

DU Learning Guide

Games and Puzzles

"It's better than watching the telly - keeps my brain active!"

What's it all about

There are all sorts of games that you can play on the Internet. Many of them are very complicated and require a powerful computer to play.

For this Guide, we are looking at the online versions of more traditional games, like jigsaws, crosswords, Scrabble and Sudoku. These are simple to play, but are still fun and good exercise for your brain. Some are good practice for using the mouse.

Try this

One of our favourites for mouse practice is **Jigzone**.

Use it as follows:

- Type www.jigzone.com into the address bar of your browser
- Press **Enter** to display the Jigzone home page
- Move the mouse pointer over the pictures at the top of the page, to display a menu
- Point at "six piece classic" on the menu and click the mouse
- A page will be displayed with the message "The puzzle is loading"
- The puzzle will be displayed (See *note below)
- Put the mouse pointer on any of the pieces and click and drag it to the position you want.
- When two pieces match they will join automatically to form a single piece.
- When you have completed the puzzle, you will see the finished picture, and your time to complete will be displayed.

How did you do?

***Note:** the computer that you are using must have software called Java installed to do the puzzles on Jigzone. Computers at some Events may not have this, so you will not be able to try Jigzone.

If you are trying this at home and you find the Jigzone puzzles don't work,

- Scroll to the bottom of the Jigzone Home page
- Click on **Frequently Asked Questions**,
- Then on **Why doesn't the puzzle work on my computer?**

More websites to explore

Crossword Puzzles

www.crossword-puzzles.co.uk

Links to dozens of crosswords, from all over the world.

It's Your Turn

www.itsyourturn.com

Play chess, draughts, backgammon and other games across the Web.

Lexulous

www.lexulous.com

Based on Scrabble.¹ Play against your friends, or against the computer.

Thinks.com

thinks.com/index.htm

All sorts of crosswords, word games and other brain teasers.

Websudoku

www.websudoku.com

Play sudoku at every level from easy to "evil".

Sense-lang

<http://www.sense-lang.org/typing/>

Games to help you improve your typing skills.

¹ This used to be called "Scrabulous". The owners of Scrabble® stopped the use of any reference to the game on the website. But it's the same thing really!