

WORDS AND CLUES FOR BLOCKBUSTERS

Always: This A will last forever

Auction: A place where secondhand goods are sold to buyers who offer the best prices.

Atlas: A book that contains pictures of maps of the world.

Absent: Not present

Announcer/Anchor: This A is the main person on the television news

Average: Take the sum of the numbers and divide by the count to get this

A Anglo-Saxons: These As invaded England a long time ago

Accident: This A is an unexpected or unforeseen event or a mistake

Aunt: The wife of your mother's brother.

Abstract: This A is not concrete

Accelerate: This happens to you when you press your foot on the gas pedal

Act: This A is what you might do in a Shakespeare play or in a movie

Anonymous: The writer of a book wants to keep his name secret.

Active: This A is always lively, never passive

Adjust: This A means to change the position of something

Advance: This A means to move forward or attack

Axe: This A is used for cutting up wood

Air: This A is a mixture of oxygen, nitrogen and a few other gases

Aircraft: This A is a machine that will fly

Applaud: Let's give him a nice round of this.

Bee: This small insect likes to make honey and sting you

Border: The line between two countries

Brain: The part of your body that does the thinking for you

Boxing: A game with gloves, rope, a referee and sometimes a knockout.

Blame: To accuse somebody of causing the problem

Blandish: To coax or cajole somebody into doing something.

Buck: One dollar or a male deer

Bread: Money or soft dough cooked in an oven

Buddha: He who found enlightenment

Birthday: It comes round once a year and you sometimes get a cake if you're lucky

Bent: Not straight

Bedroom: The place where you sleep

Beaver: An animal that likes to construct dams across rivers.

Bond: Either a guarantee or something to glue things together

Birth: That time when you left your mother's body

Bankrupt: When a firm runs out of money it can sometimes go this!

Before: Not after

Blood: That red liquid that spills out of your body and slowly kills you if not stopped

Baker: A person who bakes bread

Complement: Some kind words to praise somebody.

Capital: Lima, Washington, Paris, Bangkok....

Company: An enterprise

Close: Not so far away.

Clutch: You step on this when you want to go from 1st to 2nd in your car.

Clarify: To make something more visible.

Circle: A shape whose area is $3.1415 \times$ its radius squared.

Century: One hundred years.

Caffeine: That stuff in coffee that is supposed to keep you awake.

Calendar: A paper item with one page for every month of the year.

Caesarian: When a woman gives birth via operation.

Candle: Long thin things made of wax which appear on top of your birthday cake.

Camp: To sleep outside in a tent

Colour: There are seven of them in the rainbow

Climate: This C determines how much sun, wind and rain your country will get.

Computer: What this program is running on now

Creative: A person who has a lot of new ideas might be described like this.

Clap: To hit your hands together in praise of someone.

Cap: A small hat.

Diary: A book with one page for every day of the year in which you can write your life story.

Decade: Ten years.

Develop: This D usually appears with research.

Dress: An item of clothing worn by women.

Dive: To jump into water head first.

Drunkard: A person who continually and habitually drinks in excess.

Dowry: Money or property that a woman gives to her husband as a gift from her own family

Dyke: A mound made of earth designed to prevent flooding.

Duck: A bird that floats on water.

Duplicate: To copy.

Dwarf: A person who, due to a genetic defect, is much smaller than normal.

Dozen: 12 or in case of a baker, 13.

Dough: Soft material used to make bread.

Donkey: A small horse.

Divorce: What happens when two married people split up permanently.

Disadvantage: Opposite of benefit.

Disco: A club with bright light, dancing and late nights.

Dear: A word that often appears first in a letter.

Distance: The gap between two points.

Drip: This small drop of water might appear if you don't shut the tap off fully.

Dungeon: An underground room used to keep prisoners in the old days.

Earth: This E is the large mass that you are standing on. Ear: You have two of these on the side of your head.

Euthanasia: When an old person with an illness decides to terminate their life early.

Eager: A word which means very keen or enthusiastic.

Eagle: A bird of prey.

Entire: Encompassing the whole range.

Enlarge: To make bigger

Engaged: Either a line can be this or two people.

English: The language that these questions are written in.

Enormous: Very large.

Escort: Somebody who guides you.

Eskimo: A person who lives in an ice house.

Escape: This E is when a person or several people break out of prison.

