

A.5 Lexifabricography



Puzzle by: Andrew Coker
Difficulty: Medium

cisra Puzzle Competition 2008
<http://puzzle.cisra.com.au>

Upon uttering the password, the door creaks open slowly. A grey-haired gentleman smiles as he ushers you inside. "Come in, come in. It's good to see another survivor."

As he closes and locks the door behind you, you venture a question: "How many of you – us – are there?"

"There are about thirty of us in this safe house. There might be other groups in the city too... we don't know." He leads you down a wide hallway, and into a large room. Half a dozen men and women sit around a table covered with newspaper clippings. They greet you as you enter.

A woman who seems to be in charge speaks up: "You'll want to get to work straight away. As you're obviously aware, survivors everywhere have been using the newspaper to send messages to each other."

She hands you a clipping and a purple highlighter. "We've recovered this from the World News. We think it could be contact information for one of the largest survivor groups out there. A few of us have tried to crack it with no success. Maybe you'll have more luck."

The children of Lexionary Public School are baffling experts around the country with their astounding vocabulary.

Today the children were asked by reporters what their favourite words were. Their answers were:

PHOTORELIEF, FACTORIZE, DAISYWHEEL, LABYRINTHINE, ECHINACEA, YULETIDE, ELECTROWEAK, AIRCHECK, SLANTWISE, ARCHIPELAGO, HOMEBREW, ELECTRODE, NOISETTE, EUREKA, REARVIEW, HYPERCHARGE, EXTENDABLE, YOU'RE, YENITE, ENTRANCEWAY, CHAINDRIVE, ENIGMA, YOCTOCOULOMB, ECCLESIASTES, SINE, EKTACHROME, NAUSEATE, AFLAJ, AYES, SCRIMSHAW, HYDROXIDE, MICROBE, ESPRESSO, HEMIDOME, LUNARSCAPE, EMBRYOLOGIST.

According to one child, the secret of their amazing vocabulary is "synergistic co-operation and interdependency."

When asked if that meant the whole class worked together, she looked surprised, and clarified: "Our coadjuvancy is contingent on adjacency."

Readers who know what all of this means are invited to write in and let us know.

