots.

The government opposed the protests and called for them to stop. However, by Sunday, as protests continued in towns across the country, the government announced a relief package worth over €500 million to help reduce the cost of diesel, petrol and home heating oil.

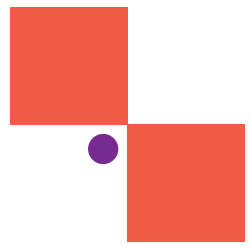
By the end of the week, most major blockades had been lifted. Some smaller protests and traffic delays continued in some areas while talks between the government and transport unions were ongoing.



Irish fuel protests in Dublin

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Artemis II Space Mission



Artemis II, the American space mission, recently sent astronauts to the Moon for the first time in over 50 years. The spacecraft, called Orion, was launched by a rocket from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida on 1 April 2026. The trip lasted 10 days.

Four highly skilled astronauts were on board the spacecraft. One of them, Christina Koch, is the first woman to travel on a mission beyond Earth's orbit. They flew around the Moon to the far side, an area where no spacecraft with people had gone before. They did not land on the Moon.

The astronauts travelled farther than any humans had ever gone before – about 402,000 kilometres from Earth. They also travelled at record speeds, reaching about 40,000 kilometres per hour.

Space travel first began in the 1960s. In 1966, Russia was the first to send a spacecraft to the moon, but in July 1969, America became the first country to land people on the Moon. The spacecraft, Apollo 11, landed there, and astronaut, Neil Armstrong, was the first person to walk on the Moon. He famously said, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

In 1986, the spacecraft, Challenger, exploded just 70 seconds after take-off, killing all seven crew members. This was the biggest tragedy in the history of space travel.

Artemis II was an important mission in helping to plan future missions to the Moon and for future space travel to Mars, the planet closest to Earth.



Artemis II launch

Image source:
NASA HQ PHOTO,
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Artemis II crew

Image source:
Josh Valcarcel, Public
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Recent deaths



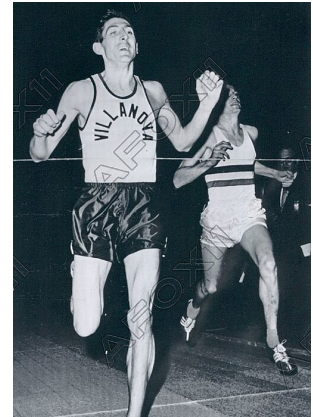
Ireland's Olympic gold medal winner, **Ronnie Delany**, died recently at the age of 91. Delany was born in Arklow, Wicklow, in 1935. He won an Olympic gold medal for Ireland in the 1,500 metres race in 1956, 70 years ago. The games were held in Melbourne in Australia that year. He was just 21 at the time. In 1926, he won gold in the World University games. Shortly after this, he retired from running due to injury, but was involved in Irish athletics most of his life.

Ronnie also kindly gave us here in NALA (National Adult Literacy Agency) a piece from his book about his life, which we used in a book for our learners called LEGENDS. A statue was erected in Arklow a few years ago to honour him in the town of his birth. Sadly, his wife Joan, passed away just a week after her husband.

Gifted singer, **Dolores Keane**, passed away in March at the age of 72. She was from Galway. As a child she went to live in the home of her grandparents and her two aunts, Sarah and Rita Keane who were also fine singers. Dolores grew up in a house full of singing and music, and she began singing from a very young age. She was regarded as one of the most talented singers of her time. She was known all over the world and performed in places as far away as Australia and Nashville, USA (United States of America).

She is best known for the songs "Caledonia" and "My Own Dear Galway Bay." Both the current president, Catherine Connolly, and former president, Michael D. Higgins, attended her funeral in Galway.

Former sports journalist and TV presenter, **Michael Lyster**, passed away in March. He was 71. A Galway man, he began his sports career in RTÉ (Raidió Teilifís Éireann) in 1979 and presented the popular sports programme "The Sunday Game" for more than 30 years until he retired in 2018. He was known in almost every household in Ireland as every Sunday, he guided the panel on discussion and opinions of all the major national GAA (Gaelic Athletic Association) hurling and football matches.



Ronnie Delany

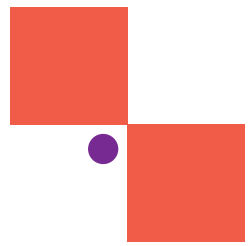
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Dolores Keane

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Compound words



This is when two or more words are joined together to make a new word.

