



Nonplus is a state of **puzzlement** or **perplexity**:

Jane was puzzled, and scratched her head like a woman at a nonplus.

To be nonplussed means to be at a loss as to what to say, think, or do.

I was nonplussed by his remarks about my lifestyle.

Does *nonplus* puzzle you? Etymology may help clarify things. In Latin, 'non plus' means '**no more**'. In the earliest known uses, which date to the 16th century, it was used as a noun synonymous with **quandary**, which means **dilemma**). Someone brought to a nonplus had reached an impasse in an argument and could say no more. Within a few decades of the first known use of the noun, people began using nonplus as a verb, and today it is often used in participial form with the meaning *perplexed*.