

Learn Codewords

Start with one complete worked lesson. Then try four practice puzzles, with optional hints and full-size answers whenever you want them.

These pages are taken from the 154-page paperback. Its printed page numbers are retained, so the references beside each puzzle still match the included hints and answers. Use the guide below to navigate this PDF.

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Print and settle in

For US Letter paper, print at actual size. For A4, choose fit to page. If printing double-sided, flip on the long edge. You can also print just the puzzle pages.

The full book contains four worked lessons and 56 practice puzzles. Visit hazelmapple.co.uk/learn-codewords for the latest availability.

Learn Codewords

4 worked lessons and
56 large-print practice puzzles

With optional hints and full-size answers

**Find a word.
Carry its letters through the grid.
Watch the next word appear.**

A pencil, an eraser and a little curiosity are all you need. Start with the lessons, practise at your own pace, and use a hint whenever it helps.

Hazel Maple

How the code works

Each number from **1 to 26** stands for one letter. Within one puzzle, that match never changes. If 8 means R, every square marked 8 takes an R.

Different numbers mean different letters. A letter cannot belong to two numbers. Every full puzzle in this book uses all 26 letters.

Read words **across from left to right** or **down from top to bottom**. Dark squares separate words. There are no diagonal or backwards answers.

Some letters are given to get you started. They are already printed in every matching square and in the reference boxes under the grid.

Write each new match in the reference boxes, then put that letter into every square with its number. This can reveal parts of several words at once.

Each puzzle has a **fresh code**. A number that means R on one page can mean something different on the next.

The small numbers outside the grid are row and column guides for the lessons and hints. They are not part of the code.

A small first success

This tiny example uses a separate code. You know that 4 = T and 11 = E. What familiar four-letter word could fit?

4	7	11	11
T		E	E

The two 11s must have the same letter. A word ending in two different letters cannot fit.

Try **TREE**. It keeps T and both Es where they belong. That suggests 7 = R. In a full grid, you would now write R in every square numbered 7 and check the crossing words.

A second check

Could TREE fit the code 4 - 7 - 11 - 12? No. Its last two letters are the same, but 11 and 12 must represent different letters.

Recognising a word gives you a candidate. The number pattern tells you whether it is allowed. The rest of the grid helps you decide whether to keep it.

Three habits that help

Look before you guess

Scan for a nearly complete word or an interesting repeat. A long word with several known letters may be more useful than a short word with none. You can work anywhere in the grid.

Make a trial reversible

Use light pencil for a possible word. Check every known letter, every repeated number and the letter key before treating it as settled. If it fails later, remove that trial match everywhere you copied it.

Finish one useful cycle

After accepting a new letter, update the key and all its squares before hunting for another word. Otherwise you can miss the information you have already earned.

When the grid seems stuck

Check for a copied letter in the wrong number. Try a different area. Notice which letters have not been used. Then take a hint if you need one.

There is no score for refusing help. The aim is to enjoy finding the next connection.

Using the lessons and hints

Each lesson begins with a complete puzzle. Try a few squares first, then turn to the worked route. Follow it with your pencil, adding each new match throughout the grid.

The worked routes show the word shape **before that step**. Underscores are missing letters. “New matches” tells you what to add. If you solved in a different order, your grid may already contain more letters.

These are suggested routes, with vocabulary nudges to help you learn. They do not claim that every suggested word is obvious or that you must find it in that order.

The 56 practice puzzles each have their own page. Earlier puzzles generally give more starter letters. The four sets are waypoints for practice, rather than tested difficulty grades.

Each practice puzzle has **two optional hints** in a separate section. The first points to a promising word; the second reveals one new letter. Cover the other hints with paper if you want to avoid seeing them.

Every lesson and practice puzzle has a full-size answer grid at the back. The page numbers beside each puzzle lead directly to its hints and answer.

