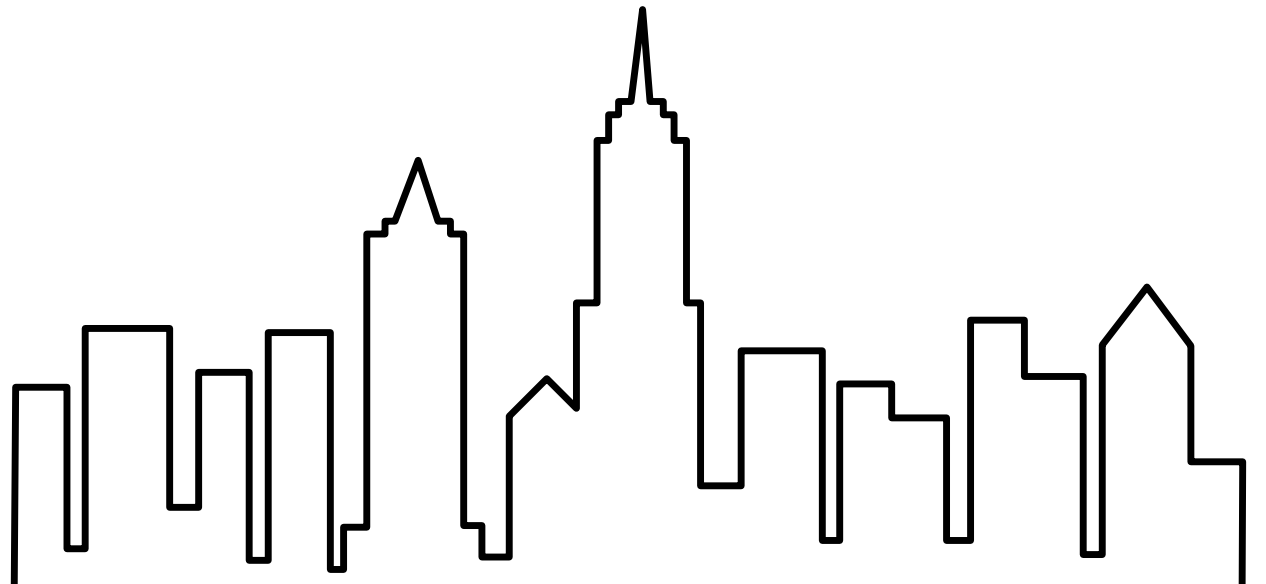




Puzzleopolis

by Gaurav Kulkarni

A free puzzle booklet for fans of
word and logic puzzles

"That was so much fun"

- Sarah, my wife, who has zero bias

"I only had one playtester"

- Gaurav, in search of another review

Dear Puzzler,

July 26, 2026

Since I was a little kid, I've enjoyed working through puzzles. Whenever I'd see a newspaper, I'd immediately go to the back of it, to find the comics and the games. Maybe you did the same.

Puzzles mean a lot to me. Nothing quite beats the satisfaction of a solution coming into view: the aha moment. My whole life, I've been chasing that feeling of realization. I became a software engineer because the first time I touched code, I felt that familiar joy. Of seeing a puzzle and working out a clever solution.

I started writing this little pamphlet because I wanted to try my hand at creating puzzles for other people. I am new at this, so I will be bad for a while. If I'm lucky, maybe one day I'll be just okay at it. In the meantime, I hope you can have a little fun.

So get ready for some *word games* (rearranged to [*dorm wages*]).

Make yourself a **cup of tea** [*cafe pout*], steal your neighbor's **furry cat** [*racy turf*], and snuggle up in a **comfortable chair** [*comical bro-father*], because it's time to do some puzzles!



- Gaurav

Starting Cipher

Enter the letters in order. Then read them downwards, column by column.

I have an urgent message for you, but it's very important that it doesn't end up in the wrong hands. I've encoded this message, so only a fellow puzzler can decode it.

Perhaps the grid on the right can help you crack the code? How many letters are in my secret message?



