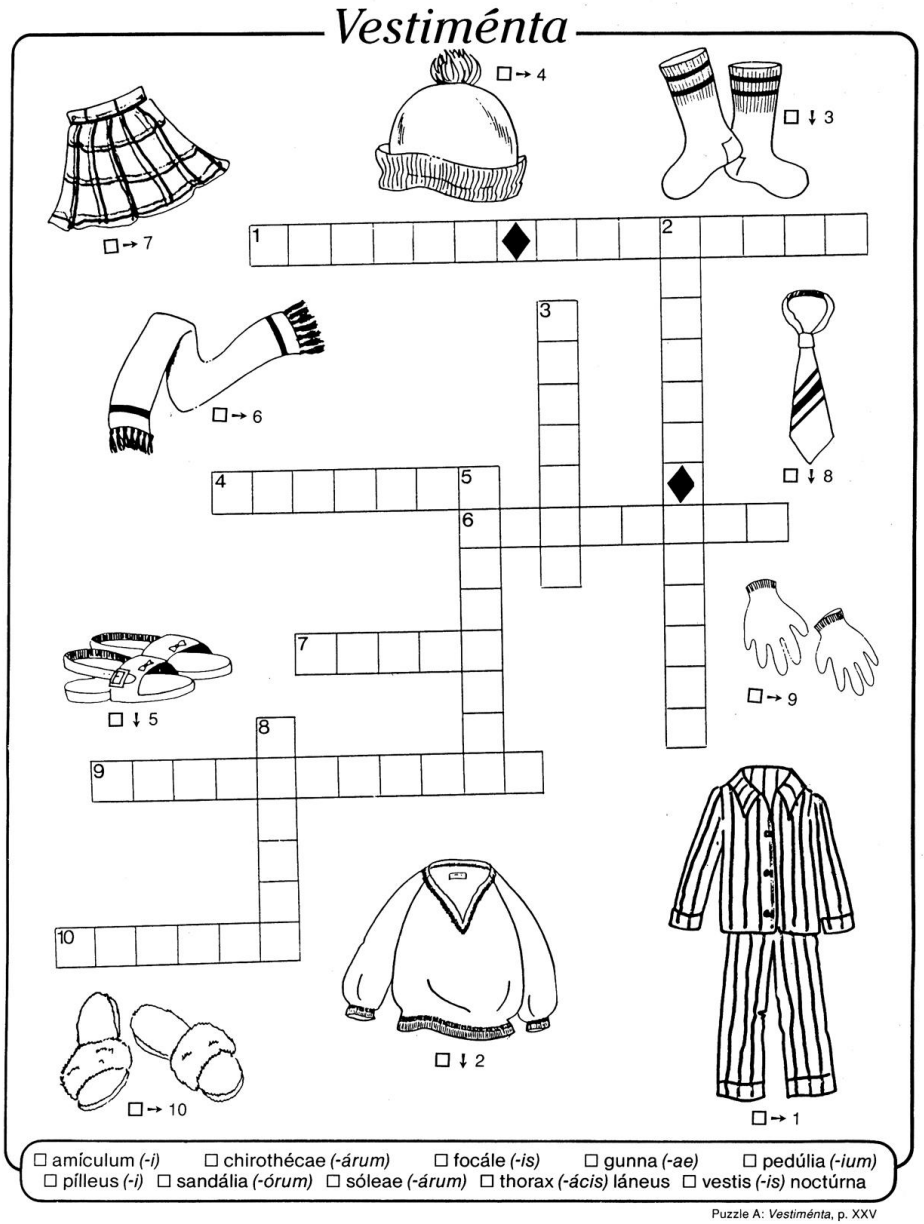
Visual crosswords

Pietro Gusso - CTP Albignasego - Italy

Crossword solving involves several useful skills including vocabulary, reasoning, spelling and word attack skills.

A visual-crossword is a crossword where clue sentences are replaced by pictures (visual clues).



Puzzle A: *Vestiménta*, p. XXV

Visual crosswords can be used in language class:

- To acquire new vocabulary or terminology or subject-specific vocabulary;
- Correctly deciphering a crossword also requires exact spelling;
- Another benefit of using crossword puzzles is that they are associated with recreation, and can be less intimidating for students as review tools.

- Visual learners often have strong puzzle-solving skills, and feel great satisfaction when they complete one

Crossword puzzles have the benefit of being customizable to study content. Free Puzzle creation software and websites are abundant, and easy to use:

e.g.

