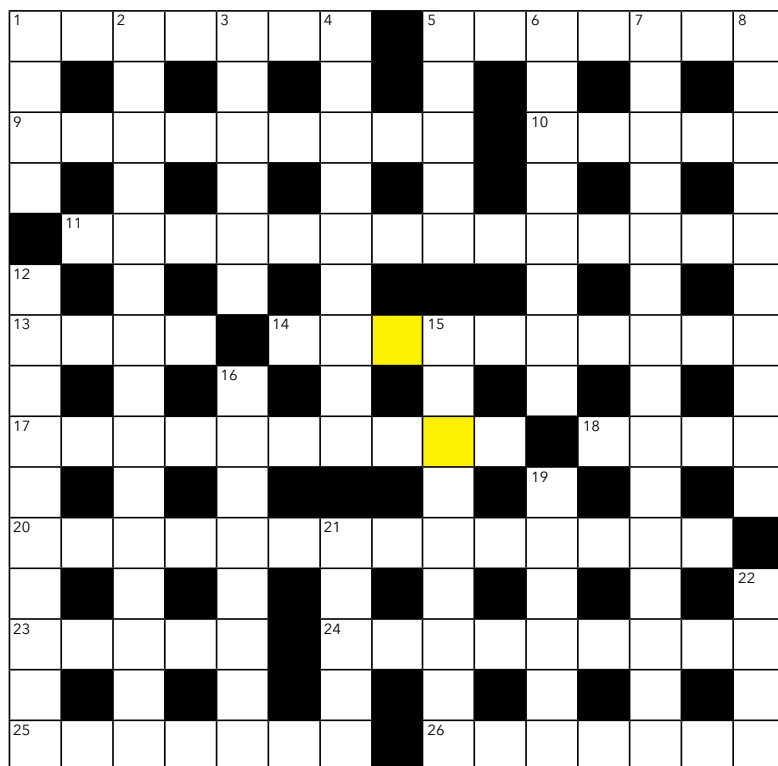


January 2026 crossword



January 2026 wordoku

	H		D	A	T		I		A
				I					C
	C		H		E		D		D
T								D	E
	A			S			K		H
		C				T			I
K				T				H	K
H			S		K			T	S
		E				D			T

Solve this wordoku in the same way as a sudoku with letters instead of numbers (each of the nine letters in each row, column and nine-square cell). Once solved, one of the overall diagonals can be rearranged to give the name of a German chemist specialising in microbial nature products.

Win £50 with GPE Scientific

Solve the next six cryptic crosswords to reveal a hidden chemistry term. Collect the yellow-square letters, unscramble them after June's puzzle and enter to win one of ten £50 prizes. Find the February, April and June puzzles at chemistryworld.com/puzzles

Cryptic**Across**

- 1 Mind U2 - Bono's starting to play metal (7)
- 5 Cook briefly mastered cooker (7)
- 9 Hormone doctors sort in one (9)
- 10 Left Ma designing a hard board game (5)
- 11 Biophysicist arranges walk after mini cruise (7, 7)
- 13 Letters about Dad's plusses (4)
- 14 Reassembled government finally misled and broken up (10)
- 17 Kelvin leaves geek writing about concise discipline (10)
- 18 Isaac Newton's hidden condition (4)
- 20 Chemist looks right at horrid doctor (3, 6, 5)
- 23 Without the Pole, join me to get the icon (5)
- 24 Profession whose textbooks have plenty of footnotes? (9)
- 25 The old song about a bouquet (7)
- 26 Composing arias around EU continent (7)

Down

- 1 Clean particles (4)
- 2 I was discovered by this French chemist (7, 7)
- 3 Buries in winter sunshine (6)
- 4 Geological feature engineers left on cobalt mine (9)
- 5 Blended wines providing strength? (5)
- 6 Victor abandoned the evenly ordered compound (8)
- 7 Double-crosses political nuts I'm manipulating? (15)
- 8 New parish does musical arrangements (10)
- 12 Fruit cocktail using ten mangoes? (10)
- 15 I once made a form of salad (9)
- 16 Fancy Charlie sparing a shave (8)
- 19 Protect Romeo in love (6)
- 21 Roy upset Czech writer (5)
- 22 Mike returns any bird (4)

Quick**Across**

- 1 Lens having two focal lengths (7)
- 5 Lanolin (4, 3)
- 9 Ocular lenses (9)
- 10 Chemical group containing the N_3^- ion (5)
- 11 Co-recipient of the 2020 Nobel prize in chemistry 'for the development of a method for genome editing' (8, 6)
- 13 Radiate (4)
- 14 Chronic poisoning with element 33 (10)
- 17 Measure of the amount of base in a substance (10)
- 18 Norse god after whom an element is named (4)
- 20 Real name of a Victorian mathematician, photographer, puzzle creator, poet and writer of children's books (7, 7)
- 23 Surgeon and pathologist, eponymised in a chronic bone disease (5)
- 24 Bacteria, and major cause of diarrhoea, named after its Japanese discoverer (9)
- 25 Wax derived from ozokerite, once used for storing hydrofluoric acid (7)
- 26 Laboratory equipment used for agitating fluids (7)

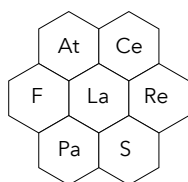
Down

- 1 German chemist, physicist and mathematician whose name is linked with Lambert in the law of spectroscopy (4)
- 2 British biochemist who won the Nobel prize in chemistry twice (9, 6)
- 3 Customer (6)
- 4 Light-emitting compound in fireflies (9)
- 5 More sagacious (5)
- 6 Musical work for orchestra and voices (8)
- 7 German chemist and first to isolate beryllium and yttrium (9, 6)
- 8 Author of *Utopia* (6, 4)
- 12 Visible to the naked eye (10)
- 15 Thermodynamic quantities with the symbol S (9)
- 16 Wails (8)
- 19 Italian mathematician and philosopher known as the first woman to write a maths textbook (6)
- 21 _____ Solomon, American atmospheric chemist who proposed the CFC free radical reaction behind the Antarctic ozone hole (5)
- 22 English illustrator and writer of nonsense verse (4)

January 2026 coronene

Place each of the seven elemental symbols in one hexagon of coronene to spell three words, one horizontally and two diagonally. Plural words are allowed, but you may not switch the order of the letter in any two-letter symbols (eg, sodium must be Na, not aN). The four symbols in the central hexagon of each of this month's coronenes can be combined to spell out the name of an element.