Lesson 1: follow the letters

Worked route: pages 8-10. Full answer: page 93.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1		25	17	12	20			16							
2					21 E	5	20	18	13 A	12	22	21 E			8
3	16	2	13 A	23 L	23 L			26			8				2
4		21 E			23 L			8		12	21 E	3 T			10
5		13 A		11	13 A	2	17	23 L	1		16		10		14
6		16			14			7		16	3 T	14	17	19	21 E
7	4	8	17	25		9		21 E					20		23 L
8		14			4	8	13 A	14	3 T	25			1		23 L
9		21 E		6		2			6				20		13 A
10			18	13 A	19	19	1		21 E		8		23 L		
11		8		23 L				10	23 L	13 A	12	15	21 E	3 T	
12		19	21 E	12	20	17	23 L		24		17			26	
13		19		8		7		6	21 E	13 A	3 T	18	21 E	14	
14	11	21 E	13 A	3 T	18	21 E	14					8		20	
15		14				13 A			16	15	21 E	3 T	20	18	

1	2	3 T	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13 A
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21 E	22	23 L	24	25	26

Lesson 1: the first discoveries

A new letter can help words far away from the one you just solved.

1. Row 8, column 9, down

T _ E L _ E Try **TWELVE**.

New matches: 6 = W, 24 = V.

Think of a six-letter number. TWELVE keeps T, L and both Es in their given places. Pencil in W and V, then put them everywhere their numbers appear.

2. Row 13, column 8, across

W E A T _ E _ Try **WEATHER**.

New matches: 18 = H, 14 = R.

The new W helps this word emerge. WEATHER fits the known letters, including both Es. Add H and R to the key and throughout the grid.

3. Row 9, column 4, down

W A L _ _ T Try **WALNUT**.

New matches: 12 = N, 8 = U.

WALLET is tempting, but its fourth letter repeats L. This square has a different number from L. WALNUT fits the pattern; test N and U in the crossings.

Lesson 1: carry it through

4. Row 2, column 15, down

U _ _ R E L L A Try **UMBRELLA**. New matches: 2 = M, 10 = B.

5. Row 3, column 2, down

M E A _ U R E Try **MEASURE**. New matches: 16 = S.

6. Row 11, column 8, across

B L A N _ E T Try **BLANKET**. New matches: 15 = K.

7. Row 15, column 9, across

S K E T _ H Try **SKETCH**. New matches: 20 = C.

8. Row 11, column 14, down

T _ R C H Try **TORCH**. New matches: 26 = O.

9. Row 1, column 8, down

S H O U L _ E R Try **SHOULDER**. New matches: 7 = D.

10. Row 2, column 5, across

E _ C H A N _ E Try **EXCHANGE**. New matches: 5 = X, 22 = G.

Lesson 1: carry it through

11. Row 10, column 11, down

U N _ T Try **UNIT**. New matches: 17 = I.

12. Row 5, column 13, down

B I C _ C L E Try **BICYCLE**. New matches: 1 = Y.

13. Row 14, column 1, across

_ E A T H E R Try **FEATHER**. New matches: 11 = F.

14. Row 6, column 10, across

S T R I _ E Try **STRIPE**. New matches: 19 = P.

15. Row 1, column 2, across

_ I N C Try **ZINC**. New matches: 25 = Z.

16. Row 8, column 5, across

_ U A R T Z Try **QUARTZ**. New matches: 4 = Q.

17. Row 7, column 6, down

_ U M P Try **JUMP**. New matches: 9 = J.

All 26 matches are now in place. Fill any remaining squares, then check every across and down word against the full-size answer on page 93.

Practice 01

Getting started. Hints: page 79. Answer: page 97.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1					4					19			6	18	26
2				16	9	1	19	22	25	9	24	24			5
3		5			24					26			1		23
4		23		6	9	12	10	18	19	1			23		8
5		12			13		18				14	9	12	7	19
6		19		5	21	15	9	2	9	26		14		11	
7	25	9	23	22			22			8		3	23	12	19
8		5		19		5	22	23	17	19		19		1	
9		5		3			19			1	19	12	12	23	26
10	6	24	18	19	6	19	24	24		7		1		12	
11		19		12				19		20		18		18	
12				1			9		6			22		19	
13	26	18	12		26	18	12	25	24	11	16	19	22		
14		26			23		19			11					
15	22	19	24	9	13		16	11	22	8	26	20	11	5	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
T								A			N	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
					E				I	L		

