



## BROWSER NO. 233

### AUGUST 2026

#### Return address:

Busnet Computer Club Inc.,  
22 Peel Terrace  
[busnet.org.au](mailto:info@busnet.org.au) [info@busnet.org.au](mailto:info@busnet.org.au)

Busselton Senior Citizens' Club  
email address: [manager@bscc.net.au](mailto:manager@bscc.net.au)

Web maintained by [kg@kgweb.au](mailto:kg@kgweb.au)

The Busselton Constitution is available  
on the Busnet website:  
[busnet.org.au](http://busnet.org.au)

This is a very useful and interesting  
site with lots of up to date information  
about our Club.

#### Busnet Clubroom Opening Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday  
afternoons from 1:00 to 3:30 PM

(Except Public Holidays)

#### Welcome NEW MEMBERS

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| Karen Bigwood | Jennifer Bishop  |
| Lynn Chapman  | Wendy Scheffaer  |
| Robyn Whitton | Colleen Wojtczak |
| James Wright  |                  |



Got any suggestions for inclusion in  
future editions of you Browser?

Email: [publicity.busnet@gmail.com](mailto:publicity.busnet@gmail.com)

#### VOLUNTEERS



#### Editorial:

Welcome to the August 2026 edition of your Browser.

Ever wondered why when syncing your device you can't find that file you accidentally deleted from your device on the cloud sync. Sync is not the same as backup, in this edition we attempt to explain the difference between backup and sync.

Are there any decent alternatives to Microsoft Office? In this edition we also cover a totally free alternative that suits most general needs.



Alex (a.k.a. Grumps)  
Editor

#### File Backup versus Sync



What's the real difference between backup and sync? We often get confused and even conclude in our minds that they are the same. Are we even aware if your data is backed up or synced.....[Read More](#)

#### The 3-2-1 Backup Strategy

The 3-2-1 backup strategy is a golden rule for keeping your important files safe. This ensures you never lose everything to a single accident, hardware failure, or disaster.....[Read More](#)

#### 3-2-1 Backup



#### LibreOffice the Free Alternative to Microsoft Offices



Looking for a free alternative to Microsoft Office, LibreOffice is completely free, open-source office suite making it the ideal budget-friendly alternative to Microsoft Office.....[Read More](#)

#### Club News

Volunteers needed, if you can spare some time please reach out to [treasurer.busnet@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.busnet@gmail.com)

Our next **social morning tea** will be held at Anniebrook Farm on Friday 4th September. RSVP to Heather Maclean via email at [heathermaclean@outlook.com](mailto:heathermaclean@outlook.com) no later than Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> August.

#### [View our August 2026 Volunteer Roster](#)

**August Trivia:** What happened in history during the month of August.



# File Backup v Sync.



What's the real difference between sync and backup? We often get confused and even conclude in our minds that they are the same.

Since our lives have basically shifted towards the digital realm where we are constantly focused on the phone, the tablet, computers and even now smart watches ; yet some of us don't even know if the data is backed up or synced somewhere.

Sync (synchronisation) mirrors files across multiple devices, so edits or deletions in one location instantly apply everywhere. File backup creates a secure, secondary copy of your data to protect against loss, saving historical versions. Backup is for protection; sync is for collaboration and access.

While they both involve moving your files to the cloud, backup and sync serve completely different purposes. The easiest way to think about it is that backup is a safety net for the past, while sync is a workspace for the present.

## SYNC (Synchronisation):



Keeps the exact same files updated in real-time across multiple devices. If you change a file on your phone, it changes on your laptop.

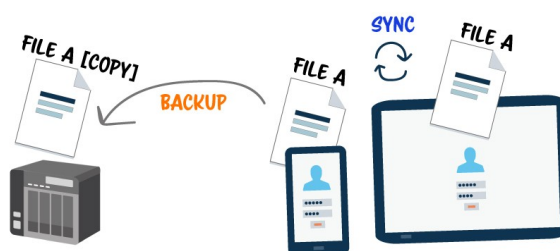
- **Purpose:** To ensure you have the exact same, up-to-date files on your phone, work computer, and home laptop.
- **How it works:** It establishes a two-way connection. Changes made on one device are instantly pushed to the cloud and pulled down to all your other connected devices.
- **Key feature:** Real-time updating. It prioritises convenience so you can pick up a project on any device.
- **When a file is deleted:** If you delete a file on your phone, it is automatically deleted from your computer, the cloud, and any other synced devices. Because of this, sync alone should not be relied upon as a true data backup.

