

# Solution to Pandemic Illiteracy

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Each of the clues makes more sense if you replace the letter in parentheses with a different letter. This way, pronouncing the letter and the word phonetically sounds out another English word, very precisely. For instance, if we change (N)pout to (Y)pout it'll be pronounced /why-pout/, which sounds out the word *wipeout*. Each letter of the alphabet except W is used as a replacement exactly once, as follows:

reave(U) <i>review</i>	yell(O) <i>yellow</i>	curly(Q) <i>curlicue</i>	(D)capitate <i>decapitate</i>	cray(Z) <i>crazy</i>
(G)gnome <i>genome</i>	(N)lightning <i>enlightening</i>	(P)nut <i>peanut</i>	(C)saw <i>seesaw</i>	(J)walking <i>jaywalking</i>
proper(T) <i>property</i>	summed(A) <i>someday</i>	(R)cane <i>arcane</i>	cough(E) <i>coffee</i>	neigh(V) <i>navy</i>
toned(F) <i>tone-deaf</i>	(S)cargo <i>escargot</i>	(Y)pout <i>wipeout</i>	(X)plosive <i>explosive</i>	person(L) <i>personnel</i>
bumble(B) <i>bumblebee</i>	crow(K) <i>croquet</i>	(M)pathetic <i>empathetic</i>	(I)brow <i>eyebrow</i>	p(H)eck <i>paycheck</i>

Now it is time to use the original parenthesized letters, in alphabetical order by their replacements. For instance, since we replaced a G in summed(G) with A, we start with G; since we replaced an R in bumble(R) with B, we use R next. These letters spell out the clue "GREEK LETTER PRECEDING CLONE".

Now, we just do what we've been doing all along, but this time with Greek! We need a Greek letter that, when pronounced before the word clone, makes another word. Thus, the answer is **PSI**, which makes cyclone.