- Crossword builder
  http://www.asymptopia.org/AsymptopiaXW/xw.html
- EclipseCrossword
  http://www.eclipsecrossword.com/
- Hot Potatoes*
  http://hotpot.uvic.ca/

(*) Hot Potatoes is a freeware suite including six applications, enabling you to create interactive multiple-choice, short-answer, jumbled-sentence, crossword, matching/ordering and gap-fill exercises for the World Wide Web.

How to make a Visual crossword

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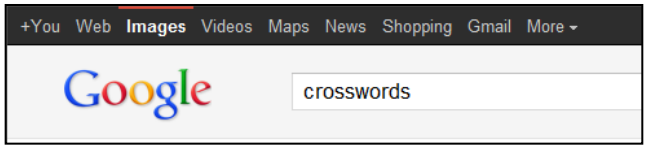
Pictures can be collected in different ways

- On internet (e.g. Google images search)



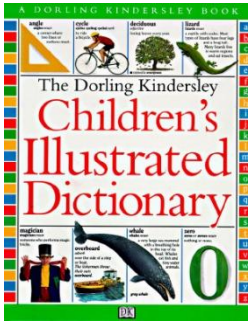
- Clipart collections

Open Clip Art Library

WP Clipart

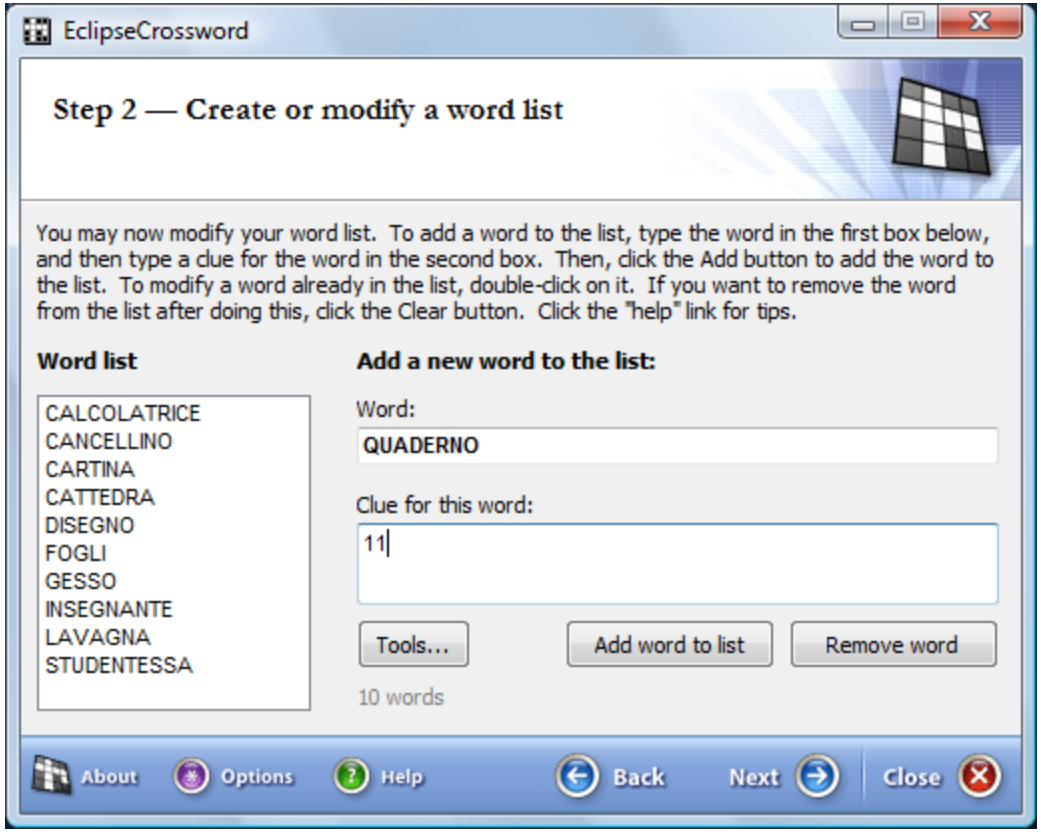
Clker.com

- With a scanner from books (e.g. illustrated dictionaries use pictures to group words together into logical groups)