Error: This is a mistake.

Exercise: What you need to do to keep fit.

Exhaust: The place where noxious fumes come out of your car.

Expert: A person who knows more than most about a subject.

Explosive: Could be Dynamite, TNT or plastic.

External: On the outside. Not inside.

Export: To sell something in a country other than the country of origin.

Empty: Vacant.

Fail: This F is when you don't get enough points to pass the test.

Factory: A place where goods are manufactured

Five: This F comes before six and after four.

Fiancé: The person who you intend to marry.

Fertile: Land is said to be this if it yields abundant crops.

Fluoride: Stuff they put in toothpaste to protect your teeth.

Fool: A clown, dummy, idiot

Forthcoming: Something that is expected to appear in the near future is said to be

Fountain: A place where water shoots out of the ground into the air.

Frequent: Often

Freeze: This happens to water when it drops below zero degrees

Celsius. Furious: A person who is very angry could be said to be this.

Funeral: The last ceremony for a person before he is buried.

Fuse: You might have to change this when the lights go out.

Future: Comes after the present.

Fusion: This process, unlike fission, is when two nuclei join together.

Florist: A person who stocks and sells flowers.

Flour: Major ingredient of bread.

Flock: The name of a group of sheep or seagulls.

Film: A small, thin piece of chemically coated material used to capture moments in time.

Gentle: This G means not rough or violent.

Ghost: An image of a person who has died and who comes back maybe to haunt you!

Germ: A small living organism that causes disease.

Grave: That hole in the ground that you will find yourself in someday.

Grandfather: You father's father.

Gypsy: A person who travels around the country in a caravan.

Guillotine: An old form of capital punishment especially popular in France.

Watch your neck!

Guess: To make an assumption about something without any evidence.

Gym: An indoor place where sports are played.

Guest: A person who comes to your home at your invitation.

Graduate: This G is formed after studying for 3 or 4 years at university.

Genocide: Mass killing of human beings such as the holocaust.

Genuine: The real thing. Not imitation.

Grin: A smile.

Grease: A solid lubricant that may appear in your hair or be put in your engine.

Grocer: One who sells fruit and vegetable?

Guard: A person who stand at the entrance to ward off unwelcome visitors.

Germany: This G fought and lost two world wars.

Heart: This organ acts like a pump. It can also be broken.

Heaven: This is where you go after you die if you believe in God.

Highlight: The most exciting parts of a sports match.

Hammock: A bed made of string that is hung between two trees.

Heartbroken: What you might be if the love of your life tells you she has found another man.

Hospice: This H is a special hospital to care for people with terminal illnesses.

Holiday: Christmas, Easter, New Year. we all like these.

Homeless: A poor man can be said to be this after being evicted from his dwelling place.

Hijack: When terrorists storm a building or aircraft and take people hostage.

Hinge: A small metal piece that allows a door to be swung open or closed.

Honeymoon: Bali, Cheju and Guam are popular places for this H

Help: Aid

History: Details of what happened in the past.

Heroin: A very addictive drug.

Hamburger: A piece of meat sandwiched between two pieces of bread.

Honey: A sweet, sticky liquid produced by insects that will sting you if not careful.

Hard: Not soft.

Hungry: State of being after not eating for several hours.

Hierarchy: This H shows the relationship between levels in an organization.

Hour: Three thousand six hundred seconds.

Indigo: The sixth color of the rainbow

Improve: To get better.

Inch: Two point five four centimeters.

Inaudible: Something that cannot be heard.

Imprison: To confine somebody in a secure place as a punishment for their crime.

Idol: Somebody who you worship.

Identity: ID

Idea: A thought that suddenly comes to mind.

Illegal: This I does not fall within the law.

Illiterate: A person who is unable to read or write.

Idiot: Fool, crazy guy, imbecile, moron.

Individual: Just one person.

Innocent: A verdict handed down by a jury when they think the suspect is not guilty.

Intentional: On purpose.

Interval: A period of time that separates two parts of a program.

Island: A country bordered solely by water.

Itch: A ticklish sensation on the skin that makes you want to scratch.

Iron: Fe

Islam: The religion of Muslims.

Interview: A meeting that takes place to determine if somebody is suitable for a job position.

Inaccurate: Not quite correct.

Inside: Within the house.

International: Between foreign countries.