## BACKUP:

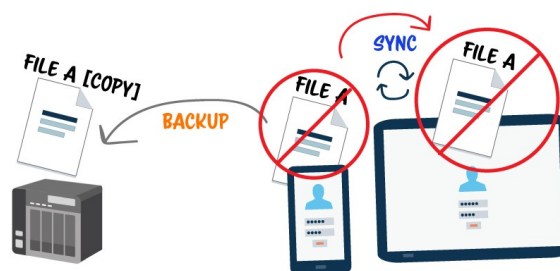


Creates a one-way copy of your data at a specific point in time and stores it safely away. It is designed for disaster recovery.

- **Purpose:** To act as an insurance policy against hardware failure, accidental deletion, or ransomware.
- **How it works:** It copies your files to a separate location (e.g., an external hard drive or secure cloud) and isolates them.
- **Key feature:** Versioning. Backups generally preserve older versions of your files over time, allowing you to restore a document exactly as it looked last week.
- **When a file is deleted:** If you delete the original file, the backed-up copy remains safe.



IF YOU ACCIDENTALLY DELETE SOMETHING ON YOUR MAIN DEVICE SYNCED FILES WILL BE DELETED TOO WHILE FILES THAT ARE BACKED UP ARE SAVED AND UNTOUCHED.



## Summary of differences:

| Feature       | Backup                              | Sync                                      |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Primary Goal  | Data protection and recovery        | Accessibility and collaboration           |
| Data Flow     | Usually one way (Device to Backup)  | Two-way (Device ↔ Cloud ↔ Device)         |
| Deletion      | Safely retained in the backup       | Deletions are mirrored across all devices |
| Versioning    | Yes, saves different points in time | No, only the latest version is kept       |
| Best Used For | Archiving projects, system recovery | Active working files, sharing with others |

# The 3-2-1 Backup Strategy



The 3-2-1 backup strategy is a golden rule for keeping your important files safe. It means having 3 total copies of your data, saved on 2 different types of media, with 1 copy stored off-site. This ensures you never lose everything to a single accident, hardware failure, or disaster.

Think of the 3-2-1 strategy as an insurance policy for your digital life—your photos, documents, and irreplaceable files. It ensures that no matter what happens (a spilled coffee, a stolen laptop, or a house fire), your data will survive.

Here is the simple breakdown of how it works:

## 3. Keep THREE copies of your data

You should have your original working files, plus at least two extra duplicates.

- **Why?** Because having just one copy means you are one accident away from losing everything. Having a second copy is good, but if both fail at the same time (which happens more often than you'd think), you are still in trouble. Three copies makes total loss statistically almost impossible.

## 2. Store them on TWO different types of devices

Don't put all your extra copies on the same device or even the same \*type\* of technology.

- **How to do it:** Keep your original files on your computer's internal hard drive, and put your second copy on a physical external hard drive or a thumb drive sitting on your desk.
- **Why?** Technology fails in specific ways. If a computer virus ruins your internal drive, it

won't affect a separate external drive plugged into the wall.

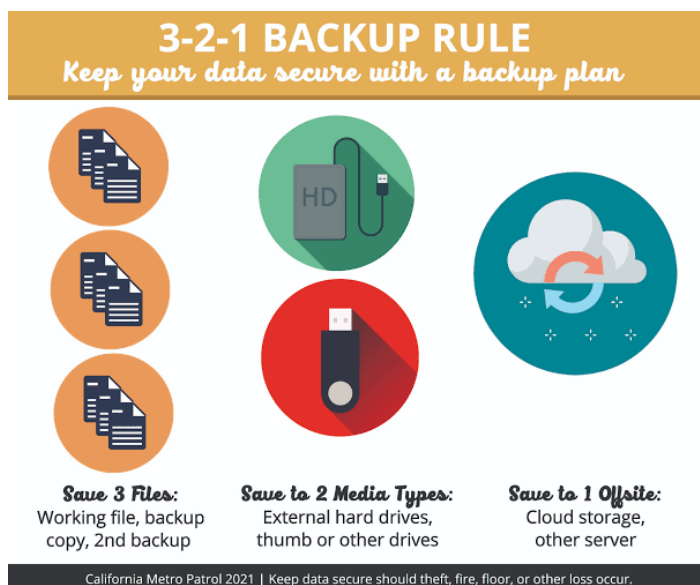
## 1. Keep ONE copy in a different location (Offsite)

At least one of your backup copies needs to live completely outside of your home or office.

