

Answer Key

Match the Hats

- i) Cowboy
- d) Astronaut
- g) Chef
- e) African Explorer
- j) Football Player
- f) Hockey Player
- n) Court Jester
- a) Wizard
- k) Construction Worker
- m) Graduating Student
- b) Firefighter
- h) Viking
- l) Detective
- o) Medieval Princess
- c) Clown

Mad Hat Word Search



Answer Key continued

Put on Your Thinking Cap

At the drop of a hat—not delaying, doing something on the spur of the moment

For many years the dropping of a hat was used as a starting signal for competitors in a race, competition or contest. We now mainly use this term to describe the act of a person who drops what they are doing to begin another task.

Bee in your bonnet—being obsessed with a crazy idea as if it's stuck in your head like a bee stuck in a hat

There is reference to this idiom in a poem called *Mad Maid's Song*, written in 1648 by Robert Herrick. Apparently he changed the wording from "to have a head full of bees" to make it sound better in his poem.

Eat your hat—a statement made when you are positive about something that will happen

Charles Dickens and other great writers have used this idiom, which shows it to be close to 200 years old. Some word experts speculate this saying was somehow based on a goat named after Britain's Charles II that liked to eat hats. You may utter this idiom if you feel so strongly about the outcome of an event or task that you ridiculously jest that you will eat your hat if it actually happens.

Feather in your cap—something to be proud of, a reward showing honour or great achievements

In olden days feathers were sometimes awarded for an accomplishment and worn in caps with pride. Some say this saying dates back to the early 1600's, but it is probably based on the practice of some cultures to decorate headgear and/or headdresses with adornments such as feathers to represent their triumphs—more feathers displayed depicted a more honoured status.

Hat trick—three successes in a row

This saying probably originated at a time when gentlemen wore hats to all public functions including sporting events, such as hockey games. When one player scored three goals in one hockey game, this amazing feat was celebrated by spectators tossing their hats onto the ice.

Keep it under your hat—keep a secret

This expression probably comes from the late 1800's when almost everyone wore hats all the time. It was used to tell people to keep any confidential news in their head and not tell anyone. Since your head is under your hat they say "keep it under your hat".

Mad as a hatter—totally demented or crazy

In the 1800's, felt hats were made in mass quantities and workers were exposed to mercury fumes from a solution used to make the hats. This exposure caused many side effects including confusion, derangement, speech problems and violent twitching. Not realizing the connection, some people made fun of affected workers as they thought they had gone mad. Mercury is no longer used to make felt hats.

Old hat—old fashioned and out of date

Probably initiated in the late 19th century when wearing hats was an everyday occurrence. Hats were starting to become more fashionable than functional and anyone not seen wearing the newest styles was considered out of fashion or "old hat".

Pulling a rabbit out of your hat—get something as if by magic

Magicians have been performing illusions for a very long time, but it is thought that the expression "pulling a rabbit out of a hat" wasn't really used until the 1930's. It was about this time that people began to use this term to mean a creative solution to a seemingly impossible problem.

Wearing many hats—someone who does multiple jobs

Historically, hats were considered as a part of a labourer's uniform. Eg. painters, chimney sweeps, welders, coal miners, firefighters, police officers all wore, and in some cases still wear, specific hats that identified their occupation. In some cases they offered protection from job hazards. If a person had several different jobs they would wear a different hat for each one. Today we refer to someone wearing many hats as a person who can multi-task or handle several different projects at once.