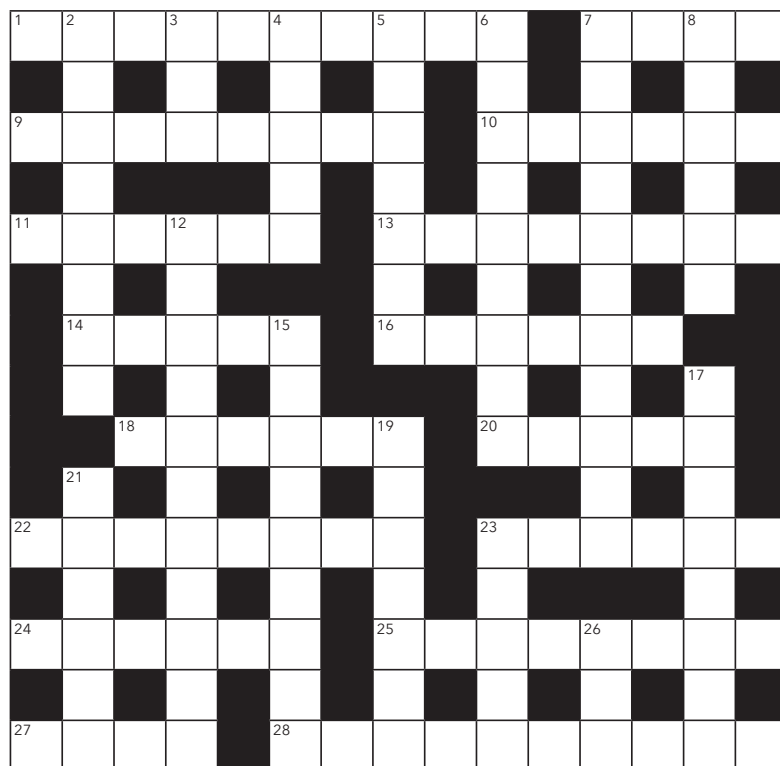


October 2026 crossword



October 2026 wordoku

	V	O	M				T		C
				E		S	I		E
C									I
					S	V			M
O		S		C		E		M	O
		M	O						S
								C	T
	O	C		U					U
	I				T	O	S		V

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 synthetic chemical element.

Cryptic

Across

- 1, 7 Across Pushy diva preparing myrrh for the chemist (3, 7, 4)
 7 See 1 Across (4)
 9 Some hotels of Tenerife can help with the laundry (8)
 10 Plain aunt extremely relaxed abroad (6)
 11 See 5 Down
 13 Ariel is upsetting several leading nationals (8)
 14 Compound interest set aside on arrangement (5)
 16 Tests redesigned trails (6)
 18 Country doctor weds heartless Erin (6)
 20 Encounters for carnivores you might say? (5)
 22 Tough treatment of wart with salt? (8)
 23 Extremely amazing metal? (6)
 24 Monday could turn electric! (6)
 25 Pure gold bishop stole somehow (8)
 27 Not all homes have to connect (4)
 28 Engineer redesigns their logos (10)

Down

- 2 Pioneers reconstructed the compound (8)
 3 Half of them originally spicy (3)
 4 A little cumin used for the takeaway (5)
 5, 11 Across Maybe I ask brother or the nuclear physicist (7, 6)
 6 My tribute to this element? (9)
 7 Battery LED I'll clean to order (7, 4)
 8 Ever mindful there could be a rat inside (6)
 12 Watt blends alcohol for the German chemist (4, 7)
 15 Try to organise around Eve (9)
 17 Bosses act strangely without first class mineral (8)
 19 Salt as salary for the late shift reportedly (7)
 21 Abernethy neighbour is holding gas (6)
 23 Fancy sail's fibre (5)
 26 Record loads of garbage initially (3)

Quick

Across

- 1 See 7 Across (7, 3)
 7, 1 Across Rule of light absorbance (4-7, 3)
 9 Referencing (8)
 10, 11 Environmental campaigner and author of Silent Spring (6, 6)
 11 See 10 Across
 13 Fundamental (8)
 14 Recovery clinic (5)
 16 Sodium flame-test colour (6)
 18 Oxidised coating (as on the Statue of Liberty) (6)
 20 _____ effect, the shifting and splitting of spectral lines due to an external electric field, named after a German physicist (5)
 22 Scots-born founder of the conservation movement in the USA (4, 4)
 23 Explanation (6)
 24 Abstract (6)
 25 Soviet physicist and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize (8)
 27, 28 Across German chemist after whom a flask is named (4, 10)
 28 See 27 Across