- **How to do it:** The easiest way to do this today is using a Cloud Backup service (like Backblaze or IDrive, both these have nominal costs associated with them) that automatically copies your files over the internet to a secure data centre. (Alternatively, leaving a physical hard drive at a relative's house works too!).
- **Why?** If a physical disaster happens at home—like a fire, a flood, or a break-in—both your computer and your external hard drive could be destroyed or stolen at the same time. An offsite / cloud copy ensures your data remains safe, even if your physical house vanishes.

## 3-2-1 backup in summary form

- 3 copies total.
- 2 are local (right next to you, on different devices).
- 1 is far away (e.g. in the cloud).



If your laptop dies today, you pull the files from your external drive on your desk. If your house gets flooded, you download your files from the cloud or your externally stored backup. You are covered either way!

# LibreOffice the Free Alternative to Microsoft Office

LibreOffice is a completely free, open-source office suite, making it the ideal budget-friendly alternative to Microsoft Office. However, Microsoft Office remains the industry standard.

When comparing office productivity suites, the default standard for decades has been Microsoft Office (now Microsoft 365).

However, LibreOffice, a free and open-source suite backed by The Document Foundation, offers a compelling alternative. Beyond simply saving money, choosing LibreOffice provides unique advantages in ownership, privacy, customisation, and file longevity.

**100% FREE**  
**ONE FREE SOFTWARE**  
**LibreOffice**  
POWERFUL. OPEN SOURCE. COMPLETELY FREE.

LibreOffice is a free, open-source office suite that includes tools for writing, spreadsheets, presentations, graphic design, databases, and more.

**100% FREE**  
No hidden costs

**OPEN SOURCE**  
Safe & reliable

**CROSS-PLATFORM**  
Windows, macOS, Linux

**COMMUNITY DRIVEN**  
Improving every day

**WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH LIBREOFFICE?**

- WRITER – Word Processor**  
Create letters, reports, resumes, books, and more.
- CALC – Spreadsheet**  
Manage data, create charts, budgets, and calculations.
- IMPRESS – Presentation**  
Design professional slideshows for school, work, or business.
- DRAW – Vector Graphics**  
Create diagrams, logos, posters, and illustrations.
- BASE – Database**  
Build and manage databases with ease.
- MATH – Formula Editor**  
Create and edit mathematical equations effortlessly.

**COMMON USES**

- Write documents, letters, and reports
- Create spreadsheets and analyze data
- Make presentations for school or business
- Design flyers, posters, and diagrams
- Manage inventory, records, and small databases
- Create math equations for assignments & projects

**POWERFUL FEATURES. ZERO COST.**

LibreOffice gives you everything you need to work, learn, and create – without spending a single penny.  
Download now: <https://www.libreoffice.org>

## Cost and Licensing

Once upon a time, you could buy Microsoft Office for a one-off fee and use it until you felt like upgrading. Now, you're forced into a monthly subscription that ensures you always have the latest product, but the cost factor adds up when considering long-term use.

- **Microsoft Office (or Microsoft 365):**  
Operates on a subscription model (or one-time

purchase for Office Home & Student/Business). Personal subscriptions typically cost around \$159/year or \$16/month.

A one time purchase for a single PC of Office Home 2024 can be purchased for around \$219

- **LibreOffice:**  
LibreOffice is completely free with no costs or subscriptions to worry about. All you need to do is download the suite, and you can enjoy the benefits of its utilities with no strings attached.

Another advantage is that you don't need to sign up for an account and can freely use it without tracking or privacy concerns.

## Compatibility and File Sharing

Microsoft compatibility is one of LibreOffice's main advantages. It allows you to send and receive files from people using Microsoft Office products without stressing about whether they'll work.

