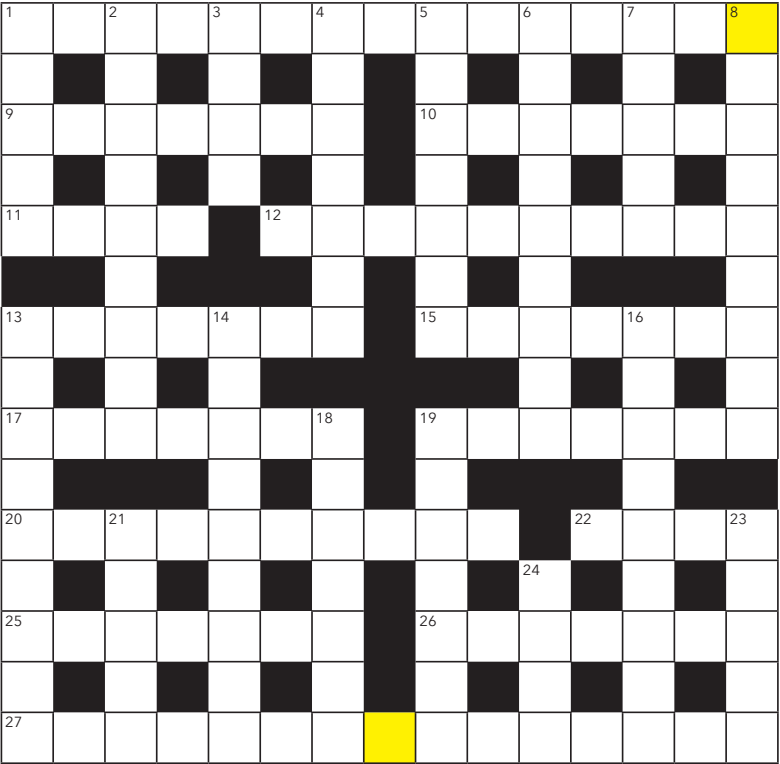


February 2026 crossword



February 2026 wordoku

			I						E
E		M		N					I
	W		K		E		L	I	K
I	O							E	L
M		K		I		L		O	M
L							K	W	N
O	S		N		L		E		O
				E		S		K	S
					M				W

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 chemist recognised by an RSC Blue Plaque in London.

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](http://chemistryworld.com/puzzles)

Cryptic

Across

- 1 Old salt wrapped in sackcloth (7, 2, 6)  
9 Ruin me playing original heavy metal (7)  
10 Not all feel it is middle class snobbery (7)  
11 Consumes feast without starter surprisingly (4)  
12 I order facial trim leaving moustache to begin with. Unreal! (10)  
13 Expensive French article found at church (7)  
15 Getting some bargain in Greece (7)  
17 Second guitar string broken due to corrosion? (7)  
19 Close attachment to bedroom attire? (7)  
20 Rocky writing about ugly prophet leaving university (10)  
22 A little fizz included-could be galvanising! (4)  
25 Think Wellington has a small reservoir? (7)  
26 Cheaper equine equipment that is leather at last (7)  
27 Physicist ordered newer tolerances (6, 1, 8)

Down

- 1, 23 Down Revised files regularly left out mercurial radiochemist (5, 5)  
2 Engineer oddly needed strong units (9)  
3 I'd follow a clue initially far from base (4)  
4 Without any elementary form of plant life (3, 4)  
5 Microbiologist has fling without me turning up (7)  
6 Song about 13 leading dancers could lead to 17 Across (9)  
7 With such a defence, I get bail sorted (5)  
8 Oscar mixes endlessly gloomy hue for the next in the series (9)  
13 Opencast upsets first Parks Minister (5, 4)  
14 I admitted writing about snoopers like the Borgias? (9)  
16 Hunch about iodine nutrition lacking resistance (9)  
18 I'll go around A & E to find the polymath (7)  
19 Path around a border north reveals a fraction of the oil (7)  
21 Tolkien rejects lithium as payment (5)  
23 See 1 Down (5)  
24 Wound endless neckwear (4)

Quick

Across

- 1 Discoverer of francium (10, 5)  
9 Toxic element of the pigment orpiment (7)  
10 Gem-quality variety of olivine (7)  
11 Unwanted product of reaction of soap with the minerals of hard water (4)  
12 Someone who collects signatures for a particular cause (10)  
13 Gathers on the surface of a material (7)  
15 Italian physician and physicist known for experimenting on frogs’ legs (7)  
17 Relating to doctrines of Hindu or Buddhist religions through meditation, mantras, yoga and ritual (7)  
19 Element named after a German state (7)  
20 Theorem or scientific law (10)  
22 Chemist named in an early law of thermochemistry (4)  
25 US State where physical chemist Harold Urey was born (7)  
26 CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OH (7)  
27 Discoverer of osmium and iridium (8, 7)