I	y	j	e	z
h	o	o	s	z
o	u	y	e	l
p	e	t	p	e
e	n	h	u	s

I yjez hoo szou yelp etpe enhus

I hope you enjoy these puzzles

Word Ladder

Your job is to fill in the squares below with a series of 5 letter words. Each word differs from its neighbors by just one letter. The example on the right shows this in action. Use that rule as well as hints for each word to fill in the ladder below!

P	A	P	E	R
---	---	---	---	---

P	A	C	E	R
---	---	---	---	---

R	A	C	E	R
---	---	---	---	---

F	R	E	S	H
---	---	---	---	---

F	L	E	S	H
---	---	---	---	---

Juicy part of an apple

F	L	A	S	H
---	---	---	---	---

Instant

C	L	A	S	H
---	---	---	---	---

When colors disagree, they _____

C	L	A	S	S
---	---	---	---	---

A socioeconomic division

C	L	A	M	S
---	---	---	---	---

Common bivalves

S	L	A	M	S
---	---	---	---	---

Closes suddenly

S	C	A	M	S
---	---	---	---	---

Fraudulent activities

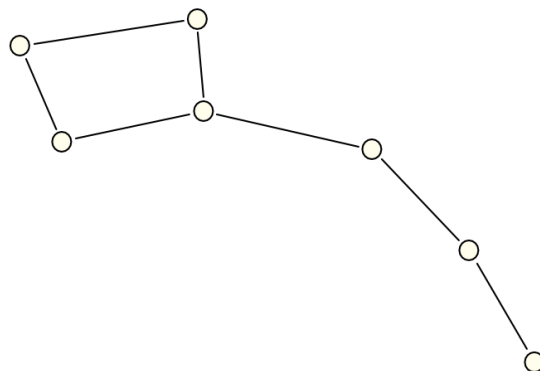
S	C	A	R	S
---	---	---	---	---

Signs of healing

S	T	A	R	S
---	---	---	---	---

What constellations are made of

S	T	A	R	T
---	---	---	---	---



The Main Crossword

ACROSS

1. Home for A2
5. Soaks (up)
9. Holy cannoli!
13. Chinese string instrument
14. Scrubs up, say
16. Silky or firm protein source
17. Interlibrary ____
18. Local popular date night restaurant on Washington St, with "The"
19. Something I always carry to the Farmers Market
20. Home to Comet Coffee, Elmo's, Bon Bon Bon and more
23. Jumped behind a tree. Usually to avoid a conversation with someone I only kinda know
24. Slanted type: Abbr.
25. Collection agcy.
27. What's-____-face
30. Deep void
32. How you are with crosswords
34. Just _____ on the map
36. East, in Berlin
37. A line on a particular kind of weather map
38. Westernmost country in continental Africa
40. Trap
41. Not quite make it. But it's ok, we can always try again
42. Duped
43. Cpls.' superiors
44. Gastric ailment
45. Withheld, as news

47. ____ admin
48. Argentina's score in the 2026 World Cup finals
49. Villain in season 1 of the Legend of Korra
51. U.K. reference work
53. The best place to be in Ann Arbor from Thursday - Sunday when the weather is nice
58. Sicilian volcano
59. Marcus Aurelius was one
60. Transit system that connects NJ and NYC
62. Twig often accompanied by berries
63. A large amount, in Bay Area slang
64. Key ingredient in a dirt cake
65. Cuatro y cuatro
66. Fool
67. Hefty book

DOWN

1. Director Brooks
2. Minecraft ingredient you need to make a bucket
3. Spiced hot beverage
4. Inkling
5. One making waves?
6. Unwritten
7. Keep going
8. Comic sound effects during impact
9. Blues singer James
10. Birthday handouts
11. Smaller event that succeeds the main one
12. "With all ____ respect"