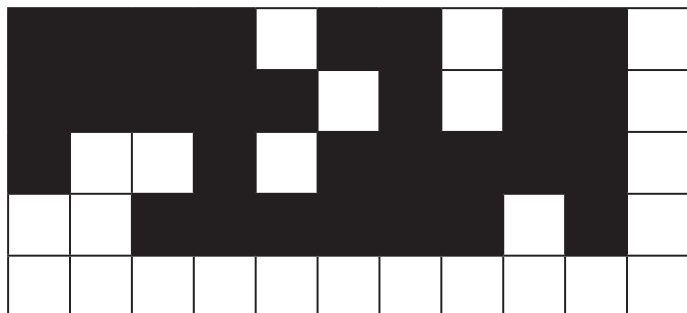
Down

- 2 Italian scientist eponymized with a law of molecular theory (8)
 3 Unit of pressure (3)
 4 Rule (5)
 5 Turn into wood (7)
 6 Space tunnels (9)
 7 See 21 Down
 8 Looking at (6)
 12 Neurolemmocyte (7, 4)
 15 Compressed block of combustible material used as fuel (9)
 17 Biological cell which lacks a distinct membrane-bound nucleus (8)
 19 Suspension in air of fine particles or liquid droplets (7)
 21, 7 Down NaHCO_3 (6, 11)
 23 Accepted (5)
 26 Smallest unit of geological time (3)

October 2026 elements grid

For this 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 eleven symbols.

Am	C	D	Er	H	I	Mo	N	S	T	Y
----	---	---	----	---	---	----	---	---	---	---



Clues:

- Breeding sheep (4)
- Vegetables (4)
- Groups of animals (5)
- Not that (4)
- Branch of Physical Chemistry (14)

October 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 name of fibrous mineral which was once widely used in the building trade but is now banned in many countries.

Elements:

A. Am, Cr, Es, N, P, S, Y

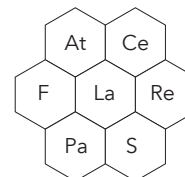
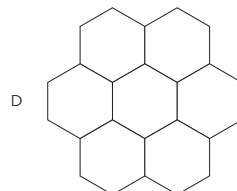
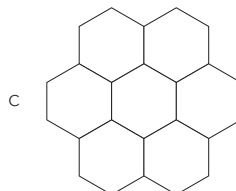
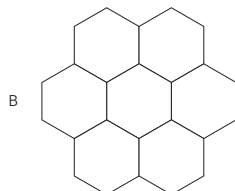
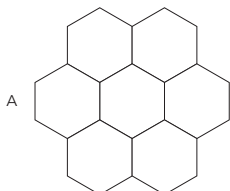
B. Ag, Ds, Dy, Mo, O, Pr, Ra

C. Co, Er, N, Ne, No, Re, Si

D. Ce, Er, In, Ne, Rn, S, Te

For example:

Answers:



Atlas
Flare
Palace

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 **21 October 2026**. The winners of this month's puzzles will be published online at chemistryworld.com at the beginning of November, 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).

Our puzzles are sponsored by Lab Innovations, the only UK event where the whole lab community comes together to discover, connect and colLABorate face-to-face.

Lab Innovations is the UK's leading annual trade show for the laboratory industry

Lab Innovations is the only UK event where the whole laboratory community comes together in one place to discover new technologies, share practical solutions and colLABorate face to face. Bringing together 4,700+ scientists, suppliers and decision-makers from all sectors, the event explores the big issues shaping modern labs: sustainability, AI & automation, applied innovation in industry, quality & compliance, and skills. With hands-on technology, expert insight and valuable

networking across the lab ecosystem, Lab Innovations helps visitors solve challenges faster. Discover how you can colLABorate.



September 2026 solutions and winners

Coronene puzzle

- A. Lists, Pasta, Posy
B. Gapes, Naps, Sepal
C. Ashen, Chef, Sheds
D. Cones, Knees, Money

The mineral running across is Sphene

Elements grid

B	U			N				S		
				H		Er		S		
B	U			N						K
							F	La		K
B	U	C	H	N	Er	F	La	S	K	

Wordoku

The chemist who received a science diplomacy award this year (Sir Martyn) POLIAKOFF

September winners

Coronene

Michal Winiarski
Gdańsk, Poland

Wordoku

Peter Jones
Sandwich, UK

Crossword

Andy Lynn
Hedon, UK

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