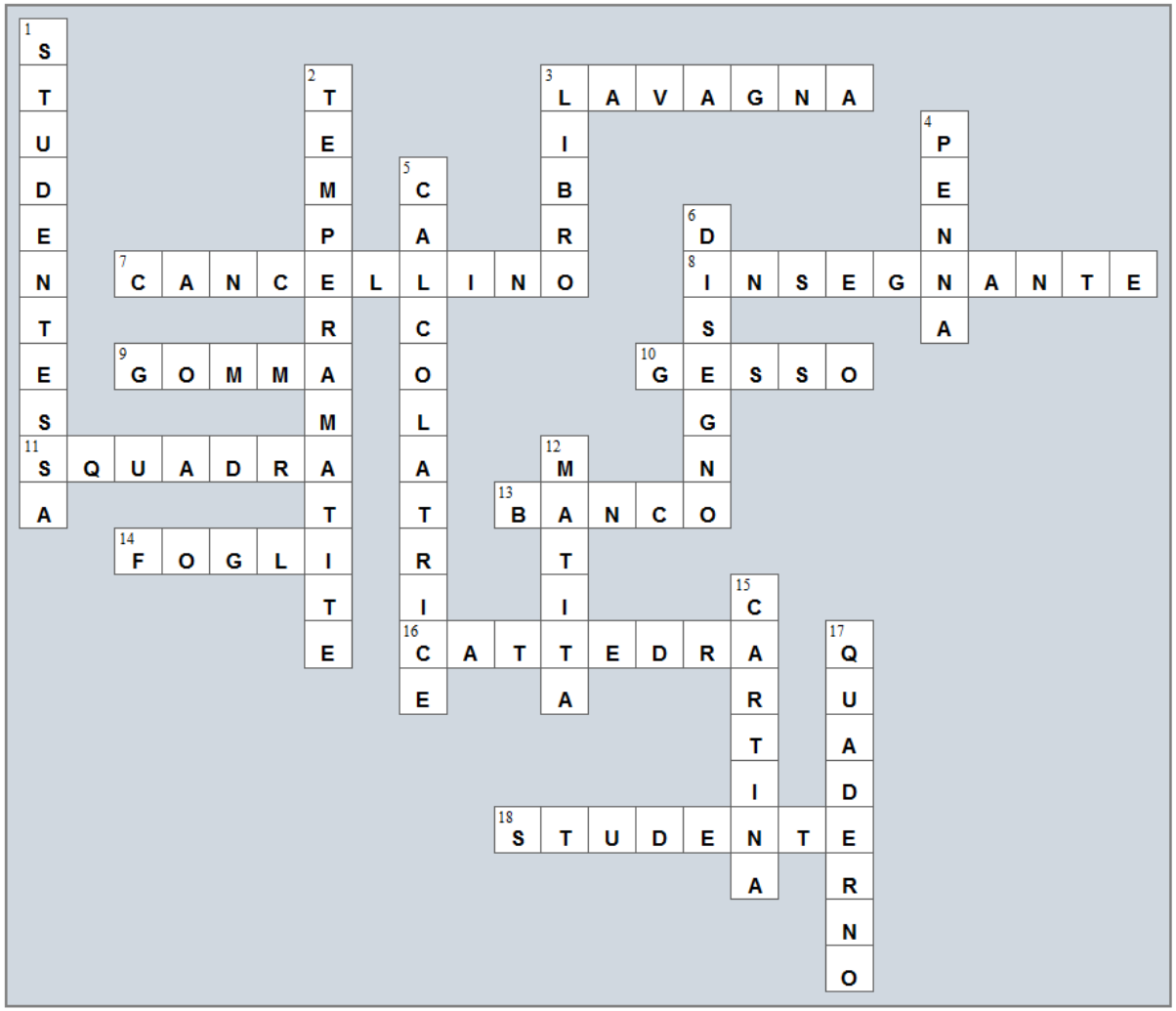


Insert the word-list in the Puzzle creation software