LibreOffice supports .xls, .xlsx, .ppt, .pptx, .doc, and .docx file formats, so it's guaranteed to work with the most commonly used apps like Excel, PowerPoint, and Word.

Besides Microsoft compatibility, LibreOffice also supports OpenOffice file formats like .odt or .ofd, which other freeware Office alternatives use.

- **Microsoft Office:** Offers native, pixel-perfect compatibility with corporate and industry files.
- **LibreOffice:** While LibreOffice can open and save to standard Microsoft formats like .docx, .xlsx, and .pptx, complex formatting can sometimes break when moving between the two suites.

## Lower System Requirements

LibreOffice requires significantly less RAM and CPU power compared to Microsoft Office, making it ideal for older laptops or lower-spec machines. LibreOffice will work on Windows 7 SP1 and higher operating systems and needs a Pentium III with 512MB of RAM and 1.5GB of hard disk space to run.

Apple users need macOS 10.15 with either an Intel or Apple Silicon processor. They also need 512GB of RAM and around 800MB of space.

In contrast, Microsoft Home Office 2024 requires more resources and works on modern systems. Its minimum requirements are Windows 10 with a 1.1GHz or higher CPU, 4GB of RAM, and 4GB of storage space. Macs need the three most recent

macOS versions with Intel or Apple Silicon Processors. Other required specs include 4GB of RAM and 10GB of space to run Office 2024.

You can't compare the system requirements of the two apps, and LibreOffice has a considerable advantage when it comes to lightweight processing.

### True Offline Functionality & Cross-Platform Support

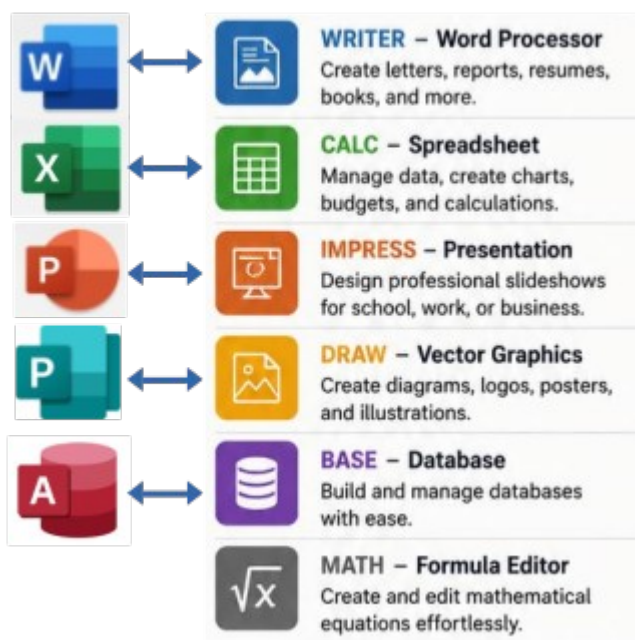


- **Works Anywhere:** It runs natively on **Windows, macOS, and Linux** (where it is often the default office suite).
- **No Cloud Nudging:** Works entirely offline without requiring user account sign-ins, Microsoft account links, or sync prompts.

### A Complete Office Application Suite

LibreOffice mirrors almost all core tools found in Microsoft's ecosystem:

#### MS Office    LibreOffice



- **Writer** (Microsoft Word) — Advanced text editing, track changes, and page layout.
- **Calc** (Microsoft Excel) — Support for pivot tables, VLOOKUP, complex formulas, and charts.
- **Impress** (Microsoft PowerPoint) — Slideshow presentation design.

- **Draw** (Microsoft Publisher/Visio) — Vector graphics and diagramming tool.
- **Base** (Microsoft Access) — Desktop database management.
- **Math** — Equation and formula editor.

### Customisable Interface

You can choose between a traditional menu/toolbar layout (similar to Office 2003/2010) or switch to a modern tabbed "ribbon" view depending on your workflow preference.

### Making The Switch

For most people writing documents, filling out spreadsheets, or building simple presentations, the transition is smooth.