Example: door + mat = doormat

airport	breakfast	footprint	playground	timetable
armchair	birthday	headache	rainbow	toothbrush
bathroom	fireplace	landlord	weekend	shoelace

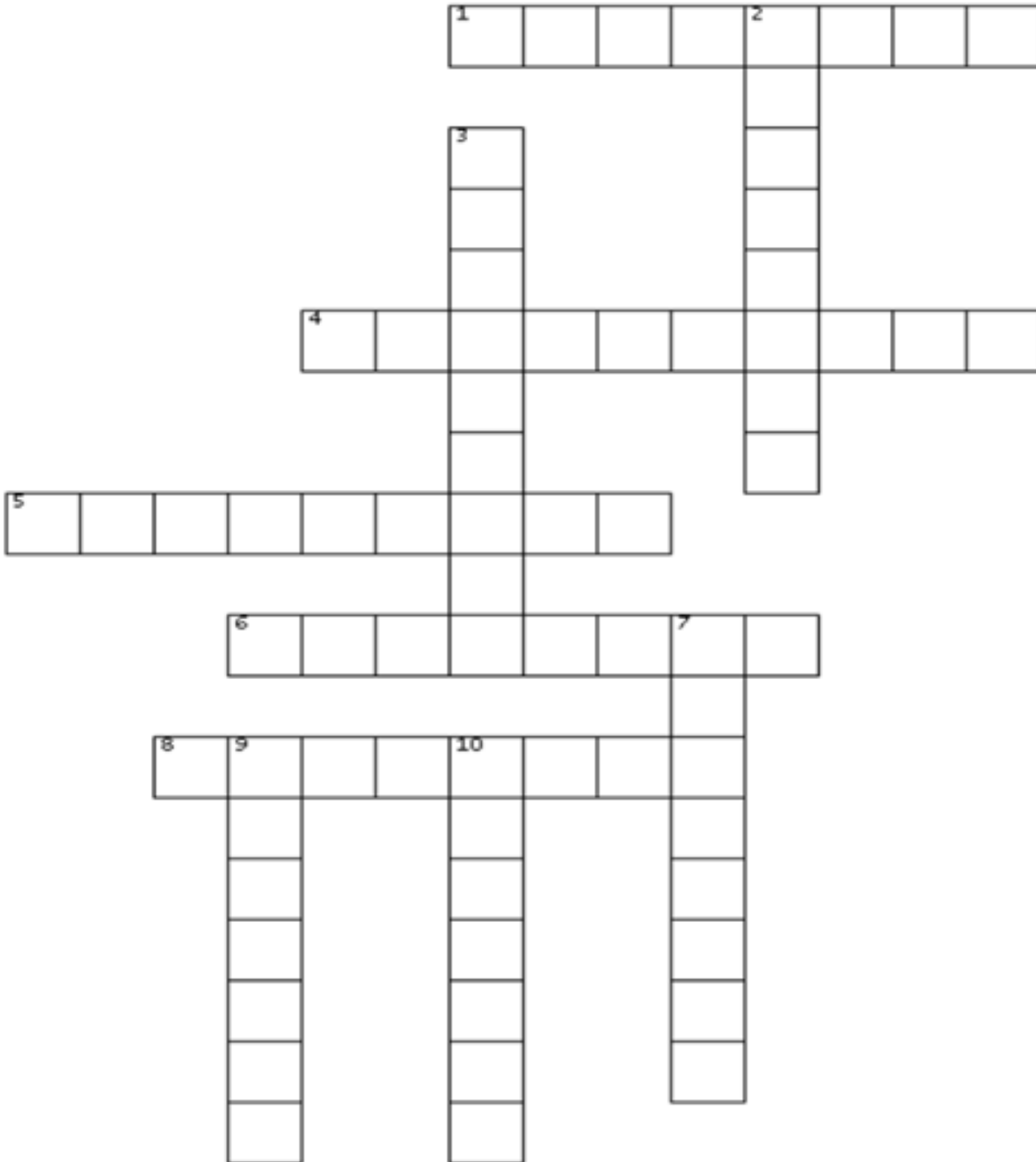
Fill in the blanks with a word from the list above

1. You celebrate your _____ every year on the date you were born.
2. The first meal of the day is your _____ .
3. You use a _____ to wash your teeth.
4. I like to sit in a comfortable _____ .
5. You leave a _____ on the sand when you walk on the beach.
6. A _____ is a list that tells you what is on at what time.
7. A person you pay rent to is a _____ .
8. A pain in your head is called a _____ .
9. Saturday and Sunday together is called a _____ .
10. A place for children to play _____ .

Crossword



The answers to the clues are all words from the word list on page 4.



Across

- 1. Use this to tie your shoes.
- 4. You will find swings and slides here.
- 5. Where you light a fire.
- 6. The day you were born.
- 8. The toilet is in this room.

Down

- 2. The person you rent a house from.
- 3. This is your first meal of the day.
- 7. A big comfortable chair.
- 9. Where you catch a flight.
- 10. Band of 7 colours across the sky.

