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Yahoo Mail review: Yahoo Mail

Yahoo Mail

Gregg Keizer
July 15, 2002 5:00 a.m. PT

3 min read

With 4MB of storage space, solid security, and free access to all of your POP e-mail accounts, Yahoo Mail reigns as the most impressive Web e-mailer around. The company just redesigned its free e-mailer to make it cleaner, faster, and easier to use. For the first time ever, we can say that we actually *like* Yahoo's look. Even though Yahoo now charges for certain services, Yahoo Mail remains first class. With 4MB of storage space, solid security, and free access to all of your POP e-mail accounts, Yahoo Mail reigns as the most impressive Web e-mailer around. The company just redesigned its free e-mailer to make it cleaner, faster, and easier to use. For the first time ever, we can say that we actually *like* Yahoo's look. Even though Yahoo now charges for certain services, Yahoo Mail remains first class.

2002 CNET EDITORS' CHOICE AWARD

More space than Hotmail

Sign up for Yahoo Mail (you'll need to give your name, birth date, and gender), select a username and a password, and Yahoo hands over a mailbox that holds 4MB of messages and attachments. This figure is down from 6MB just several months ago, alas, but it's still more than Hotmail's measly 2MB. Once you've registered, just enter your username and password to log in. Yahoo won't deactivate your account unless you don't use it for four months, which is four times as long as Hotmail's downtime.

THE GOOD

Easy to use; provides twice the storage space of Hotmail; blocks bugs and viruses; eliminates all but 5 percent of spam; offers its own keyboard shortcuts.

THE BAD

MICROSOFT EXHIBIT 1096
Microsoft v. X1 Discovery
IPR2025-00254

Charges you to retrieve mail with a desktop client such as Microsoft Outlook or Eudora; video messaging suffers from audio/video synchronization problems; no longer encrypts messages.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Even though it now charges for services that were once free, the redesigned Yahoo Mail is still the best free Web e-mailer around.

8.0

Yahoo Mail

Ch-ch-changes

Yahoo's new interface looks enormously better than its predecessor's, which was as cluttered as Grandma's attic. The trashy Inside Yahoo and About Yahoo Mail sections are gone, and new DHTML drop-down menus at the top give you one-click access to features and tools. What's our favorite trick? Yahoo offers keyboard shortcuts--for example, you can use Ctrl+Shift+C to check mail--which no other online e-mailer does.

Additional improvements include a storage gauge, much like Hotmail's, that shows you how much room you have left and better integration with Calendar, Address Book, and Notepad. For example, you can add an event to the Calendar from the main Mail display or, with the new QuickBuilder tool, you can add multiple e-mail addresses to your Address Book with one command.

Nails viruses and spam

Yahoo Mail also covers the traditional e-mail bases. It lets you attach up to three files to a message, with a total attachment size of 1.5MB for any one message, and create *rules* to shunt messages to specific folders or to the trash based on keyword, sender, recipient, or subject.

The virus checker comes courtesy of Norton AntiVirus, and in our tests, it successfully spotted--and warned us not to download--a file infected with the W32.Klez.E virus. Yahoo Mail also comes with built-in spam defense. Bulk Mail, Yahoo's spam terminator, sniffed out all but 5 percent of the spam we received over a 10-day period. This proved much better than Hotmail, which let 35 percent of the spam through its net.

Not so free anymore

Alas, Yahoo Mail has dropped some primo features and slapped a price tag on others. The biggest blow is that Yahoo now charges $30 per year to let you collect your Yahoo mail from a desktop client; Hotmail still does this for free, but it works only with Outlook Express and Outlook 2002. Yahoo also dropped its encryption service, which kept e-mail superprivate.

And worse, Yahoo's much-touted video mail is a joke. Although you can attach a 30-second video clip to your outgoing mesages, the audio and video are so poorly synchronized that it's not worth the trouble. Switch to VMail Talk if you're eager for video mail.

Do you need help? Yahoo's online help files are extensive, and they should answer most of your questions. But there's no phone support, which is typical of most Web mailers.

The best by a mile

While we're bummed that we now must fork over $30 to grab Yahoo mail from a desktop client, Yahoo Mail's new improved interface and impressive feature set more than make up for that loss. No doubt about it, this is the best e-mailer on the Web.