1	M	2	I	3	C	4	H		5	S	6	O	7	P	8	S		9	E	10	G	11	A	12	D
13	E	R	H	U					14	P	R	E	P	15	S			16	T	O	F	U			
17	L	O	A	N					18	E	A	R	L	E				19	T	O	T	E			
	20	N	I	C	21	K	E	L	S	A	R	C	22	C	A	D	E								
				23	H	I	D		24	I	T	A	L			25	I	R	26	S					
27	H	I	S		30	A	B	31	Y	S	S		32	A	33	D	E	P	T						
34	A	D	O	35	T			36	O	S	T		37	I	S	O	B	A	R						
38	S	E	N	E	39	G	A	L		40	E	N	S	N	A	R	E								
41	F	A	I	L	A	T		42	H	A	D		43	S	G	T	S								
44	U	L	C	E	R		45	S	A	T	O	46	N		47	S	Y	S							
48	N	I	L		49	A	M	O	N		51	O	E	52	D										
	53	S	U	54	M	M	E	R	S	55	T	R	E	E	56	T	S								
58	E	T	N	A			59	S	T	O	I	C			60	P	A	T	61	H					
62	D	I	C	K			63	H	E	L	L	A			64	O	R	E	O						
65	O	C	H	O				66	D	O	L	T			67	T	O	M	E						

15. Word sung twice after "Que"

21. Korean automaker

22. Decorum

26. Frequent symptom of my diagnosed anxiety

27. Lives it up

28. Starry-eyed

29. Concert series held at Liberty Plaza every year

31. Fashion inits.

33. Wears

35. Prefix before health and vision

37. What my dear pet Juniper is, for her own safety

39. _____ masala

40. Consume

42. Man who was once frozen alive

45. Handled

46. Formerly named

50. Work well together

52. Ann Arbor street with a train station

54. Fast-swimming shark

55. Work the soil

56. Tropical root vegetable

57. Part of a wine glass

58. Former name of Tokyo

61. What Ken Jennings mistakenly answered when asked for "a long-handled gardening tool that can also mean an immoral pleasure seeker"

Somatic Break

Unclench your jaw

Relax your shoulders

Wiggle your toes

Take a deep breath

We can now return to puzzling

A Very Logical Birthday

It's January 1st, and Sarah wants to add all of her friends birthdays to her journal. Everyone is pretty normal about it until she asks her five friends in Puzzleopolis. As they always do, they have to make it a whole thing.

Alice, Bob, Carol, Dmitri and Eliot do tell Sarah a series of five birthdays, but leave her with a set of clues to figure out who has which birthday. Can you figure out each friend's birthday?

	Alice	Bob	Carol	Dmitri	Eliot
Jan 8th	X	X	X	O	X
Feb 12th	X	O	X	X	X
June 10th	X	X	O	X	X
Sept 12th	O	X	X	X	X
Oct 22nd	X	X	X	X	O

Clues

1. Carol was born on a month that starts with a J.
2. Dmitri is a winter baby.
3. Alice's birthday comes before Eliot's, but after Carol's.
4. Bob was born on the 12th of the month.
5. Alice's birth month ends in an R.

Tetramatch

Categorize the sixteen words below into four categories, with four words in each category.

Pearl	Wiped	Wrist	Patrick
Elbow	Gary	Done	Blowing
Slippers	Pooped	Eye	Ankle
Knee	Animals	Sandy	Spent

Characters from *Spongebob Squarepants*

Category 1: Pearl Gary Sandy Patrick

Joints

Category 2: Elbow Wrist Ankle Knee

Synonyms for tired

Category 3: Pooped Wiped Done Spent

Can be preceded by "Glass"

Category 4: Animals Blowing Slippers Eye

Note: an earlier version used "door" and "cannon" for the glass category.

HEY! YOU FOUND A CODE!