Practice 02

Getting started. Hints: page 79. Answer: page 98.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	10	1 O	8	14 R	7 N	25 A	4						7 N		
2	8					16			14 R	1 O	8	20 T	11	7 N	17 E
3	7 N		15	25 A	3	20 T	14 R	13					7 N		
4	11					1 O			3	12	8	17 E	17 E	23	17 E
5	1 O	14 R	16	2	25 A	14 R	9					21			25 A
6	14 R		4					19	2	25 A	20 T	17 E	22	17 E	14 R
7		16	25 A	14 R		12			17 E			14 R			14 R
8	14 R		3		10	8	7 N	6	4	17 E		16			11
9	17 E		3			25 A			11		4	11	7 N	17 E	7 N
10	18	1 O	14 R	5		4			16			3			6
11	4		1 O		19	11	3	9	1 O	26		17 E		16	
12	17 E		1 O			20 T			15		20 T		20 T	14 R	13
13	16	1 O	26	17 E	9	13			20 T		25 A			8	
14	20 T						24	14 R	17 E	25 A	5	18	25 A	3	20 T
15									14 R		17 E			20 T	

1 O	2	3	4	5	6	7 N	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 R	15	16	17 E	18	19	20 T	21	22	23	24	25 A	26

Practice 03

Getting started. Hints: page 79. Answer: page 99.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1			12 L		11	25	11	23 E			24				23 E
2	3 R		16				12 L		9 S		3 R		1		7 A
3	23 E		12 L			22	7 A	17	7 A	14	25	21	23 E		3 R
4	7 A		12 L		8		21		21		21		20	23 E	15 T
5	9 S	10	7 A	3 R	12 L	23 E	15 T		19		1		18		2
6	5		18		7 A			9 S	24	7 A	12 L	12 L	5	24	
7	21		20		4				25		23 E		7 A		
8		6			5	18	26	23 E	10	15 T		17	3 R	23 E	20
9		16			16				2				19		
10		23 E	13	11	3 R	23 E	9 S	9 S				3 R		19	
11		9 S		23 E			2		24			23 E		7 A	
12	9 S	15 T	3 R	7 A	24	18	23 E	3 R	3 R	20		4	7 A	21	
13		25		3 R			12 L		25			23 E		17	
14		5			25	12 L	12 L	16	9 S	15 T	3 R	7 A	15 T	23 E	
15	5	21	10	23 E					15 T			12 L		3 R	

1	2	3 R	4	5	6	7 A	8	9 S	10	11	12 L	13
14	15 T	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23 E	24	25	26

Practice 04

Getting started. Hints: page 79. Answer: page 100.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	17 	22 E	15 A			23 				21 		8 R	24 O	16 	22 E
2	19 T			11 	14 	8 R	7 	6 I	19 T	14 	8 R	22 E		9 	
3	8 R			15 A		24 O				23 		21 		22 E	
4	15 A			26 		14 			20 		21 	22 E	4 	15 A	9
5	6 I		10 	24 O	21 	16 	24 O	17 	22 E	8 R		21 		19 T	
6	23 			14 					17 			25 			
7	1 	22 E	15 A	8 R	19 T		7 		19 T			22 E	10 	1 	24 O
8	19 T			6 I		5 	22 E	18 	22 E	9 		8 R		6 I	
9		22 E		19 T			6 I		8 R		16 			25 	
10		13 		22 E			23 		4 		15 A			22 E	
11		16 					1 		15 A	6 I	8 R	16 	24 O	8 R	19 T
12		9 					25 		20 		17 			7 	
13	3 	15 A	7 	23 	15 A	8 R	24 O	24 O		15 A	7 	6 I	21 	15 A	9
14		6 I					14 				6 I			19 T	
15		7 		2 	14 	15 A	8 R	19 T	12 		16 	6 I	7 	22 E	

1	2	3	4	5	6 I	7	8 R	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 A	16	17	18	19 T	20	21	22 E	23	24 O	25	26

Hints: practice 1-4

Start with Hint 1. Use Hint 2 only if you want a letter. Cover the other puzzles' hints to keep their surprises.

