

## P vs NP

Each of these describes a phrase that is either a single word beginning with P, or two words beginning with N then P:

POKEMON	Rattata and Seel
NOBEL PRIZE	Physics and Literature have one, but not Computer Science
NATIONAL PARK	Rocky Mountain, for example
PLINY'S	Uncle/nephew pair of Roman authors
PRADA	Designer brand worn by the Devil, by some accounts
NUREMBERG PRINCIPLES	Overarching guidelines for what constitutes a war crime, post-WWII
PHOSPHORUS	It makes matches in red and white?
PROKARYOTE	Cell type lacking a nucleus
NICK PITERA	One-man creator of Youtube mashups
PARSLEY	Herb used as a garnish
NAIL POLISH	Fingertip paint
NANCY PELOSI	She remains the only female Speaker of the House
PLANETS	Saturn and others
PEACE	Hatchets are buried to make this
NATALIA POKLONSKAYA	Crimean prosecutor general who was an Internet phenomenon
NATURAL PHILOSOPHY	Antiquated term for mathematics, astronomy, and others, collectively
PANDEMIC	Outbreak of disease, or a board game
NAT PAGLE	Nonpareil fisherman from the World of Warcraft universe
PITTSBURGH	Where you are right now
NATURE'S PROPHET	Treant summoning hero of Dota 2
PHOTON	Electromagnetic particle
NORTH POLE	Home for Rudolph
PSYCHOLOGY	Domain of Maslow and Freud
PRESTO	Tempo at the far end of the metronome
NOISE POLLUTION	Environmental malady due to car horns and airplanes
PANDORA	Home planet of the Na'vi
NUCLEAR POWER	Like energy obtained from a reactor
NATALIE PORTMAN	Portrayer of Darth Vader's star-crossed lover
PROBABILITY	Events have them, even when conditioned
PADDYWHACK	Sheep ligament that helps hold up the head
POMEGRANATE	Eat the seeds, and throw the rest away

Now what? Well, P and NP are abbreviations, so perhaps we should try taking first letters of these clue phrases (which are vertically aligned so nicely!). If we arrange them as in the flavor text ("first Ps then NPs") we get the phrase

RUDICHSHOWEDTHESE (Ps) PROOFSCANTHELP (NPs)

The solution to this cluephrase is **NATURAL** proofs, which Professor Rudich (a CMU professor!) showed cannot help resolve the P vs NP conjecture.