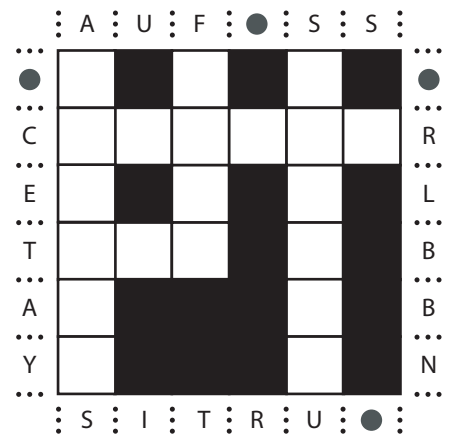
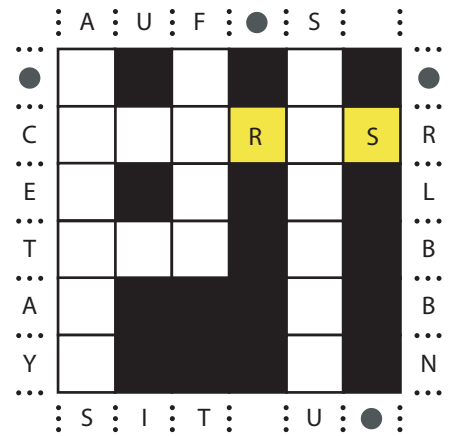


Fill the grid with words by sliding all of the letters back into the white spaces. Letters can move horizontally or vertically but must remain in their original row or column. Letters are allowed to slide over each other.

Now we know the rules, let's try and solve this puzzle ...

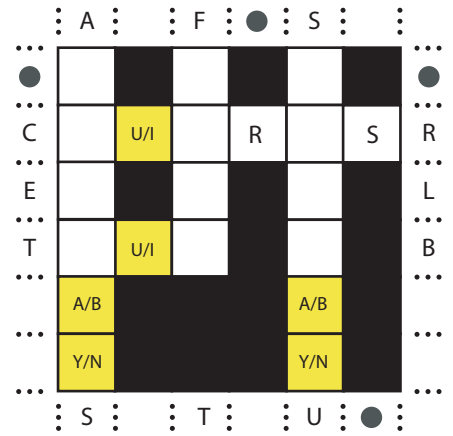


A A good starting place is with letters that can only fit in one place. For example the "S" in the 6th column and the "R" in the 4th column. Simply look for rows or columns with one white space.



B It is also good to look for rows and columns containing only two white squares. If there are two possible letters available for these spaces then you can set up "linked pairs". When one of these squares is solved then the other square will also be solved through elimination.

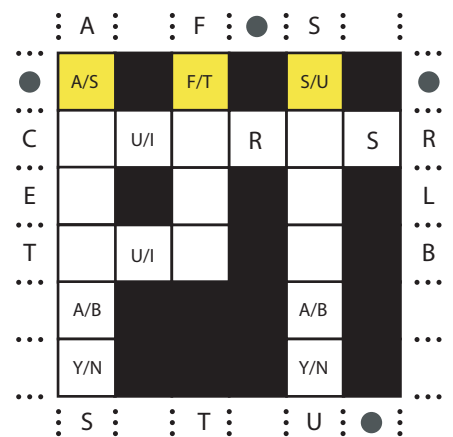
I like to remove these letters from the outside once linked pairs are identified.



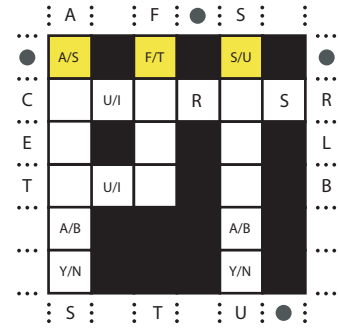
C The locations around the grid which contain no letters (just a dot) are also useful. Some empty squares have a limited number of possible letters.

The top row has two "dots" and this means that the 1st, 3rd and 5th squares in the top row can be narrowed down.

Unfortunately no outer letters can be eliminated at this point.



Solving puzzle continued ...



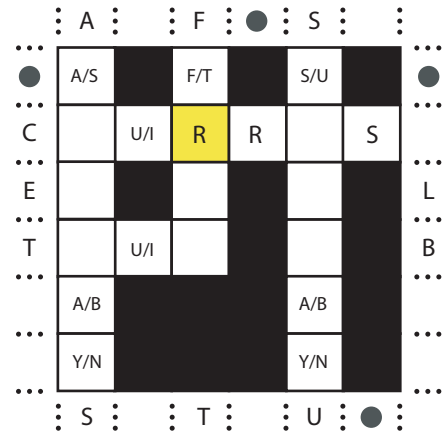
D We now need to start using our knowledge of how words are built up in English. We need to look at letter combinations.