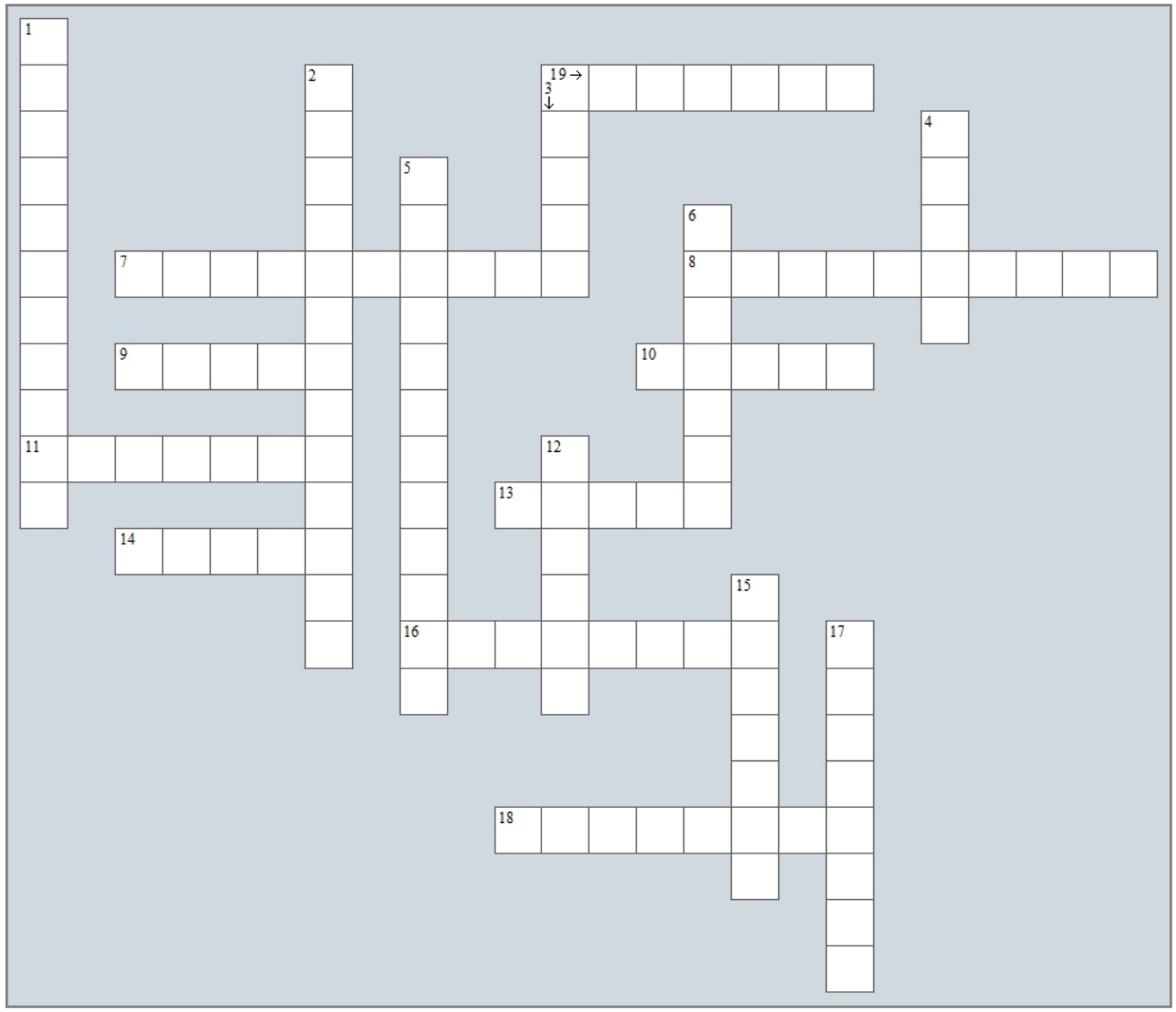
- e.g. EclipseCrossword



