Name: _____

R Sound: Beginning of Words

Read aloud the list of words below. Using a pencil, write the words in the squares with one letter to a square. Some words go from left to right and some go from top to bottom. Each time you add a word, say the word aloud or say a sentence with that word in it to your speech helper. *Hint: Start with the longest word and branch out from it.* For added practice, try the challenge activity below.

recommendation	14
radioactivity	13
revolutionary	
refrigerator	12
relationship	
rattlesnake	11
revolutions	
redeemable	10
rheumatism	
reinforce	9
residence	
renovate	8
rickshaw	
recycle	7
rhubarb	
rooster	
reader	6
remain	
relic	5
rifle	
robot	
wrong	
rake	4
reef	
roar	
robs	
rock	
ray	3
rip	

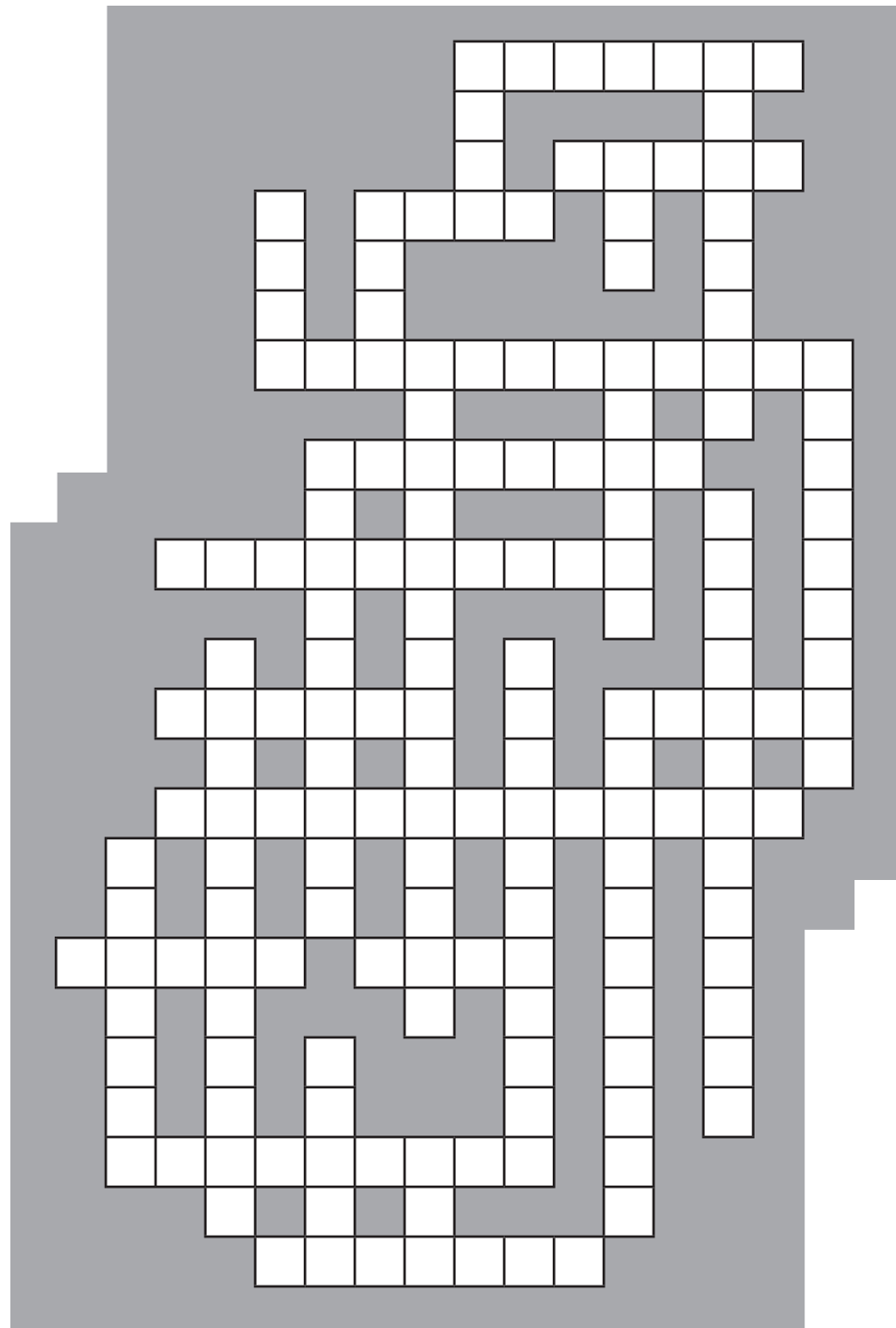**Challenge Activity** How many words can you make using letters from the word below?

recommendation

Strategies for Completing Word Web Puzzles

Some children will figure out how to solve a word web without any help. Others will benefit from some coaching in the sequential steps to follow to solve a puzzle successfully. Teaching the strategy is especially helpful for special needs students who can pre-learn the strategy prior to attempting a web in a classroom setting.

It may be a good learning experience to let any child attempt a word web independently at first. This will give you insight into how much help the child will need and will make the child appreciate the futility in an impulsive hit or miss approach.

The first step to be taught is that the puzzle includes a word which is unique in length that will only fit in one string of squares. Do not provide any more help than needed since the more the child can figure out independently, the more confident and rewarded he/she will feel. Ask such questions as:

> "Is there something different about one of the words?"
> "Is there one word that can fit where no other words can?"
> "Is one word a different length than all the others?"
> "Is there one string that has the same number of squares as that word has letters?"
> "Did you check up and down as well as across?"