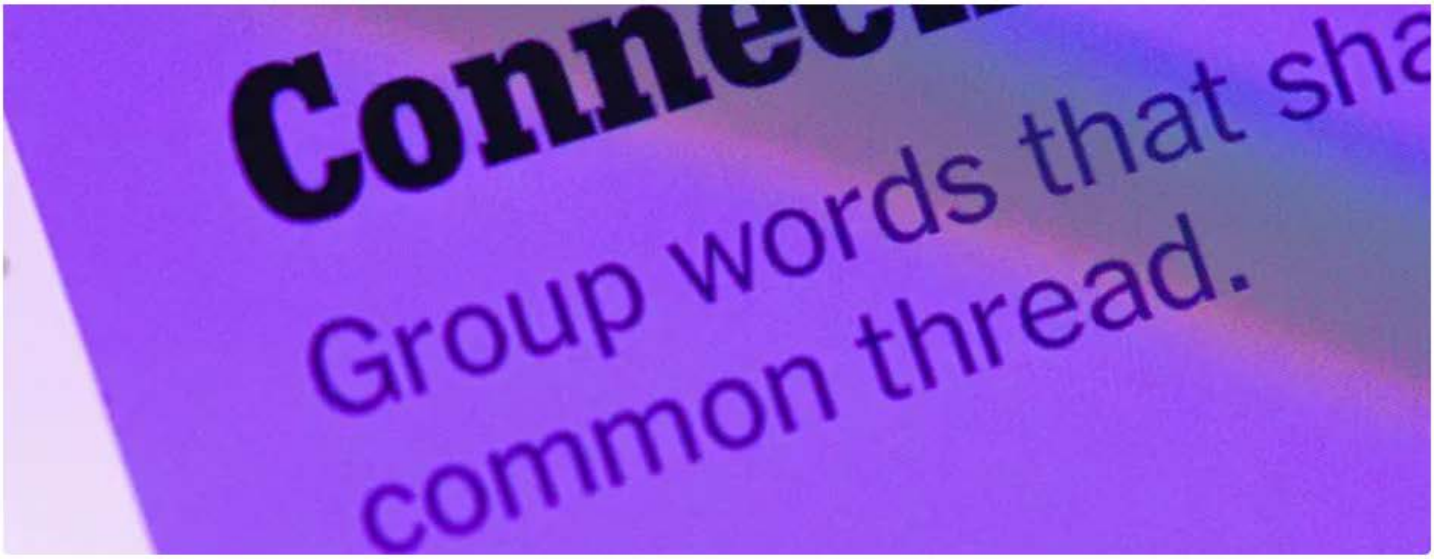
Take me back to the roundup!

Today's NYT Connections Hints, Answers and Help for Jan. 21, #955

Here are some hints and the answers for the NYT Connections puzzle for Jan. 21 #955

Gael Cooper
Jan. 21, 2026 9:32 a.m. PT

2 min read



Read on for today's Connections answers.

James Martin/CNET

Looking for the **most recent** Connections answers? Click here for today's Connections hints, as well as our daily answers and hints for The New York Times Mini Crossword, Wordle, Connections: Sports Edition and Strands puzzles.

Today's NYT Connections puzzle has some fun categories. I especially liked the purple group, which made me think of the tribute I wrote when Adam West died back in 2017. RIP, Bright Knight. Read on for clues and today's Connections answers.

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The Times has a Connections Bot, like the one for Wordle. Go there after you play to receive a numeric score and to have the program analyze your answers. Players who are registered with the Times Games section can now nerd out by following their progress, including the number of puzzles completed, win rate, number of times they nabbed a perfect score and their win streak.

Read more: Hints, Tips and Strategies to Help You Win at NYT Connections Every Time

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Hints for today's Connections groups

Here are four hints for the groupings in today's Connections puzzle, ranked from the easiest yellow group to the tough (and sometimes bizarre) purple group.

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Today's NYT Connections Hints, Answers and Help for Jan. 22,...
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Today's Wordle Hints, Answer and Help for Jan. 21, #1677
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Yellow group hint: Don't throw that out!

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Green group hint: Zzzzz...

Blue group hint: Eyes on your own paper.

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Spiceworks
cloud help desk

Speak Fluent Regex?
So Do Our Ticket Rules

Now with Regex automate complex tickets for free.

Get Geeky

Purple group hint: Caped Crusader's items.

Answers for today's Connections groups

Yellow group: Items to recycle.

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Green group: Bedding.

Blue group: Plagiarize.

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Yellow group: Items to recycle.

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Green group: Bedding.

Blue group: Plagiarize.

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Purple group: Batman's "Bat" things.

Read more: Wordle Cheat Sheet: Here Are the Most Popular Letters Used in English Words

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What are today's Connections answers?

The theme is bedding. The four answers are blanket, sham, sheet and throw.

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The blue words in today's Connections

The theme is plagiarize. The four answers are copy, crib, lift and pirate.

The purple words in today's Connections

The theme is Batman's "Bat" things. The four answers are cave, mobile, signal and suit.

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CHANGE

Quick tips for Connections

#1: Say the clue words out loud, pausing before and after each. That helps you hear the words in the context of a phrase. The Connections editors love to group words together that are used in similar phrasing, like ____ Up.

#2: Don't go for the obvious grouping. These editors are smart. Once, they offered SPONGE, BOB, SQUARE and PANTS in the same puzzle. None of those words were in the same category. If you like, hit the "shuffle" button to give yourself a different perspective on the words.

#3: Break down any compound words and look for similarities. "Rushmore" was once in a puzzle where the connection was that each word started with the name of a rock band.

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Sony and TCL Are Teaming Up to Make TVs

TCL would be in control, but Sony's Bravia brands would still be a thing.

Omar Gallaga
Jan. 20, 2026 1:02 p.m. PT

3 min read

Sony's proposed partnership with TCL will affect products including smart TVs.