Practice 01

1. Row 9, column 10, across. Starter shape:

T E N N I _

2. Number 26 = S. Add it everywhere and look again.

Practice 02

1. Row 1, column 13, down. Starter shape:

N _ N E

2. Number 11 = I. Add it everywhere and look again.

Practice 03

1. Row 5, column 1, across. Starter shape:

S _ A R L E T

2. Number 10 = C. Add it everywhere and look again.

Practice 04

1. Row 11, column 9, across. Starter shape:

A I R _ O R T

2. Number 16 = P. Add it everywhere and look again.

Lesson 1: answer

Puzzle: page 7. Check the completed words and the reference boxes.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1		25 Z	17 I	12 N	20 C			16 S							
2					21 E	5 X	20 C	18 H	13 A	12 N	22 G	21 E			8 U
3	16 S	2 M	13 A	23 L	23 L			26 O			8 U				2 M
4		21 E			23 L			8 U		12 N	21 E	3 T			10 B
5		13 A		11 F	13 A	2 M	17 I	23 L	1 Y		16 S		10 B		14 R
6		16 S			14 R			7 D		16 S	3 T	14 R	17 I	19 P	21 E
7	4 Q	8 U	17 I	25 Z		9 J		21 E					20 C		23 L
8		14 R			4 Q	8 U	13 A	14 R	3 T	25 Z			1 Y		23 L
9		21 E		6 W		2 M			6 W				20 C		13 A
10			18 H	13 A	19 P	19 P	1 Y		21 E		8 U		23 L		
11		8 U		23 L				10 B	23 L	13 A	12 N	15 K	21 E	3 T	
12		19 P	21 E	12 N	20 C	17 I	23 L		24 V		17 I			26 O	
13		19 P		8 U		7 D		6 W	21 E	13 A	3 T	18 H	21 E	14 R	
14	11 F	21 E	13 A	3 T	18 H	21 E	14 R					8 U		20 C	
15		14 R				13 A			16 S	15 K	21 E	3 T	20 C	18 H	

1 Y	2 M	3 T	4 Q	5 X	6 W	7 D	8 U	9 J	10 B	11 F	12 N	13 A
14 R	15 K	16 S	17 I	18 H	19 P	20 C	21 E	22 G	23 L	24 V	25 Z	26 O

Practice 01: answer

Puzzle: page 23. Check the completed words and the reference boxes.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1					4 G					19 E			6 B	18 U	26 S
2				16 W	9 A	1 T	19 E	22 R	25 F	9 A	24 L	24 L			5 P
3		5 P			24 L					26 S			1 T		23 I
4		23 I		6 B	9 A	12 N	10 Q	18 U	19 E	1 T			23 I		8 K
5		12 N			13 X		18 U				14 D	9 A	12 N	7 C	19 E
6		19 E		5 P	21 Y	15 J	9 A	2 M	9 A	26 S		14 D		11 O	
7	25 F	9 A	23 I	22 R			22 R			8 K		3 V	23 I	12 N	19 E
8		5 P		19 E		5 P	22 R	23 I	17 Z	19 E		19 E		1 T	
9		5 P		3 V			19 E			1 T	19 E	12 N	12 N	23 I	26 S
10	6 B	24 L	18 U	19 E	6 B	19 E	24 L	24 L		7 C		1 T		12 N	
11		19 E		12 N				19 E		20 H		18 U		18 U	
12				1 T				9 A		6 B		22 R		19 E	
13	26 S	18 U	12 N		26 S	18 U	12 N	25 F	24 L	11 O	16 W	19 E	22 R		
14		26 S			23 I		19 E			11 O					
15	22 R	19 E	24 L	9 A	13 X		16 W	11 O	22 R	8 K	26 S	20 H	11 O	5 P	

1 T	2 M	3 V	4 G	5 P	6 B	7 C	8 K	9 A	10 Q	11 O	12 N	13 X
14 D	15 J	16 W	17 Z	18 U	19 E	20 H	21 Y	22 R	23 I	24 L	25 F	26 S

Practice 02: answer

Puzzle: page 24. Check the completed words and the reference boxes.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	10 J	1 O	8 U	14 R	7 N	25 A	4 L						7 N		
2	8 U					16 C			14 R	1 O	8 U	20 T	11 I	7 N	17 E
3	7 N		15 P	25 A	3 S	20 T	14 R	13 Y					7 N		
4	11 I					1 O			3 S	12 Q	8 U	17 E	17 E	23 Z	17 E
5	1 O	14 R	16 C	2 H	25 A	14 R	9 D					21 X			25 A
6	14 R		4 L					19 W	2 H	25 A	20 T	17 E	22 V	17 E	14 R
7		16 C	25 A	14 R		12 Q			17 E			14 R			14 R
8	14 R		3 S		10 J	8 U	7 N	6 G	4 L	17 E		16 C			11 I
9	17 E		3 S			25 A			11 I		4 L	11 I	7 N	17 E	7 N
10	18 F	1 O	14 R	5 K		4 L			16 C			3 S			6 G
11	4 L		1 O		19 W	11 I	3 S	9 D	1 O	26 M		17 E		16 C	
12	17 E		1 O			20 T			15 P		20 T		20 T	14 R	13 Y
13	16 C	1 O	26 M	17 E	9 D	13 Y			20 T		25 A			8 U	
14	20 T						24 B	14 R	17 E	25 A	5 K	18 F	25 A	3 S	20 T
15									14 R		17 E			20 T	