Jam: A sweet, sticky substance that you spread on bread.

January: The first month of the year.

Joke: A story or tale designed to make someone laugh.

Jealousy: A feeling you get when you envy someone else for having something you don't.

Joint: This J holds the two parts of your leg together and allows it to bend.

Jigsaw: A game made of pieces that fit together to form a picture.

Javelin: A long, thin spear thrown as far as possible during an Olympic event.

Juice: What come out when you squeeze a lemon.

Judge: A person who gives a verdict and passes sentence on a suspect.

Journalism: The job of collecting and writing things for the newspaper or television.

Jury: A group of people who give a verdict after listening to evidence in a trial.

Jug: A container for liquids with a handle and lip for pouring.

Juvenile: This J is a young teenager who is not quite an adult.

Junta: A military government that has come to power through force not elections.

Jupiter: The largest planet in our solar system.

Jolly: This J might describe a person who is very happy and cheerful.

Jail: A place to hold criminals.

Jump: To propel yourself a few feet above the ground using your own body force.

Jockey: A small, light man who sits on top of a horse during a race.

Jungle: Tarzan's home.

Join: To connect two pieces together.

Jewel: A precious stone that could be found in a crown or a ring.

Junior: Not senior.

Jet: A very fast airplane used in modern warfare.

Judo: A martial art in which you try to throw your opponent to the floor.

Jogging: A running exercise designed to keep you fit

Knock: To hit your hand on the door before you enter a room.

Knife: A thin blade and handle used for cutting

Kiss: This K happens when two people touch lips.

Kerosene: A flammable liquid used in heaters and burners.

Knit: To make an item of clothing from wool.

Kingdom: The ruler's land.

Kangaroo: An animal that jumps quite high and is usually seen in Australia.

Kingfisher: A small brightly colored bird that feeds on fish in rivers and lakes.

Keyboard: What you hit to input data into your computer.

Kidnap: To take a person hostage and demand a ransom.

Kill: To end the life of some living creature.

Kilometer: Metric distance used to measure distances between cities.

Key: A metal piece that can open your car.

Kinetics: The science that studies movement.

Kilowatt: A unit of energy.

Kilt: A traditional item of clothing worn by Scotsmen.

Knuckle: The hard part where the bone sticks out on the back of your hand.

Koran: The holy book for Muslims.

Limp: Loose, not stiff.

Love: This L could appear at first sight!

Language: The name for the words and grammar that comes out of your mouth.

Listen: To pay attention to some acoustic sound entering your ear.

Literature: A body of written works that include novels and poems.

Legend: A story that is not completely true but is not completely false.

Lesbian: A woman who is sexually attracted to one of the same sex.

Lock: A metal piece used to secure a door.

Loose: This may slip off because it is not fitting tightly.

Lubricant: The oil and grease that prevents wear and overheating in engines.

Lynch: To hang somebody without giving them a trial first.

Luxury: Great comfort which is provide by wealth.

Lunch: A meal that you eat in the middle of the day.

Luck: A fortunate happening.

Lyric: The words of a song.

Lunatic: A person who is mad , foolish or strange.

Loyalty: A bond between two or more people that prevents them from betraying each other.

Loudspeaker: A cone shaped device that converts electrical signals into sound waves.

Lottery: A game of chance which depends on you having the correct number.

Locomotive: The part of a train that pulls the carriages.

Lecture: A formal speech presented to an audience at a university.

Legitimate: Legal or correct.

Leap: To jump through the air over a great distance.

Market: A place where goods are bought and sold.

Manual: A book that describes how to operate something or a type of gear box.

Margarine: A substitute for butter for those weight watchers.

Mistake: An act that was not intended.

Mismanage: To control or lead a business or group badly.

Muscles: You try to strengthen these by lifting weights.

Multiple: Not just one but many.

Myth: A tale that has no truth to it.

Mystery: Something that defies all explanation.

Muslim: A believer in the Islamic religion.

Murder: To terminate the life of another human being intentionally.

Morgue: A place where dead bodies are stored before they are buried.

Mortgage: A special loan taken out in order to buy a house.

Morphine: A drug that is used in hospitals to relieve pain.

Monsoon: The rainy season in tropical regions.

Monkeys: These Ms are our direct ancestors.

Monolingual: A person who only know his mother tongue is said to be this.

