

# CROSSROADS

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter January, 2026

## A Horse of Course!

What symbol speaks to mankind of freedom, loyalty and companionship; of strength, power, bravery; tells of heroic journeys and adventures; acts as a guardian; connects mankind to the Gods; embodies wisdom, mystery and sometimes is even a harbinger of danger and evil forces? In short, what symbol embodies both the divine and the dangerous in our imagination, and has done so for thousands of years?

Most cultures where this symbol appears have been inspired by a creature that has shared mankind's environment for millennia - from our earliest days of cave-dwelling to living with skyscrapers. At first, this creature was simply food for men, then beasts of burden, then revered symbols - divine or otherwise.

Of course, it's a horse!

Horses have appeared for thousands of years in folktales, poems, sculptures and other depictions, in literature from ancient times to modern and have, in art and imagination, been used to symbolize many of the attributes mentioned above.

Take for example, Don Quixote's horse, Rocinante, from Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra's famous early 17<sup>th</sup> Century novel, symbolizing loyalty, companionship and endurance.

Or, take a more recent example, Shadowfax, Gandalf's horse from the "Lord of the Rings," famous for his incredible speed and intelligence.

These days, even horses' shoes are used as symbols of luck!

Rocinante and Shadowfax are modern examples of man's ideals embodied in horse symbolism, but these modern examples have much older predecessors that have been with us since antiquity.

From Greco-Roman times, Europeans have revered **Pegasus** as a symbol of freedom, inspiration and humanity's aspirations to rise above our earthly confines and soar towards the divine; and to freedom!

The **Unicorn** symbolizes purity, innocence, freedom and independence, healing and protection, magic and divine guidance.

Another in our collection of horse symbols (in this case, half-horse symbol) is the **Centaur**. This guy represents the duality of human nature - on the one hand, wisdom and, on the other, the antithesis of civilization; wild, uncontrollable lust.

Then, all the way to the dark side, we have the malevolent **Kelpie** from Scottish folklore, the original nightmare - mare, in English, meaning female horse.

Whatever symbol you fancy for the year, we wish you.....

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

## Net News

**NET LESSONS:** Too busy to come to CROSSROADS? .... Try our *lessons on the net!*

Here are 9 mythical horses for you to check out:  
<https://www.willowbrookridingcentre.co.uk/mythical-horse-creatures/>

# Some Thoughts for the Month



## ACROSS

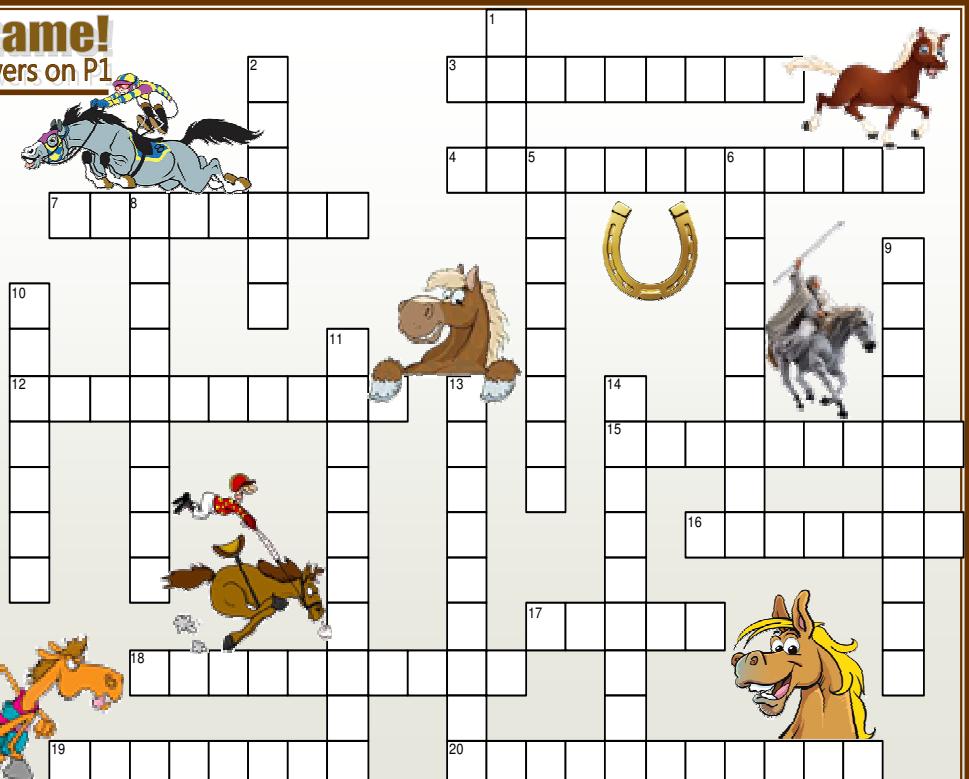
- 3 stories passed on word-of-mouth
- 4 those coming before
- 7 a place to live in
- 12 the quality or characteristics of
- 15 extremely old period of time
- 16 greatly honored
- 17 having a liking for
- 18 wishing evil on others
- 19 boundaries
- 20 things greatly desired

## DOWN

- 1 rapidly rising or flying upwards
- 2 heavenly
- 5 represents
- 6 represent, usually by an image
- 8 power to withstand hardship
- 9 exact opposite
- 10 having two parts
- 11 images
- 13 1,000 years
- 14 indicator of something coming [\(print version here\)](#)

## Play A Game!

Find the answers on P1



Especially for this Year of the Horse, here are a few horse-idioms for you to ponder.. Write the idiom's letter next to its correct meanings below:

A) Dark horse



B) Get off your high horse



C) Beat a dead horse



D) Straight from the horse's mouth



E) A horse of a different color



F) Put the cart before the horse



G) Hold your horses



H) Eat like a horse



I) I'm so hungry, I could eat a horse



1. Stop being arrogant! (\_\_\_\_)

2. Wait, don't do it yet. (\_\_\_\_)

3. Something completely different (\_\_\_\_)

4. Eat a lot, eat too much. (\_\_\_\_)

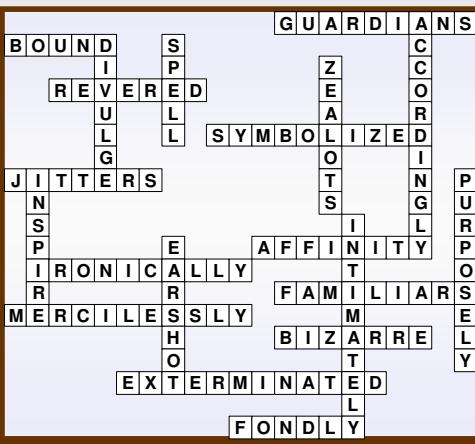
5. Feeling very hungry (\_\_\_\_)

6. Waste time or energy (\_\_\_\_)

7. An unexpected winner (\_\_\_\_)

8. Direct information from the source (\_\_\_\_)

9. Doing things in the wrong order (\_\_\_\_)



### ACROSS

- 1 protectors
- 3 most likely to unavoidable
- 7 greatly honored
- 8 represented by image or model
- 9 feeling very nervous
- 14 natural connection, attraction
- 15 contrary to expectation
- 16 spirits that assist witches
- 17 without pity
- 18 very unusual,
- 19 destroyed completely
- 20 displaying warmth and affection

### Last Month's puzzle Solution

### DOWN

- 2 as a result
- 4 make known
- 5 a period of time
- 6 fanatic believers
- 10 motivate, encourage
- 11 intentionally
- 12 in a close, personal manner
- 13 within the range of hearing



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