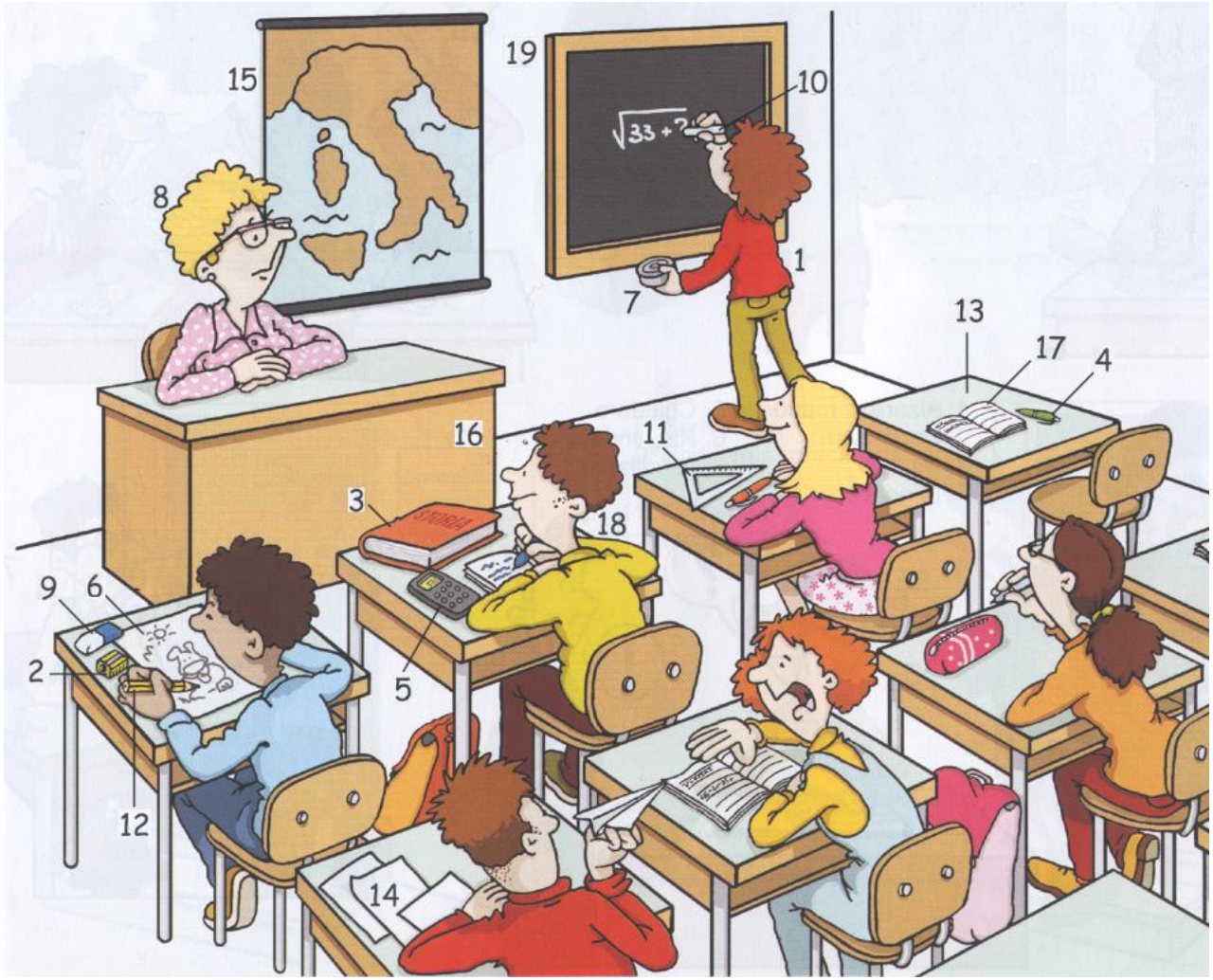
The crossword puzzle will be displayed. Print it...