Modem: Up to date and trendy.

Moment: A small amount of time. You can pause for this.

Mist: A thin fog that usually appears around the mountain top.

Minute: One sixtieth of an hour.

Mind: This is where you do your thinking.

Martian: An imaginary creature from the planet nearest to earth.

Neck: The bit that connects your head to your body.

Nervous: A person might feel this before an interview or exam.

Nuclear: This N is a form of power generated by splitting atoms.

Novelty: Something that is new and has never been seen before.

Nicotine: This N is the addictive substance that is found in cigarettes.

Nightmare: A frightening dream.

Nobility: The high-class people who usually have titles such as duke or earl.

Newspaper: This N is black and white but read all over.

Neutral: The position of the gear lever when you park your car.

Native: A person who was born in the country or place in question.

Navigate: To choose the best route so that a vehicle will arrive at the correct destination.

Nail: This N gets hit on the head as it is being driven into wood.

Nurse: A person who looks after you when you are in hospital.

Notorious: This N describes a person who has a bad reputation.

Nose: The part of your face that sticks out the most and is usually the source of colds. Niece: Your sister's daughter.

Nine: Comes before ten and after eight.

Nightclub: A place for drinking and dancing after dark.

Negotiate: When two parties talk with each other to reach a consensus to solve a dispute.

Neither: Not both.

Narrate: To tell a story.

Orange: A fruit and a color.

Object: A thing that can be seen or touched and that is not alive.

Oar: A wooden implement used to propel a small boat forward.

Obscene: Very disgusting.

Obstinate: A person who is stubborn may be described like this.

Occasionally: This O happens from time to time.

Offshore: A location that is not on dry land.

Olympic: This event is held every four years and in 1988 was held in Seoul.

Once: One time and no more.

Onion: A vegetable that can make you cry.

Optimism: A feeling that the future will produce many beneficial things.

Oral: Something that comes out of the mouth is said to be this O.

Orchestra: A group of musicians who play classical music.

Orient: An area of the globe that includes China, Japan and Korea.

Oven: A place when food is put in order to be cooked.

Overcrowded: When there are too many people in one place such as a stadium or house.

Oxygen: This O is the vital part of the air you breathe.

Opposition: The parties and politicians who do not support the government of the day.

OPEC: An organization that regulates oil prices and production.

Ozone: A protective layer high above the earth that is slowly disappearing.

Owl: A bird that flies at night and hunts small animals.

Paint: This P is a colored liquid that is spread on surfaces to change their color.

Palm: The inside of your hand.

Package: An item that is wrapped in paper and sent through the post.

Page: One of many thin sheets in a book.

Panic: What the passengers might do when told the plane is going to crash.

Paradox: A mystery.

Parallel: Two lines are said to be this when the distance between them stays constant.

Pound: Could be a measure of weight or a currency.

Praise: Words that you say to a person when they do a good job.

Pregnant: A woman's state when she has a child inside her.

Prison: A secure hall for keeping men and women who have committed crimes.

Probe: A long thin piece of metal used by doctors to examine bodies carefully.

Prostitute: A woman who sells her body for sex.

Punishment: Something that is given to a person who has been convicted of a crime.

Quality: Most companies try to improve this to provide customer satisfaction

Quack: The sound a duck makes.

Quarrel: An argument between two people.

Quest: A search for something.

Quarry: A big hole in the ground where rocks and minerals are dug out.

Quick: Not slow.

Question: This is one.

Quilt: A cover for a bed which is filled with soft material.

Quota: A pre-determined level above which it is not possible to go.

Quintet: A group of five.

Quote: A direct repetition of what somebody said.

Query: A question especially to a database.

Quay: A construction where ships can dock and be unloaded.

Quake: Is measured by the Richter scale.

Qualification: A degree that you get after taking study and passing exams.

Queue: There always one at the hospital or the bus stop.

Quiet: The absence of any loud noise.

Q: This Q comes just after the 16th letter of the alphabet.

Quad: A square opening with buildings around it.

Quagmire: A large area of soft, wet ground.

Quartermaster: Military officer who is in charge of food and supplies.

Recycle: To reuse something by sending it back to the manufacturing line.

Red: One color of the Japanese flag.

Record: Could be an item in a database or one of a music collection.

Rectangle: A four sided figure that is not quite a square.

