Word Riddles

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. I slip into your novel when you put it down. Tomorrow I’ll point to the page where you stopped. What am I?

A. Bookmark
B. Book jacket
C. Title page
D. Library card

Correct answer: A. Bookmark
A bookmark sits between the pages and holds the reader’s place.

2. On a door you can take hold of me. On a message board, I’m the name people know you by. What am I?

A. Profile
B. Hinge
C. Handle
D. Key

Correct answer: C. Handle
A handle is a grip and can also mean a username.

3. Beside a river I might be muddy. On Main Street I might look after your savings. What am I?

A. Bridge
B. Bank
C. Safe
D. Counter

Correct answer: B. Bank
A bank is land beside a river and also a place that accepts deposits.

4. A letter might reach you with me unbroken. At the coast you might watch me swim. What am I?

A. Float
B. Stamp
C. Shell
D. Seal

Correct answer: D. Seal
A seal can secure a letter or name a marine mammal.

5. You can tighten me with a wrench. Use me as a verb and I describe a rabbit rushing away. What am I?

A. Clamp
B. Bolt
C. Spring
D. Latch

Correct answer: B. Bolt
A bolt can fasten parts together. To bolt is to rush away suddenly.

6. In a marsh I wade on two long legs. At a construction site I lift loads with a long arm. What am I?

A. Crane
B. Heron
C. Forklift
D. Stork

Correct answer: A. Crane
A crane is a long-legged bird and also a machine used to lift heavy loads.

7. One of me might raise a hand in class. Another lets light into your eye. What am I?

A. Monitor
B. Lid
C. Lens
D. Pupil

Correct answer: D. Pupil
A pupil can be a student. In the eye, the pupil is the opening through which light enters.

8. You might circle one of me on a calendar and stir another into a bowl of oats. What am I?

A. Raisin
B. Number
C. Date
D. Reminder

Correct answer: C. Date
A date identifies a day and is also the fruit of a date palm.

9. I might issue orders for a whole kingdom or help you mark exactly ten centimeters. What am I?

A. Ruler
B. Crown
C. Compass
D. Marker

Correct answer: A. Ruler
A ruler can be the person who governs or a straight tool marked with units.

10. A singer can raise me to reach a higher note, a founder can give me to investors, and a baseball catcher waits for me. What am I?

A. Throw
B. Delivery
C. Call
D. Pitch

Correct answer: D. Pitch
Pitch describes how high or low a note sounds. A pitch can also be a short persuasive presentation or a ball thrown to the batter.

11. I could cast shade on a sidewalk. I could also hold up a small bowl while your fingers wrap around it. What am I?

A. Grip
B. Branch
C. Palm
D. Trunk

Correct answer: C. Palm
A palm can be a tree. It is also the inside surface of a hand between the wrist and fingers.

12. Put one letter in front of OAR and the new word names a wild pig. Which letter goes first?

A. R
B. B
C. S
D. H

Correct answer: B. B
Adding B gives BOAR. Adding R, S or H produces a word with a different meaning.

13. I’m a vessel for cooking soup. Read my three letters backward and I name the highest part of something. Which word am I before the reversal?

A. CUP
B. PAN
C. TIN
D. POT

Correct answer: D. POT
POT becomes TOP when its letters are read from end to start.

14. Keep P at the start of PLATE and rearrange the other four letters to name a pressed fold in fabric. Which word do you get?

A. PLEAT
B. PETAL
C. PALETTE
D. PLANT

Correct answer: A. PLEAT
PLEAT uses all five letters in PLATE exactly once. A pleat is a fold made in cloth.

15. REPAID has six different letters. Which answer uses those six exactly once and means ‘put together in twos’?

A. DIAPER
B. REPAIR
C. PAIRED
D. RAPIDS

Correct answer: C. PAIRED
PAIRED keeps all six letters and describes things matched in twos. DIAPER is also an anagram of REPAID but has a different meaning.