For example:



Answers:

Atlas

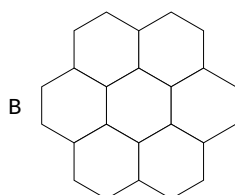
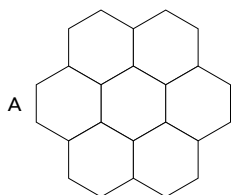
Flare

Palace

Elements:

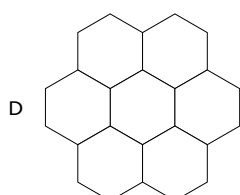
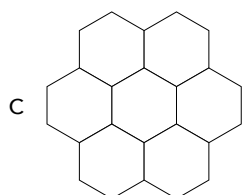
A. As, Bi, Es, Fe, Te, Ts, W

B. Ge, In, N, Re, S, Ta, Ti



C. Ac, C, N, Na, O, Pa, Ti

D. Ar, Ge, Li, Ne, Ra, Si, W



Entry form

There are four prize puzzles on this page: cryptic crossword; quick crossword; wordoku; and coronene. For each puzzle, a winner will be selected from all the correct entries received and awarded a £25 UK book voucher.

You can enter any or all of the prize draws, but each entrant is only eligible to win one of the individual puzzle prizes each month.

Please enter your details below and email a scan or photograph of this page with your completed entries to us by **23 January 2026**. The winners of this month's puzzles will be published in the March 2026 issue, along with the solutions.

Email: chemistryworld@rsc.org

Name

Address

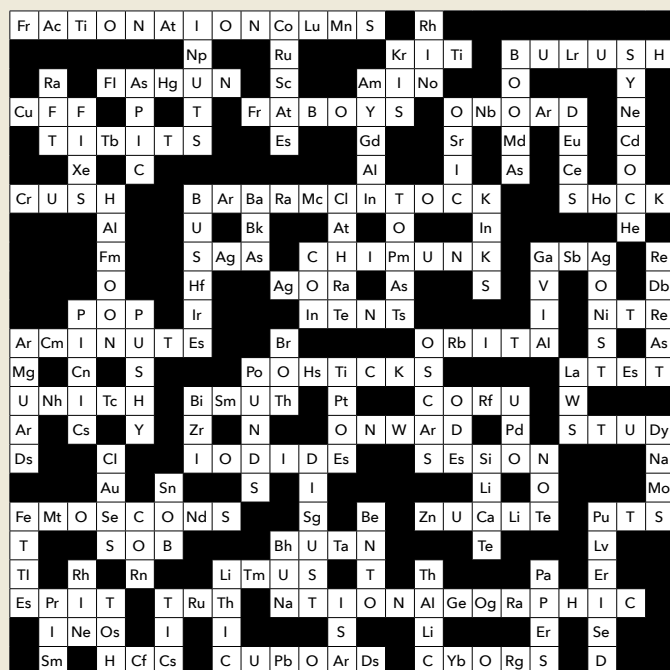
Participants are advised that any personal information supplied will be processed in connection with this competition and only in accordance with our privacy statement (www.chemistryworld.com/privacy).

GPE Scientific is your specialist provider of chemistry and life science equipment. Our technical specialists visit labs across the UK and Ireland to understand your science and recommend the right equipment for your research, while our globally supplied J Young® air-free chemistry apparatus is designed and manufactured in-house.

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December 2025 solutions and winners

Cryptic elements crossword

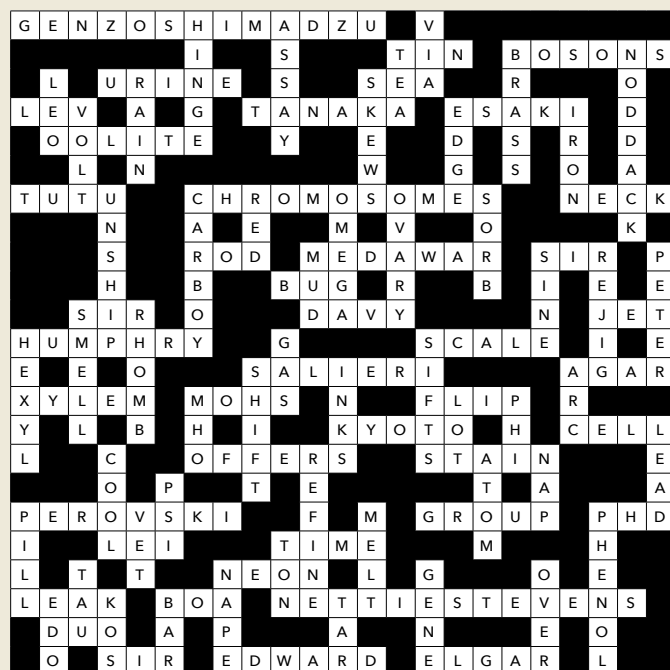


December winners

Cryptic elements crossword

Andrew Mather, Loughborough, UK

Quick crossword



Quick crossword

Bill Neville, London, UK