Refresh: To make someone less hot or tired

Refuse: Items you put outside for the dustbin men to come and take away.

Region: An area of a country.

Remain: To stay behind while the others leave.

Remember: To keep in your memory people or happenings from the past.

Remove: To get rid of something from a place where it has been for some time.

Republic: This R was formed after the French revolution.

Resignation: An official statement that a person is going to quit their job.

Reunification: East and West and North and South have been or are concerned with this. Rib: One of 12 pairs in your body.

Rice: Small white grains that are the staple diet of many families in Asia.

Rifle: A gun that can shoot over long distances due to its length.

Ring: A sound that tells you someone is trying to contact you by phone.

Roam: To wander about with no clear purpose.

Rotten: An item of food that is well past its expiry date will probably be like this R.

Rumour: A story that is spread amongst people but which has little truth to it.

Sailor: A man who travels around the world on the sea visiting many countries.

Salad: A mix of vegetables including lettuce and tomatoes usually served with a sauce.

Sadist: A person who likes to inflict pain on other people.

Silver: A metal commonly found in rings.

Sin: This S is a crime.

Silence: This S is golden.

Simple: Not complicated.

Sixty: Three times twenty.

Skeleton: This is the frame that holds your body up.

Slam: To shut loudly with great force.

Smile: When the comers of your mouth turn upwards but your lips don't open.

Spanner: An instrument used to undo bolts.

Spinster: An unmarried woman, especially an older one.

Spokesman: A person who makes announcements for a group or organization.

Stars: These Ss look very small but are actually very large

Sterile: Something is said to be this if it has no germs on it.

Substitute: A person in a soccer match who comes on to replace another man.

Swan: A large white bird that lives on rivers and lakes.

Safe: A place where money can be stored to prevent it from being stolen.

Tailor: A man who sews pieces of cloth together to make suits.

Tactic: A special strategy used by a team to win a game.

Tarmac: A black substance that is laid down as the final surface of a road.

Tattoo: A picture on the skin that is favored by sailors.

Telegram: A method of sending a short written message (Not a telex)

Temper: That part of your personality that you lose when you get angry.

Tepid: Luke warm.

Terminal: The final stop for trains, coaches and airplanes.

Terrorism: This T may be carried out by the IRA, PLO or any other guerrilla organization.

Theatre: A place where entertainment such as plays and movies is shown.

Tide: This T comes in and goes out due to the influence of the moon.

Torpedo: A missile that is fired under water from a submarine.

Transfer: What you do when you land at an airport, change planes then take off again.

Truth: Words that match what happened.

Twin: One of two babies born on the same day to the same mother.

Typical: Usual.

Tyrant: A dictator who rules a country very harshly and with an iron fist.

Turkey: A large bird usually eaten at Christmas time.

Tunnel: A long thin hole underground built to by-pass a mountain.

Trophy: A large cup made of shiny metal given when a team wins a

competition. **Trial:** A case at a courthouse that judges a person's guilt.

Treble: This knob is usually found next to the bass knob on your stereo.

Telephone: A machine for speaking to somebody who is a long way away.

Useful: Something that is not redundant.

Uranium: A radioactive element used in nuclear weapons.

Urgent: This U is very important and must be carried out at once.

Urban: Related to the city.

Unique: This is only one of these Us.

Undertaker: This U is the man who buries dead people.

Uncle: Your father's brother.

Ulcer: A sore spot that may develop in your stomach after eating hot or spicy food.

Umbrella: A device that is opened to prevent water droplets falling on your head.

Unilateral: This U describes an action that is taken by one party only.

Unite: To bring together two groups or countries to form one.

University: A place of higher education where you can receive BAs, MAs and

PhDs. **Udder:** The place where milk is taken from a cow.

UFO: An object that flies and has not been identified.

Ultimate: The last or the best.

Umbilical Cord: Piece of flesh and body material that joins the mother to a newborn child.

Upper Class: A group in society often referred to as the aristocracy or noble class.

Union Jack: The national flag of Britain.

Undeveloped: Without industry or modern farming.

Underground: This is usually where the subway can be found.

Umpire: A judge in charge of a game.

Unscrew: To remove the top off a jar of jam or similar food stuff.

Vacation: A time when you stop working and travel with your family.

Vein: A tube that carries red liquid around your body.

