

REBUS PUZZLES

What's a rebus puzzle? Well, a rebus is a representation of words, phrases, sounds or syllables by images of objects, letters, numbers or symbols. More simply, the pictures or symbols of a rebus represent and express sounds and words.

The word rebus come from the Latin expression – “Non verbis, sed rebus”. This means – Not by words but by things. A basic example is the combination of the pictures of an eye, a heart, a sun, and a flower to mean – I love sunflowers.

Rebuses have been around for a long time. During medieval times they were used on coats of arms by noblemen and knights to show family names. People often used pictures of objects that sounded similar to their family names. They were also used on other personal objects and buildings to show ownership. This helped illiterate people know to who things belonged.

Going further back, Ancient Egyptian writing or hieroglyphs were also read in a rebus style fashion.

The use of rebuses as puzzles for a fun activity became popular in France during the 16th century before spreading further around Europe. Not long after during the Edo period they also came into use in Japan.