1 O	2 H	3 S	4 L	5 K	6 G	7 N	8 U	9 D	10 J	11 I	12 Q	13 Y
14 R	15 P	16 C	17 E	18 F	19 W	20 T	21 X	22 V	23 Z	24 B	25 A	26 M

Practice 03: answer

Puzzle: page 25. Check the completed words and the reference boxes.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1			12 L		11 P	25 I	11 P	23 E			24 W				23 E
2	3 R		16 U				12 L		9 S		3 R		1 K		7 A
3	23 E		12 L			22 M	7 A	17 G	7 A	14 Z	25 I	21 N	23 E		3 R
4	7 A		12 L		8 F		21 N		21 N		21 N		20 Y	23 E	15 T
5	9 S	10 C	7 A	3 R	12 L	23 E	15 T		19 D		1 K		18 B		2 H
6	5 O		18 B		7 A			9 S	24 W	7 A	12 L	12 L	5 O	24 W	
7	21 N		20 Y		4 V				25 I		23 E		7 A		
8		6 Q			5 O	18 B	26 J	23 E	10 C	15 T		17 G	3 R	23 E	20 Y
9		16 U			16 U				2 H				19 D		
10		23 E	13 X	11 P	3 R	23 E	9 S	9 S				3 R		19 D	
11		9 S		23 E			2 H		24 W			23 E		7 A	
12	9 S	15 T	3 R	7 A	24 W	18 B	23 E	3 R	3 R	20 Y		4 V	7 A	21 N	
13		25 I		3 R			12 L		25 I			23 E		17 G	
14		5 O			25 I	12 L	12 L	16 U	9 S	15 T	3 R	7 A	15 T	23 E	
15	5 O	21 N	10 C	23 E					15 T			12 L		3 R	

1 K	2 H	3 R	4 V	5 O	6 Q	7 A	8 F	9 S	10 C	11 P	12 L	13 X
14 Z	15 T	16 U	17 G	18 B	19 D	20 Y	21 N	22 M	23 E	24 W	25 I	26 J

Practice 04: answer

Puzzle: page 26. Check the completed words and the reference boxes.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	17 S	22 E	15 A			23 G				21 M		8 R	24 O	16 P	22 E
2	19 T			11 F	14 U	8 R	7 N	6 I	19 T	14 U	8 R	22 E		9 L	
3	8 R			15 A		24 O				23 G		21 M		22 E	
4	15 A			26 V		14 U			20 Y		21 M	22 E	4 D	15 A	9 L
5	6 I		10 C	24 O	21 M	16 P	24 O	17 S	22 E	8 R		21 M		19 T	
6	23 G			14 U					17 S			25 B			
7	1 H	22 E	15 A	8 R	19 T		7 N		19 T			22 E	10 C	1 H	24 O
8	19 T			6 I		5 J	22 E	18 W	22 E	9 L		8 R		6 I	
9		22 E		19 T			6 I		8 R		16 P			25 B	
10		13 X		22 E			23 G		4 D		15 A			22 E	
11		16 P					1 H		15 A	6 I	8 R	16 P	24 O	8 R	19 T
12		9 L					25 B		20 Y		17 S			7 N	
13	3 K	15 A	7 N	23 G	15 A	8 R	24 O	24 O		15 A	7 N	6 I	21 M	15 A	9 L
14		6 I					14 U				6 I			19 T	
15		7 N		2 Q	14 U	15 A	8 R	19 T	12 Z		16 P	6 I	7 N	22 E	

1 H	2 Q	3 K	4 D	5 J	6 I	7 N	8 R	9 L	10 C	11 F	12 Z	13 X
14 U	15 A	16 P	17 S	18 W	19 T	20 Y	21 M	22 E	23 G	24 O	25 B	26 V