I LOVE THE BUS

TEXT THIS CODE TO **734-327-4200**
OR ENTER IT ONLINE FOR

100 POINTS



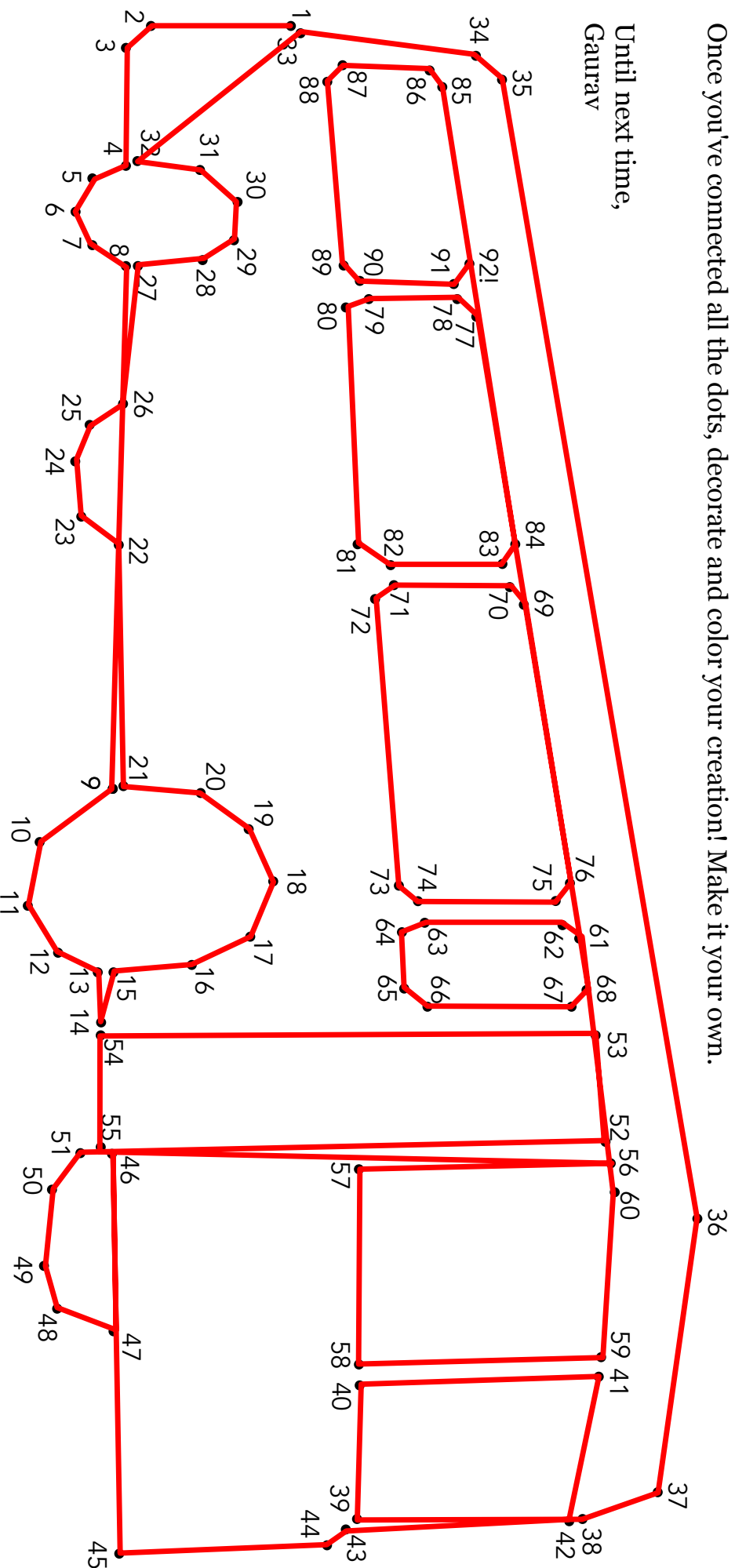
Concluding Connect The Dots

Thank you so much for spending some time in Puzzelopolis. Before you leave, we have one last game for you!

I recommend having a straight-edge on hand, there's some longer segments.

Once you've connected all the dots, decorate and color your creation! Make it your own.

Until next time,
Gaurav



I would adore comments and feedback at puzzelopolis@gmail.com