Once that first word is placed in the puzzle, the next step involves looking at letters that intersect it (i.e., vertically if the first word is horizontal or horizontally if the first word is vertical). Again, offer help sparingly so the child can experience the satisfaction of doing as much as he/she can do independently. Ask such questions as:

> "Did you put letters in any squares for words that could go the other way?"
> "Can you find a word to put there that has that letter in the right space?"

You may need to help the child note how many letters the new word must have and then look at the word list to find words with the necessary number of letters. Then determine which has the required intersecting letter in the right position.
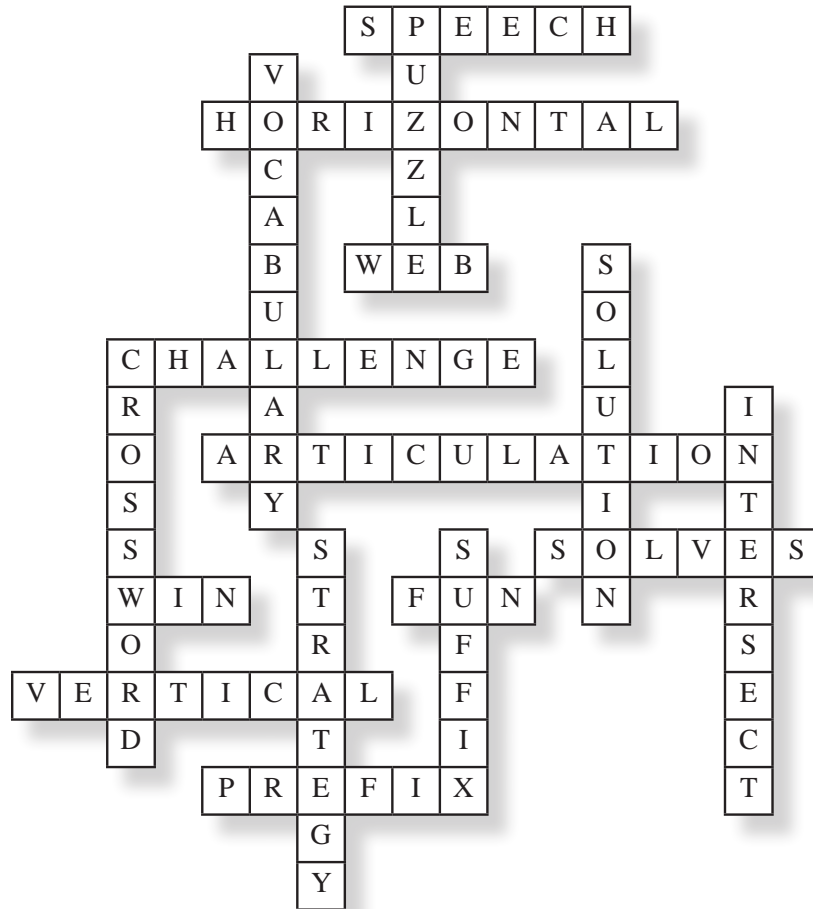
Occasionally more than one word of the needed length will have the intersecting letter in the needed space. In that case, the child must appreciate the need to explore what other words can be filled in elsewhere where there is no possibility of more than one of them fitting. If the child impulsively adds a word where another could also fit, ask such questions as:

> "Are there any other words that could also fit there?"
> "Are there are any other intersecting words you can fit in elsewhere, where you're absolutely sure they belong?"
> "Can you come back to this intersecting word later, when you have more information to know which word has to go there?"

Continue in this fashion until all words are filled in. It may be helpful to put a check mark by words in the word list as they are used so the child will not inadvertently try to use them again.

The following sample puzzle demonstrates how the strategy can be taught using the steps above.

articulation	12
horizontal	10
vocabulary	
challenge	9
crossword	
intersect	
solution	8
strategy	
vertical	
prefix	6
puzzle	
solves	
speech	
suffix	
fun	3
web	
win	

The crossword puzzle grid contains the following words:

SPEECH (horizontal, top)
HORIZONTAL (horizontal)
VOCABULARY (vertical)
PUZZLE (vertical)
CHALLENGE (horizontal)
SOLUTION (vertical)
CROSSWORD (vertical)
ARTICULATION (horizontal)
WEB (horizontal)
SOLVES (horizontal)
WIN (horizontal)
FUN (horizontal)
INTERSECT (vertical)
VERTICAL (horizontal)
STRATEGY (vertical)
SUFFIX (vertical)
PREFIX (horizontal)

Since *ARTICULATION* is the only 12-letter word, it can be placed in the only string of 12 boxes. Three of its letters (R, T, N) intersect with vertical words. The "R" requires a 10-letter word with the "R" as the next to last letter and *VOCABULARY* is the only possible choice. The "T" requires an 8-letter word with "T" as the fifth letter. Either *SOLUTION* or *STRATEGY* would fit, so it would be wise to delay filling either in there until one or the other is later eliminated. The "N" requires a 9-letter word with "N" as the second letter and *INTERSECT* is the only possible choice. *VOCABULARY* has three letters (O, L, R) which intersect with other words, so follow the same procedure to determine what additional words can be filled in with confidence.

Occasionally two words will appear as possible fits. Then it's necessary to "think ahead" to eliminate one word to proceed. In the example, SOLUTION and STRATEGY are both able to intersect ARTICULATION. However, the next to last letter of SOLUTION (O) or STRATEGY (G) intersects with the second letter of a six-letter word. None of the six-letter choices has "G" as the second letter, but SOLVES has "O" so SOLUTION can be filled in with confidence. Another helpful rule of thumb is that if there is only one word left in the vocabulary list of a specific number of letters, it can safely be placed in the only string of boxes of that number.