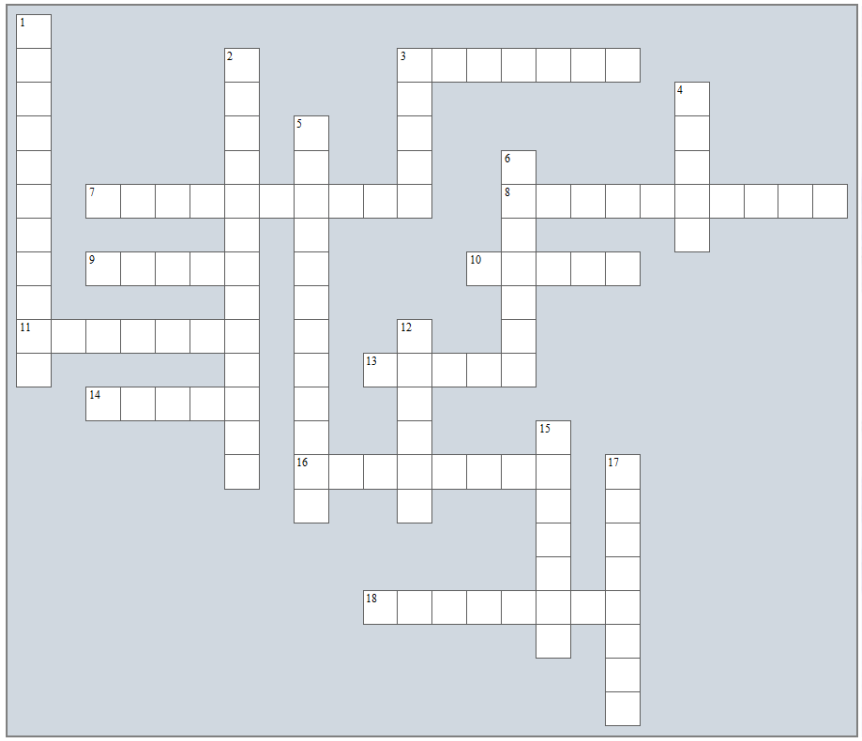
Display and print also the empty grid…

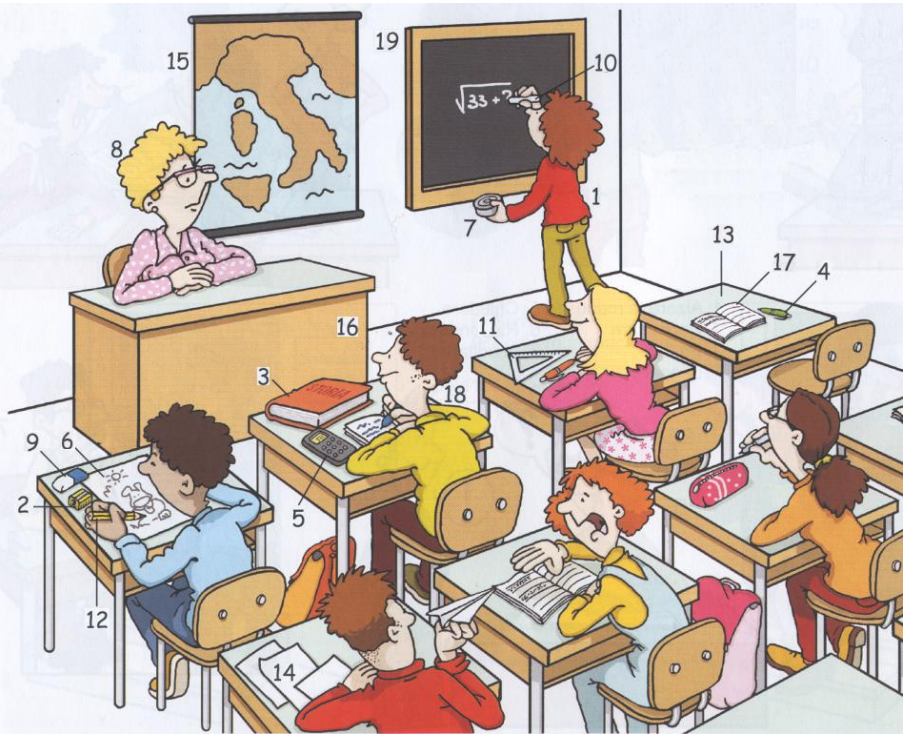


Write the correct numbers near the clue pictures:



From: *"Dizionario per immagini" – Marco Mezzadri – Guerra Edizioni © 1998*




15
19
10
8
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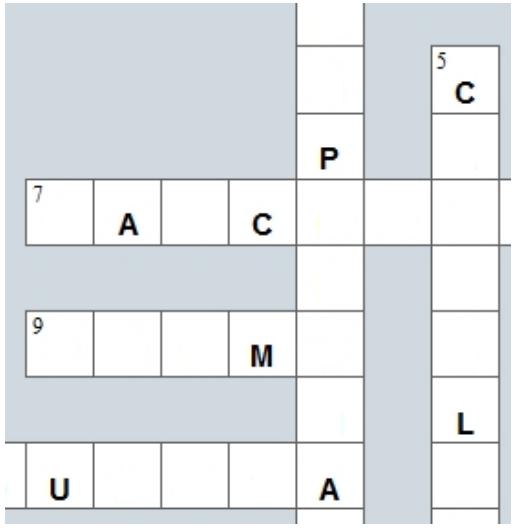
12
14

- I often use to give a little help for my students at A1-A2 level.



- But if you have students at B1-B2 level you can ask them to write also clue sentences for the crossword as further task.

- Students may be organized to do work in pairs or small groups.
- Small group work promotes maximum participation from all students and cooperative skills, enhancing the learning of all group members.