

PLZ, ZEUS

The TWENTY-SIXTH
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DOWN THE LIST

In this puzzle, you must fill in the blanks to form common words. The filled in blanks will themselves form a word, which is a definition or synonym of the next word. For example, if you were given CONUN_____ and _____REL, the answers would be conunDRUM and BARREL.

To help you out, we have filled in one of answers in the middle of the list.

- | | | |
|---------------|---|----------------|
| 1. DIS_____ | 7. LI___ION | 13. S___E |
| 2. C_____AL | 8. <u>W</u> <u>A</u> <u>L</u> <u>L</u> OP | 14. TRI___H |
| 3. _____ERLY | 9. B_____ADE | 15. _____EE |
| 4. _____TRUCT | 10. _____ENER | 16. INDIC_____ |
| 5. S_____LES | 11. HA_____ | 17. G_____D |
| 6. ENT_____ | 12. ___PEN | 18. ___PLE |

Einstein said this couldn't be done by 70% of the population

JUST ANOTHER DAY IN THE IRCs

When the ETC opened for the morning, workers were surprised to find that someone had hacked into every single IRC machine and changed their keyboard configuration. Each letter typed produced a completely different letter on the screen. However, each key produced a unique letter of the alphabet, so one could, theoretically, still use the keyboard. Unable to fix the problem, Reed issued the following statement:

Due to the malfunction of the IRC computers, we have come up with a clever solution that doesn't require relabeling the keys. If you wish to type in the IRCs, simply type your document in its entirety as you normally would. When gibberish appears on the screen, type the result, and so on. We promise you will eventually get the text you intended.

If all 26 letters were affected, what is the maximum number of times a person would have to repeat this process? What if all 41 of the commonly used letter, number, and punctuation keys were affected? *Einstein said this couldn't be done by 98% of the population*

Einstein said this couldn't be done by...

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 50% of the population. | Easy |
| 70% of the population. | Not easy |
| 80% of the population. | More challenging |
| 98% of the population. | This is a hard problem. |
| 100% of the population. | (Go ask him for help.) |

Questions? Blitz: puzzles@reed.edu

Think you know the answer?

For more info on these puzzles, go to
<http://www.reed.edu/~mcphailb/quest/>

On a bathrom wall:

Q: Why does Christmas =
Halloween?

A: Because $DEC_{25} = OCT_{31}$