Various: This V describes a collection of items where each item has different characteristics.

Vehicle: A machine that will take you to work in the morning.

Vendor: Somebody who sells things.

Vice: Either a steel device for gripping things or crime.

Veteran: A person who has had a lot of experience in a particular field.

Velocity: Distance travel divided by time.

Vendetta: An act that gets revenge for a previous act.

Vinegar: A brown liquid that turns to acid after prolonged exposure to air.

Visa: Something that you need if you want to travel to another country.

VIP: A person whose importance is very clear.

Violent: Using physical force to hurt somebody.

Virgin: A person who has not experienced sexual intercourse.

Video: A way of watching a movie without going to the cinema.

Vineyard: A place where grapes are grown.

Vision: What you have due to the fact that you have two eyes in the front of your head.

Vital: This V is a very important ingredient.

Vat: A large barrel or container for holding liquids.

Valley: The land lying between two hills or mountains.

Wall: There are usually four of them which support the ceiling.

Wave: A shake of the hand and arm when you are leaving someone.

Waist: Women spend a great deal of effort and money trying to reduce this vital statistic.

War: When two countries fight each other.

Warm: The state that water passes through on its way to becoming hot.

Wash: You do this in the morning and evening to make yourself clean.

Wedding: A special occasion to celebrate the joining together of a man and a woman.

Weather: A system that directly affect how much rain and sunshine a country gets.

Welcome: Something you give a person when you meet them at the airport.

Wheel: You car has four of these.

Whale: A mammal that lives under the water.

Window: An area that allows you to see the outside world.

Widow: A woman whose husband has died.

Winter: Comes after autumn and before spring.

Witness: A person who gives evidence at a trial.

Wrist: This connects your hands to your arms.

Wrong: Not right.

Wreck: What is left over after a ship has sunk.

Worm: A snake-like creature that lives under the ground.

World: The vehicle that is free to ride on and that gives you a free trip around the sun. **X-ray:** This X is used to determine if you have broken any bones.

Xmas: This X celebrates the birth of Jesus.

Xerox: This X is the name of a company and also the name of a process meaning to copy.

Xenophobia: Unreasonable fear and dislike of foreigners or strangers.

Xanadu: A place of great beauty, luxury and contentment.

Xavier: Spanish Jesuit missionary.

X-axis: The line that usually runs along the bottom of a graph.

Xenon: Heavy, colorless, inert gas.

Xhosa: A member of the Nguni people of South Africa.

X-rated: A movie that has sexually explicit scenes.

Yacht: A boat powered by wind

Yard: Three feet

Yankee: A slang term for a person from the United States

Yawn: When you open your mouth to relieve your tiredness.

Yellow: A color of the rainbow.

Yield: To allow someone to pull in front of you when driving.

Yoga: A form of exercise or meditation that involves twisting the body into various shapes.

Yogurt: A dairy product that comes in many flavors.

Yolk: The yellow part of an egg.

Young: A description of a person who is not old.

Yarn: Thread made of wool or cotton.

Year: Normally eight thousand seven hundred and sixty hours.

Yearling: A young horse between one and two years old.

Yeast: A form of very small plant life that is used to make beer

Yen: Japanese currency.

You: The person who is looking at this question.

Youth Hostel: A cheap place for travelers to stay. Especially popular with young people.

Yuletide: The Christmas holiday.

Yuppie: A young person in a professional job with a high income.

Zoo: Place where animals are kept. Zaire: Country in Africa.

Zebra: A horse with black and white stripes.

Zachariah: Father of John the Baptist.

Zippo: A well known make of lighter.

Zulu: A member of the Nguni people living mainly in Natal, South Africa.

Zealot: A person who shows excessive enthusiasm for something.

Zenith: The point on the celestial sphere vertically above a given observer.

Zero: Nothing, naught.

Zeus: The god of the heavens and supreme deity of the ancient Greeks.

Zig Zag: A line of progression marked by sharp turns from side to side.

Zagreb: Capital of Croatia.

Zinc: A ductile, bluish white metallic element.

Zap: To attack, destroy and defeat something with sudden force and speed.

Zion: Hill in Jerusalem on which a temple was built.

ZIP Code: A system used in the US to facilitate delivery of mail.

Zodiac: There are twelve signs in this.

Zombie: The body of a dead person brought back to life as a mute.