Look at the top row, 3rd column. We have narrowed this square down to either an "F" or a "T". Now how about the next letter in this word?

It can either be a "C" / "F" / "R" or "T".

I don't know any words beginning with "FC" / "FF" / "FT".
I don't know any words beginning with "TC" / "TF" / "TT".

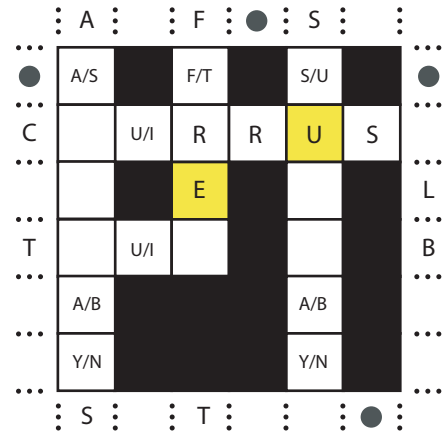
So the second letter must be an "R".



E What about vowels? In the English language we know that almost every word must contain a vowel.

They tend to split up sets of consonants and there is a great example in the 2nd row. The 5th column square must be a vowel to split up the "RR" and the "S" - we can therefore place the "U" here.

Also the 4-letter word in the 3rd column must have a vowel after the "FR" / "TR" at the start of the word - so we can place the "E" here.

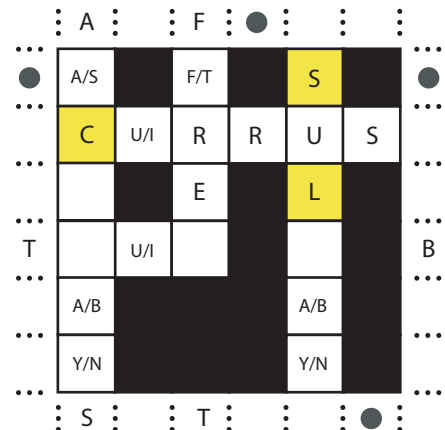


F Having filled in those vowels we can see that some of the other squares can be filled in immediately.

The "S/U" in the top row must be an "S".

Furthermore, once the "S" is in place we should take a close look at the 4th square in the 3rd row. This square now only has one possible letter around the outside which is the "L" so we can place this into the grid.

Also, take a look at the 2nd row. With the 2nd square already narrowed down to a "U/I" we can immediately fit the "C" into the 1st square.



Solving puzzle continued ...

	A		F			
	A/S		F/T		S	
	C	U/I	R	R	U	S
			E		L	
T		U/I				B
	A/B				A/B	
	Y/N				Y/N	
	S		T			

G The word in the 2nd row must be "CIRRUS" (which is a type of cloud). So we can fill in the linked pair - "I" and the "U" (in the 4th row).

The 1st square in the 3rd row can only be a "A/S" and therefore forms a linked pair with the 1st square in the 1st row.

Linked pairs are great, it means that these letters can be eliminated from other squares in the same row or column. This means that the 1st square in the 4th row must be a "T/B".

Notice that the 3rd square in the 4th row must be an "F/T".

	A/S		F/T		S	
	C	I	R	R	U	S
	A/S		E		L	
T	T/B	U/I	F/T			B
	A/B				A/B	
	Y/N				Y/N	

H The word in the 3rd column must be "FRET" because "TREF" is not a proper word.

Note that the "T" present in this word must come from the bottom of the grid rather than the left because of the "F/T" linked pair.

The 5th square in the 4th row must form a linked pair with "T/B".

	A/S		F		S	
	C	I	R	R	U	S
	A/S		E		L	
	T/B	U	T		T/B	
	A/B				A/B	
	Y/N				Y/N	

I The word in the 4th row can either be "TUT" or "BUT" so this doesn't help us.

Look at the word in the 1st column. Because of the linked pair the word will start "ACS" or "SCA". Using our knowledge of words we can eliminate "ACS".

Looking at the rest of the word we can deduce that the word must be "SCABBY".

Using further elimination the word in the 5th column is found to be "SULTAN" and the word in the 4th row is "BUT".

S		F		S	
C	I	R	R	U	S
A		E		L	
B	U	T		T	
B				A	
Y				N	

Congratulations, you have just solved your first Lexica.

Please visit <http://www.vexuspuzzle.com> if you wish to try more Lexica puzzles.