



At the back Puzzles

iQ

ARE YOU A MATHS & LOGIC MAESTRO?

If you have a mind for maths, logical reasoning, cryptic clues and other conundrums, why not send them to us and we will publish the most difficult in these very pages.

If you are interested, contact social@theactuary.com

Common features Member puzzle 08

Courtesy of Andrew MacLeod

The list of words below can be placed into five groups of five, but one word has been omitted from the list. The words within each group can be ordered based on their shared feature.

What is the missing word represented by question marks in the table below?

DECIMATE, SHOE, AID, NANOTUBE, CABBAGE, CAUSTIC, COLUMN, DOOR, XEROX, ESTATE, FLY, HAND, HEN, JAY, LEGAL, MICROSCOPE, STRAIGHT MILLIWAYS, PAGES, TIP, VAV, WORLD, CENTIPEDE, ISTHMI

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4	GROUP 5
	CABBAGE			
			VAV	
				?????
		MICROSCOPE		
COLUMN				

Four of the words have been placed in their correct groups and positions within those groups.

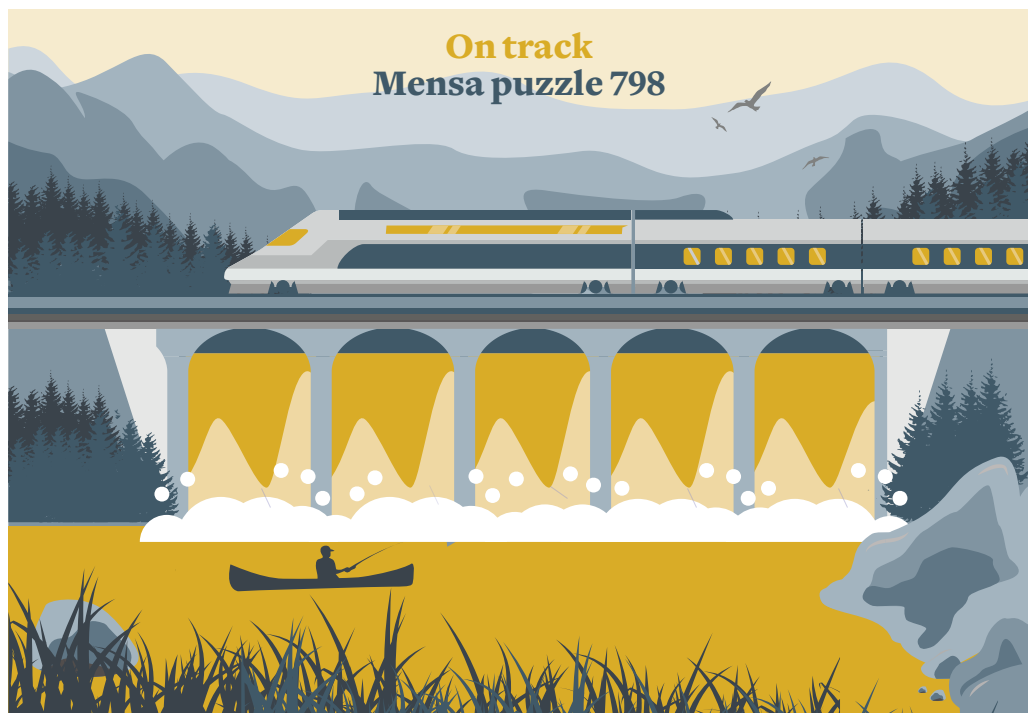
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A train covers an outward journey at 110mph. It returns, over exactly the same distance, at only 73.3333 mph.

What is the average speed of the train over the entire journey?



Member puzzle 08 answers - Courtesy of Andrew MacLeod: **Group 1** Words that can be prefixed by an ordinal number: First: **AID**, Second: **HAND**, Third: **WORLD**, Fourth: **ESTATE**, Fifth: **COLUMN**, **Group 2** Words that can be prefixed by the colours of the rainbow: Red: **CABBAGE**, Orange: **TIP**, Yellow: **PAGES**, Green: **FLY**, Blue: **JAY**, **Group 3** Words contain 3 prefixes (in decreasing order of magnitude): **DECIMATE**, **CENTIPEDE**, **MILLIWAYS**, **MICROSCOPE**, **NANOTUBE**, **Group 4** These have the same letters at the start as at the end. These letters are the first five Roman numerals: **ISTHMI**, **VAV**, **XEROX**, **LEGAL**, **CAUSTIC**, **Group 5** This group appear at the end of each line of the nursery rhyme - one, two, buckle my **SHOE**, three, four, knock at the **DOOR**, five, six, pick up **STICKS**, seven, eight, lay them **STRAIGHT**, nine, ten, abig fat **HEN**, the missing word represented by the question marks is therefore **STICKS**. **Mensa answers: 798: 88 mph.**