

# A PUZZLING CONCLUSION

BY KEN WEBER

## A Synonym/ Antonym Adventure

In 1901, Miss Lang, the new teacher at S.S. #6, East Luther, had her hands full with 31 students spread across eight grades. An exercise like this might have occupied many of them and thus provided her a bit of relief.

Combine each pair of short words in Section A into a single new word and enter that word into the first space provided. Then in the second space, enter the word in Section B that is its antonym.

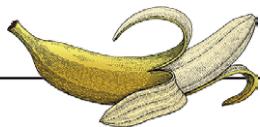
For example, "the" and "far" in Section A can be combined to make "father." The antonym in Section B is "mother."

### SECTION A

- |   |           |               |               |
|---|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| a | the far   | <u>father</u> | <u>mother</u> |
| b | elm sip   | _____         | _____         |
| c | pit for   | _____         | _____         |
| d | she not   | _____         | _____         |
| e | slay dip  | _____         | _____         |
| f | tar lest  | _____         | _____         |
| g | torn she  | _____         | _____         |
| h | set ban   | _____         | _____         |
| i | tin tape  | _____         | _____         |
| j | lined fry | _____         | _____         |

### SECTION B

present   loss   hostile   hide  
lengthen   complex   restless  
deceitful   mother   soothe



## We Came Up With Six...

If the first letter of the word "banana" is moved to the end, the result produces the same word when read backwards ["ananab"].

How many other English words will produce the same result?

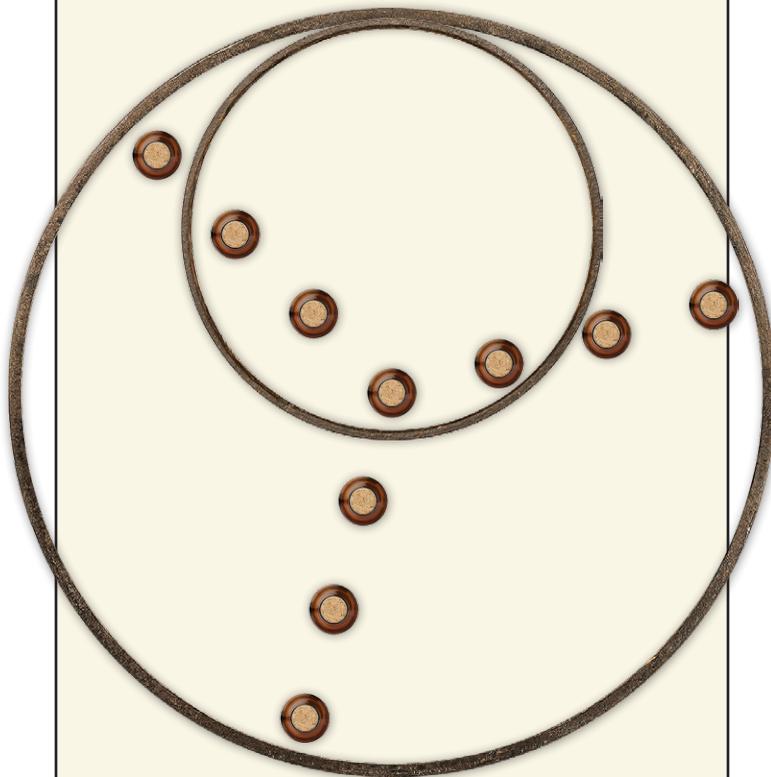
(We could think of six.)

## Silas Renarm Visits Creemore



Silas knew that every time a team of horses pulled his travelling medicine show into a village two things were certain. One was that the locals, especially the men in town, would find his well-known elixir most appealing. The other was that offering a puzzle challenge to children not only attracted crowds, but almost always deterred the prohibition inspectors who tended to follow him around the hills.

A hands-on puzzle for his visit to Creemore combined the steel rims of used wagon wheels with — perhaps a bit blatantly — tiny sample bottles of his elixir. A large steel rim lay flat on the floor with 10 sample bottles and a small wagon rim placed inside in the pattern shown below. Nearby lay two more wagon rims the same size as the one inside the large rim:



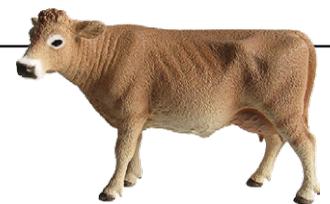
The challenge was to add these two small rims to the pattern inside the large rim, isolating each sample bottle in its own separate segment. Silas offered a free sample bottle to each adult who brought a child to try the puzzle. For each child who came to solve the puzzle, Silas had a popular hard candy called a bull's eye.

Can you place the two rims to meet the challenge?

## How High Can You Go?

The numbers *one, two, three* and so on into infinity are **cardinal** numbers, whereas *first, second, third* and so on are **ordinal** numbers.

Using words, not figures, what is the highest cardinal number you can write without using the letter 'n'?



## A Bad Day on the Farm

A kick delivered by a stubborn Jersey cow was just one of the mishaps that befell people on Melissa and Ed's farm one hot summer day. Their teenage twins, Evan and Evie, each suffered a mishap in the course of the day, as did Melissa's brother Morley, who was the farm's hired hand. In fact, when it turned out that Melissa and Ed each had some bad luck too, it meant that there were five different mishaps that day, a different one happening to each of the farm's five residents.

Use the information below to determine what mishap happened to each person, and the order in which the events occurred.

**1**

In the granary, a man who should have known better ran his hand around a shelf way above his head and caught his finger in a mouse trap.

**2**

One of the farm residents was daydreaming while walking across the back 40 and sprained an ankle by stepping in a groundhog hole.

**3**

Ed's mishap was the first to happen that day, and Evan's was the third when he and Evie walked out to the road together to get the mail.

**4**

Morley got a bad scratch from some rusty barbed wire.

**5**

The fourth event was a sprained ankle.

**6**

Melissa's mishap was not the last one of the five that day, nor was she the one who was stung by a wasp.