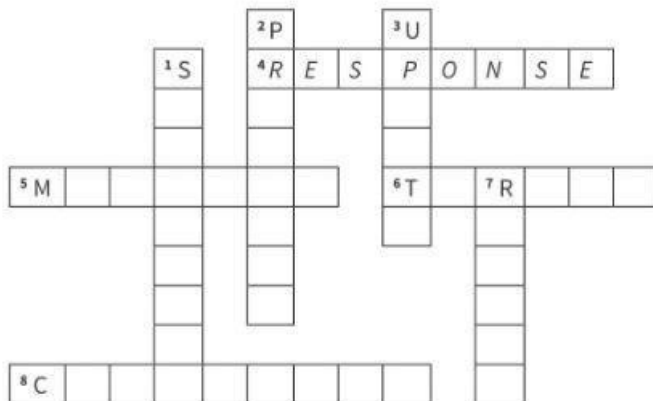


- 1 Use the clues to complete the crossword. You have the first letter.



Across

- 4 a reaction to something that has been said or done
5 a brief remark
6 the possibility that something bad will happen
8 when you say that something or someone is bad

Down

- 1 something that someone says or writes officially
2 a suggestion for a plan
3 new information
7 a fact that lots of people talk about that may or may not be true

- 2 Choose the correct options.

Early this year, Frank Towers made a ¹*(statement)* / *criticism* that he would retire after this year's Wimbledon tennis championship. This provided the ²*mention* / *confirmation* that the press had been looking for. He has been suffering from fitness problems recently and there were ³*responses* / *rumours* of retirement, with people making ⁴*predictions* / *threats* that he would stop at the end of last year. However, his emotional ⁵*hint* / *confession* that the pain was too much was sad to watch. Now, however, the tennis player has had a successful operation and in a recent news ⁶*update* / *response* he has made ⁷*hints* / *criticisms* that his competing days might not be over.

- 4 Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.

- 1 We *declared* / *(argued)* about the throwing technique and I still don't agree with him.
2 The teacher *admitted* / *told* me to come to the classroom at four o'clock.
3 The coach *reminded* / *admitted* that she hadn't watched the whole of my final match.
4 After 12 rounds of boxing, there was no clear winner so the referee *declared* / *encouraged* a draw.
5 The trainer *declared* / *proposed* that Kate try skating with a different partner.
6 The teacher *emphasised* / *proposed* the importance of stretching before and after exercise.

- 5 Choose the correct options.

- A: So, how did training go today?
B: It was good. My coach finally ¹*(declared)* / *proposed* that my backhand has improved and I hit ²*a record* / *a minimum* number of winning shots in the final game and beat him. He actually ³*argued* / *encouraged* me to apply for the national competition.
A: Wonderful! My ⁴*criticism* / *prediction* was right, you just needed to practise more.
B: I know, I know.
A: Did you just ⁵*admit* / *reveal* that I was right?
B: Maybe! Anyway, my coach ⁶*emphasised* / *begged* that I need to train six days a week.
A: Well, that will increase your ⁷*treatment* / *fitness*!
B: I hope so. I'm feeling quite ⁸*insensitive* / *optimistic* anyway.