Sony/CNET

Omar Gallaga
Jan. 20, 2026 1:02 p.m. PT

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Sony's proposed partnership with TCL will affect products including smart TVs.

Sony/CNET

budget brand known for its Roku-embedded smart TVs to a more premium brand that has competed favorably with top TV makers such as Samsung and LG. In CNET's tests, TCL has performed well, particularly in the LCD television category.

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At CES 2026, TCL unveiled a new display, the X11L, a giant LCD incorporating a Super Quantum Dot layer, that the company says adds better color and brightness.

(If you currently have a TV from either company, make sure you're getting the most out of it. Check your Sony TV settings or the TV settings on your TCL.)

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In the announcement, the two companies said the new venture will lean on "Sony's high-quality picture and audio technology cultivated over the years, brand value and operational expertise, including supply chain management, while utilizing TCL's advanced display technology, global scale advantages, industrial footprint, end-to-end cost efficiency, and vertical supply chain strength."

Sony and TCL said they hope to finalize the agreement by the end of March. The startup of the new company will also depend on clearing contract and regulatory hurdles.

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Joining forces, but why now?

Given the fierce competition in smart TVs, where big price drops are common and TV manufacturers are increasingly struggling to differentiate their offerings, it's surprising that a consolidation of two popular brands hasn't happened sooner.

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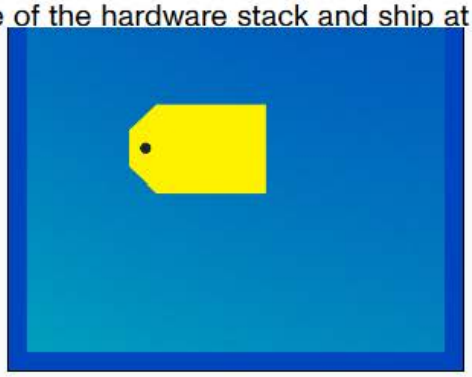
"Even well-known, premium brands are finding it hard to compete on their own against companies like Samsung and LG that control more of the hardware stack and ship at massive volume," said Kaveh



Sony would bring wider brand recognition and its longstanding reputation, while TCL would bring more efficient manufacturing -- and for consumers, potentially more competitive prices.

The planned partnership, Vahdat said, "is less about Sony stepping back from TVs entirely and more about adapting to how the smart TV market now works."

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"TCL branded smart televisions are notoriously filled with promotional content, including recommended programming and product advertising," said Rick Ellis, founder and managing editor at AllYourScreens.com, which covers the TV industry and programming.

That can't be disabled on current TCL sets, though users can limit some personalization features, Ellis said. "While Sony-branded smart TVs have some of the same features, they tend to be a lot less intrusive."

CNET TV Coverage

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Read on for help with Wordle.

James Martin/CNET

Looking for the **most recent** Wordle answer? Click here for today's Wordle hints, as well as our daily answers and hints for The New York Times Mini Crossword, Connections, Connections: Sports Edition and Strands puzzles.

Today's Wordle puzzle is kind of hard. There's an unusual letter, plus a double letter -- and that often slows me down when I'm solving Wordle. If you need a new starter word, check out our list of which

letters show up the most in English words. If you need hints and the answer, read on.

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Read more: New Study Reveals Wordle's Top 10 Toughest Words of 2025

Today's Wordle hints

Before we show you today's Wordle answer, we'll give you some hints. If you don't want a spoiler, look away now.

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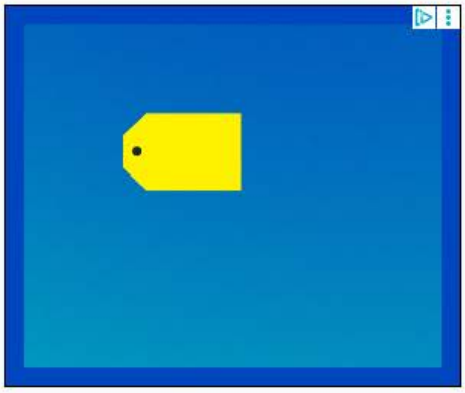

Wordle hint No. 1: Repeats

Today's Wordle answer has one repeated letter.

Wordle hint No. 2: Vowels

Today's Wordle answer has one vowel and one sometimes vowel.

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Wordle hint No. 3: First letter

Today's Wordle answer begins with S.

Wordle hint No. 4: Last letter
Wordle hint No. 1: Repeats

Today's Wordle answer has one repeated letter.

Wordle hint No. 2: Vowels

Today's Wordle answer has one vowel and one sometimes vowel.

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Wordle hint No. 3: First letter

Today's Wordle answer begins with S.

Wordle hint No. 4: Last letter

Today's Wordle answer ends with Y.

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Wordle hint No. 5: Meaning

Today's Wordle answer can refer to damaging the integrity of something.

TODAY'S WORDLE ANSWER

Today's Wordle answer is SULLY.

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Yesterday's Wordle answer

Yesterday's Wordle answer, Jan. 19, No. 1675 was WAXEN.

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