### Where You Might Run Into Friction:

- **Complex layouts**, custom fonts, or heavily designed Word/PowerPoint files may shift slightly when opened in LibreOffice.
- **Advanced Excel Features**, Calc handles standard formulas well, but complex Excel macros (VBA), dynamic array formulas, and advanced Pivot Tables won't always translate cleanly.
- **Cloud & Real-time Collaboration**, Microsoft 365 offers seamless cloud sync (OneDrive) and live multi-user editing; LibreOffice is primarily a desktop-first, offline app.
- **No Direct Outlook Alternative**, LibreOffice doesn't have a built-in email client, though you can use free tools like Thunderbird with it.

### Tips for a Smooth Transition

- **Keep MS Office Installed (If Possible):** Run both side-by-side for a few weeks so you aren't stuck if a file renders unexpectedly.
- **Save in Open Formats First:** For ongoing projects, save as native LibreOffice files (.odt, .ods) to avoid formatting bugs, then export a copy as .docx or .pdf only when sharing with others.
- **Install Microsoft Fonts:** Missing fonts like Calibri or Aptos are a common cause of shifted text. Installing standard Microsoft fonts on your system resolves most visual glitches.

### Where to get LibreOffice

LibreOffice installation files for your operating system can be downloaded from the LibreOffice web site. <https://www.libreoffice.org/download/>

## CLUB News



If you are technically minded and don't mind helping others with challenges with their systems and devices, or if you are even able to assist as the receptionist welcoming and noting those who are seeking assistance on the days we could use your help as as a volunteer technical support.

If you can spare the time on any of our open days even if it's only a couple of hours a month please reach out to our treasurer Peter Ralph via email [treasurer.busnet@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.busnet@gmail.com) it is the volunteers that make it possible to proved the support we provide.

There is no "I" in team,  
but there is a "U"  
in volunteer



### Our Next Social Morning Tea.



Our next social gathering for morning tea will be out of town at Anniebrook Farm on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September at 10:00AM. Address for Anniebrook Farm is 247 Wildwood Road Carburn WA 6280

For those who would like a lift, pool cars are being organised to leave from the Busselton Senior Citizens Centre at 9:30 AM promptly.

Please RSVP to Heather Maclean via email at [heathermaclean@outlook.com](mailto:heathermaclean@outlook.com) no later than Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> August. Please advise if you willing to be a pool car or want to take advantage of a lift from one of the pool cars so numbers can be confirmed.



### Fathers Day Raffle



Once again this year we will be running a fathers day raffle and we are currently seeking donations.

If you are able to donate anything for the raffle it will be greatly appreciated. Please drop your donations off at the Busnet Clubroom at the Busselton Senior Citizens Centre.



# Busnet Volunteer Roster

| BUSNET COMPUTER CLUB INC                                                                                                                    |        |                                 |          |           |                                                             |          |        |                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|----------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------|-------------------------------------------|
| 2026 ROSTER                                                                                                                                 |        |                                 | August   | 2026      |                                                             |          |        |                                           |
| DATE                                                                                                                                        | DAY    | Reception & Technician          | DATE     | DAY       | Reception & Technician                                      | DATE     | DAY    | Reception & Technician                    |
| 3/08/26                                                                                                                                     | Monday | Alex Ashton<br>Peter Quinby     | 5/08/26  | Wednesday | Heather Maclean<br>Bill Whipp<br>Tony Hill<br>James Kortas  | 7/08/26  | Friday | Trevor Gray<br>Bill Whipp<br>Tony Hill    |
| 10/08/26                                                                                                                                    | Monday | Maureen King<br>Peter Quinby    | 12/08/26 | Wednesday | Michelle Chaplin<br>Bill Whipp<br>Tony Hill<br>James Kortas | 14/08/26 | Friday | Patricia Lee<br>Bill Whipp<br>Tony Hill   |
| 17/08/26                                                                                                                                    | Monday | Kerry Mclements<br>Peter Quinby | 19/08/26 | Wednesday | Pam Shanks<br>Bill Whipp<br>Tony Hill<br>James Kortas       | 21/08/26 | Friday | Ursula Hillman<br>Bill Whipp<br>Tony Hill |
| 24/08/26                                                                                                                                    | Monday | Alex Ashton<br>Peter Quinby     | 26/08/26 | Wednesday | Heather Maclean<br>Bill Whipp<br>Tony Hill<br>James Kortas  | 28/08/26 | Friday | Jane Buckley<br>Bill Whipp<br>Tony Hill   |
| 31/08/26                                                                                                                                    | Monday | Peter Ralph<br>Peter Quinby     | 2/09/26  | Wednesday | Heather Maclean<br>Bill Whipp<br>Tony Hill<br>James Kortas  | 3/09/26  | Friday | Sheila Higham<br>Bill Whipp<br>Tony Hill  |
| Any changes to the Roster contact Peter on 0429 185 066 OR email <a href="mailto:treasurer.busnet@gmail.com">treasurer.busnet@gmail.com</a> |        |                                 |          |           |                                                             |          |        |                                           |
| Busnet Opening Times : Monday, Wednesday & Friday 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM Closed Public Holidays                                                 |        |                                 |          |           |                                                             |          |        |                                           |