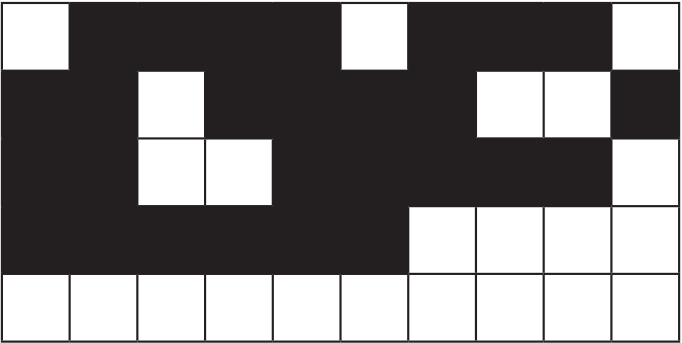
Down

- 1 Averages (5)  
2 Polar explorer and anthropologist (9)  
3 Arm bone (4)  
4 Vitamin D deficiency disease (7)  
5 \_\_\_\_\_ point, a threshold, often used in climatology (7)  
6 Electrons, protons and neutrons are all subatomic \_\_\_\_\_ (9)  
7 The only radioactive noble gas (5)  
8 One of the four elements named after the same village in Sweden (9)  
13 Post-mortems (9)  
14 Ink blot test (9)  
16 Genus of flowering plants which includes mangrove trees (9)  
18 City where the first nuclear reactor was built (7)  
19 German mathematician and philosopher named in a root theorem (7)  
21 Lemur (5)  
23 Ernest Rutherford first \_\_\_\_ the atom in 1917 (5)  
24 The T in TLC in analytical chemistry (4)

February 2026 elements grid

For this new puzzle, use the clues to assign each column of the grid a unique element symbol (with T standing for tritium), so that each row spells out a solution to its own clue, and the final row includes all eight symbols.

Al	Ar	C	Ce	Er	La	O	S	Th	W
----	----	---	----	----	----	---	---	----	---



Clues:

- 1 Armed conflicts (4)  
2 Froth (6)  
3 Ties (5)  
4 Not you or I (6)  
5 Polymer chemist (7, 9)

February 2026 coronene puzzle

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.

Elements:

A. Ar, Ba, C, Ca, Ne, No, Si

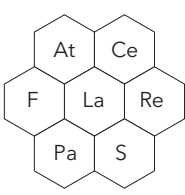
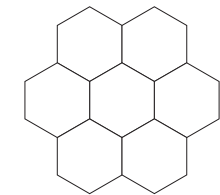
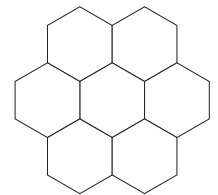
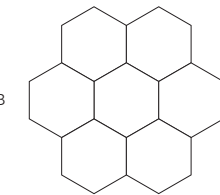
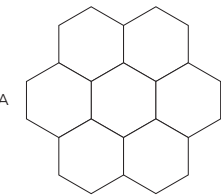
B. B, Ca, Co, Fe, Li, Nd, Ne

C. Co, I, N, Nd, Rn, S, Se

D. Be, Ds, Es, Ge, N, Pu, Y

For example:

Answers:  
Atlas  
Flare  
Palace



January 2026 solutions and winners

Cryptic

D	U	B	N	I	U	M		S	T	E	A	M	E	R
U		E	N	O		I		T		U		H		
S	E	R	O	T	O	N	I	N		H	A	L	M	A
T		N	E		O		E		Y		T		P	
	M	A	U	R	I	C	E	W	I	L	K	I	N	S
M		R	S		L					E		P		O
A	D	D	S		D	I	S	M	A	N	T	L	E	D
N		C	S		S	N		A	E		I		I	
G	E	O	S	C	I	E	N	C	E		A	C	N	E
O		U		R				E		A		A		S
S	I	R	H	A	R	O	L	D	K	R	O	T	O	
T		T		P		R		O		M		I		M
E	M	O	J	I		C	H	I	R	O	P	O	D	Y
E		I		N		Z		N		U		N		N
N	O	S	E	G	A	Y		E	U	R	A	S	I	A

Quick

B	I	F	O	C	A	L		W	O	O	L	F	A	T
E		R		L		U		I		R		R		H
E	Y	E	P	I	E	C	E	S		A	Z	I	D	O
R		D		E		I		E		T		E		M
	J	E	N	N	I	F	E	R	D	O	U	D	N	A
M		R		T		E				R		R		S
E	M	I	T		A	R	S	E	N	I	C	I	S	M
G		C		U		I		N		O		C		O
A	L	K	A	L	I	N	I		T	Y		T	H	O
S		S		U					R		A		W	
C	H	A	R	L	E	S	D	O	D	G	S	O	N	
O		N		A		U		P		N		H		L
P	A	G	E	T		S	H	I	G	E	L	L	A	E
I		E		E		A		E		S		E		A
C	E	R	E	S	I	N		S	T	I	R	R	E	R

Wordoku

The German chemist specialising in microbial nature products was Jeroen DICKSCAHT.

Coronene puzzle

- A. Biases, Feasts, Waste  
B. Retain, Stage, Titan  
C. Actin, Otic, Patina  
D. Genera, Linear, Sinew

The element running across is Astatine

January winners

- Coronene**  
Catherine Johnson  
Marlow, UK  
**Wordoku**  
Alan Tucker  
Bristol, UK  
**Cryptic crossword**  
Roger Williams  
Lee-on-the-Solent, UK  
**Quick crossword**  
David Matthews  
Lancashire, UK

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 **18 February 2026**. The winners of this month’s puzzles will be published in the March 2026 issue, along with the solutions.

Email: [chemistryworld@rsc.org](mailto: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](http://www.chemistryworld.com/privacy)).

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