



Just A Cold or **A Killer Virus?**

# Reader's Digest

**Dolly**  
on her one  
true love

**Shame!**  
New Charity  
Scams

**Iraq War**  
**BOMB**  
**SQUAD**  
**HERO**

**Saved**  
**From A**  
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The New Way to  
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January 2006  
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**New Year, New Words** As January unfolds, we all have resolutions to act on. How about adding to your vocabulary? Anu Garg, author of *Another Word a Day*, offers a new word each weekday at [wordsmith.org](http://wordsmith.org). Here's a batch from his book to get you started. Answers on next page.

**1. scion** *n.*—A: elder.  
B: descendant or heir.  
C: astrological event.  
D: sharp knife.

**7. impresario** *n.*—  
A: singer. B: manager.  
C: publisher's logo.  
D: fortune-teller.

**2. orotund** *adj.*—A: conforming to accepted beliefs. B: having a strong voice. C: overweight. D: excessive.



**3. talisman** *n.*—  
A: curse. B: shawl.  
C: magical object.  
D: strong wind.

**4. tarry** *v.*—A: to add up. B: criticize. C: confuse. D: delay.

**5. amicable** *adj.*—  
A: expensive. B: forgetful. C: lengthy or drawn out. D: friendly.

**6. polemic** *n.*—A: controversial argument. B: contagious disease. C: thick cornmeal. D: natural habitat.

**8. draggle** *v.*—A: to fall behind. B: negotiate. C: make dirty. D: lure.

**9. sangfroid** *n.*—  
A: calmness. B: color of blood. C: drink made with red wine. D: cheerful song.

**10. redoubt** *n.*—A: uncertainty. B: stronghold. C: heated disagreement. D: disadvantage.

**11. indolent** *adj.*—  
A: without a family. B: lazy. C: disrespectful. D: impoverished.

**12. scalawag** *n.*—  
A: holiday decoration. B: platform. C: rascal. D: mixed-breed dog.

**13. desultory** *adj.*—  
A: unattractive. B: inconsistent. C: offensive. D: extremely hot.

**14. placebo** *n.*—A: fake medicine. B: prominent sign. C: straw hat. D: pleated shirt.

**15. erudite** *adj.*—A: regarding vegetables. B: scholarly. C: impolite. D: well designed.

**16. sobriquet** *n.*—  
A: unusual flower. B: paving stone. C: nickname. D: fragrance.

## Monthly Planner

The 12 words below each contain the 3-letter abbreviation for one month of the year (clues in parentheses). Can you complete the calendar? Answers on next page.  
**jan---** (upset); **feb----** (feverish); **-mar--** (sleazy); **-apr---** (whim); **---may** (disillusion); **--jun--** (associate); **jul-----** (cut); **--aug--** (filled); **--sep-----** (joined); **-oct-----** (of the night); **--nov-----** (novelty); **dec-----** (destroy).

## ANSWERS


**1. scion**—[B] Descendant or heir, especially of an important family; also, twig cut for planting. The mansion was refurbished by a Vanderbilt scion.

**7. impresario**—[B] Organizer or manager, especially of concerts or operas. He's a respected *impresario*, influencing the careers of some of the biggest names in classical music.

**12. scalawag**—[C] Rascal or scamp; a Southern supporter of Republican policy during Reconstruction. My sister was in love, but her fiancé was a *scalawag*.

**13. desultory**—[B] Inconsistent, unconnected or lacking purpose. He was confused by his boss's *desultory* comments.

**14. placebo**—[A] A substance without medicinal value, used in studies or to placate patients. Not realizing she'd been given a *placebo*, Mom claimed the new drug had cured her.



**2. orotund**—[B] Having a strong voice; also, regarding pompous speech or writing. The politician was remembered for his *orotund* deliveries.

**3. talisman**—[C] An object with supposedly magical powers. The necklace she wore was a *talisman*, bringing her good luck.

**4. tarry**—[D] To delay; linger. "Don't *tarry*," the nanny called to the children. "We'll be late."

**5. amicable**—[D] Friendly; peaceable. Though competitors, the two quarterbacks had an *amicable* relationship.

**6. polemic**—[A] A controversial argument. The young lawyer was wary of taking on the separation of church and state *polemic* in his very first case.

**8. draggle**—[C] To make dirty, often by dragging. My son's overcoat, after he *dragged* it in the mud, was impossible to get clean.

**9. sangfroid** (*sän FRWA*)—[A] Calmness; composure. In spite of her classroom's chaos, the teacher managed an air of *sangfroid*.

**10. redoubt**—[B] A stronghold; temporary fortification. The infantrymen took shelter in the earthen *redoubt*.

**11. indolent**—[B] Lazy or slothful; avoiding exertion. My colleague claims she is overworked, but most of us think she's truly *indolent*.

**15. erudite**—[B] Scholarly or learned. My *erudite* uncle took me to museums when I was very young.

**16. sobriquet** (*SO BRI KAY*)—[C] Nickname. Most people know George Herman Ruth as the Babe, his famous *sobriquet*.

## VOCABULARY RATINGS

**8-10** Good **11-13** Excellent

**14-16** Exceptional

**Monthly Planner Answers:**  
jangle; febrile; smarmy;  
caprice; dismay; adjunct;  
fullness; fraught; inseparable;  
nocturnal; innovation;  
decimate.

Feeling *bridled* by the winter chill?

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