## August Trivia

**11 August 1942:** Actress Hedy Lamarr and composer George Antheil received a patent for a frequency-hopping communication system. This invention would go on to lay the foundation for modern wireless technologies like Wi-Fi and Bluetooth.



Hedy Lamarr      George Antheil



**12 August 1981:** The IBM released the IBM Personal Computer model 5150. It is seen as being significant because it legitimised personal computing for mainstream business and home use. By bringing its trusted brand to the market, IBM made computing safe and purchasable, effectively cementing an industry-wide "IBM-compatible" standard.

**24 August 1995:** Windows 95 officially was released to the public, setting the standard for the future of the tech giant's iconic operating system. The operating system proved hugely successful, with seven million copies sold in its first five weeks, making it the world's most popular OS at the time, introducing Start menu and "Plug and Play" capabilities.



**25 August 1991:** Linus Torvalds publicly announced the creation of the Linux operating system (initially just the kernel). He posted the famous announcement on the Usenet newsgroup comp.os.minix, famously stating it was "just a hobby, won't be big and professional like gnu".

Coffee Break

SUDOKU

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 |   |   |   | 5 | 6 |   | 7 | 3 |
| 6 | 7 |   |   |   |   |   | 2 | 1 |
| 5 |   |   | 2 |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | 6 | 1 | 4 | 9 |   | 7 |   |   |
|   | 5 |   |   | 8 |   |   | 3 |   |
|   |   | 4 |   | 2 | 5 | 8 | 1 |   |
|   |   |   |   |   | 2 |   |   | 5 |
| 1 | 3 |   |   |   |   |   | 8 | 7 |
| 7 | 2 |   | 5 | 1 |   |   |   | 4 |

