



Circle of hard words explained by easy ones

by Graeme Cole (with apologies to xkcd)

The way a time pointer goes round

- 1. This body matter is strong but it can bend (9)
- 3. Funny story with five lines, some of which end with the same sound (8)
- 5. Count and explain each part (7)
- 7. Creature that drinks your blood (7)
- 9. Pretty thing on someone's shoulder (6)
- 11. The country's leader's friends might be kept in this box on a wall (7)
- 13. Beaten eggs, heated and bent in half (8)
- 15. Change order (7)
- 17. Choosing five from the pile with letters like A and I before choosing any from the other pile is this (7)
- 19. Made of easily fitted together parts (7)

The questions, and these words for telling you what to do, use only the ten hundred most used words in our tongue. The answers are *not* in that set. Words checked by: <https://xkcd.com/simplewriter/>

Not the way a time pointer goes round

- 2. In the middle (7)
- 4. Like a flat die with not enough numbers (6)
- 6. Garden of trees (9)
- 8. Pretty thing on someone's shoulder (9)
- 10. Keep order (8)
- 12. Card game which has kinds whose names mean "player / bank person" and "metal road" (8)
- 14. Thing for making holes in people, but a very long, thin and pointy one (6)
- 16. In the middle (7)
- 18. Creature that drinks your blood (4)
- 20. Choosing six from the pile with letters like A and I before choosing any from the other pile is this (7)

Both ends of each word share space with words going the other way. The numbers with pointers tell you where each word starts.