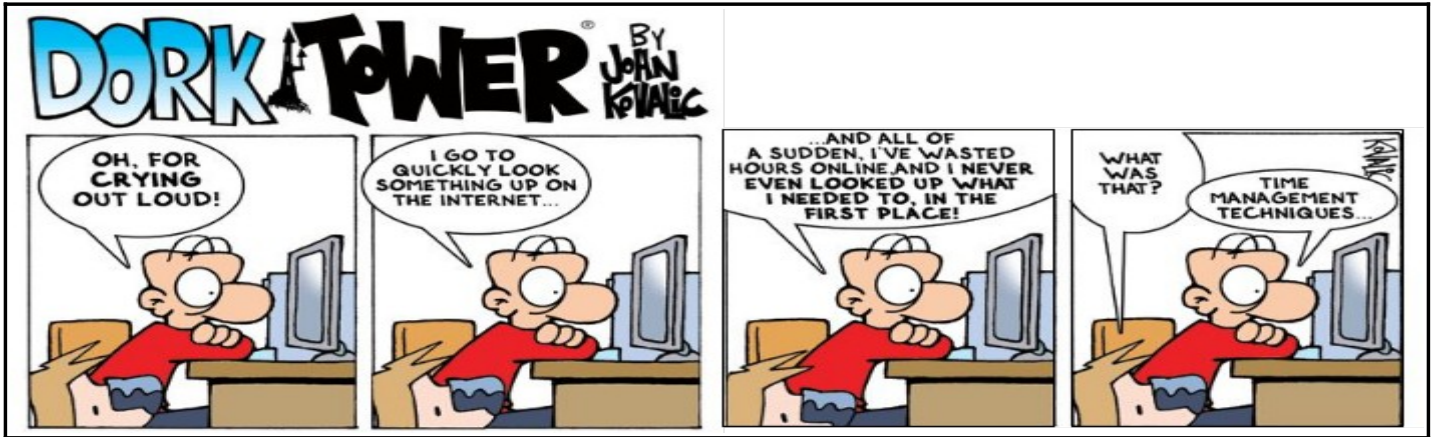
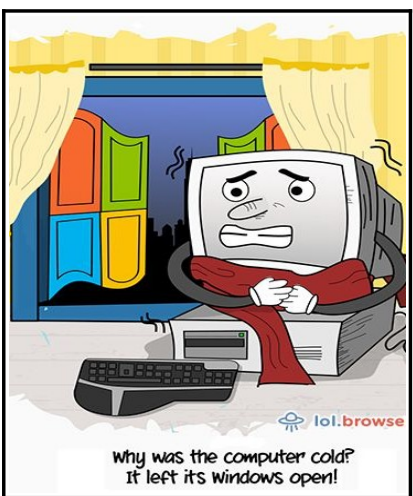
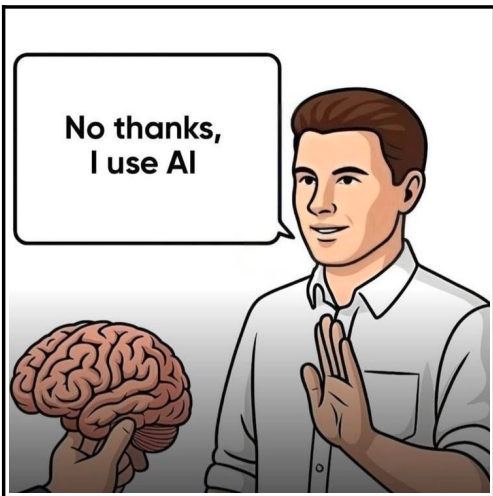
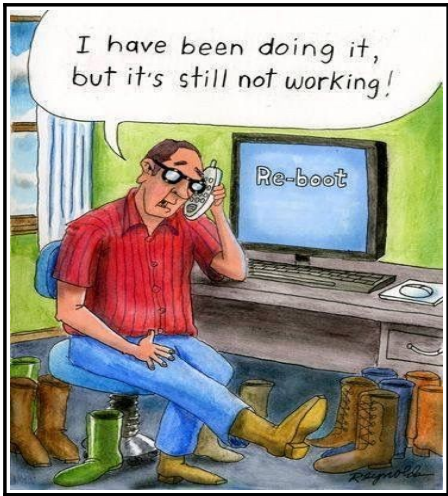
Fill the blank squares with the numbers 1 to 9 so that each row, each column and each smaller 3 x 3 block contains all the numbers from 1 to 9.

WORD MAKER

How many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters below, with each word containing the letter in the centre? Don't include proper names or plurals.

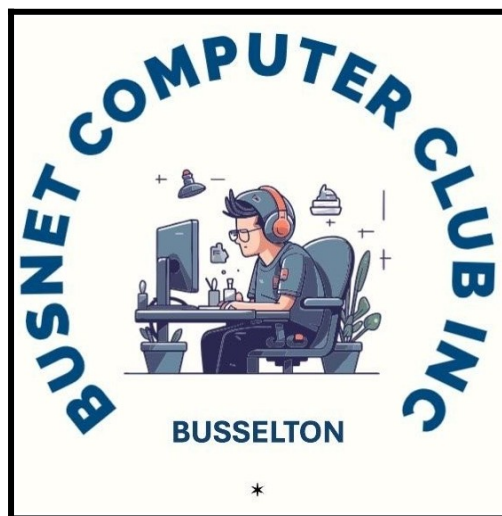
|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| P | C | N |
| I | O | M |
| U | G | T |

**July 2026 Answer:**  
aces, apes, apse, asap, baas, baps, base, bask, cabs, caps, casa, case, cask, pase, peas, pecs, sack, sake, scab, skip, spae, spec, abase, backs, bakes, beaks, becks, cakes, capes, paces, packs, peaks, pecks, scape, space, spake, speak, speck, BACKSPACE



# BROWSER NO 233

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