

5  
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G  
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S**

Another

Puzzle

Issue

Nº 6

Winter 2024

Presented by:

**Bklyn**  
Public Library

Justice  
Initiatives

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# Puzzles

## for incarcerated people

Dear Readers and Solvers,

It's so exciting to be releasing a second issue of Bridges to be devoted entirely to puzzles, and I'm honored that BPL's Justice Initiatives team has again asked me to be a part of it. My name is Kate; my day job is editing crosswords for a magazine and website; and a person very close to me has been either incarcerated or on probation for about 15 years (and in prison for the past 5), so this project is important and personal for me. My hope is that these puzzles can serve as little reprieves from frustration, depression, or just plain old boredom, for anyone who solves them.

This issue contains not only crosswords of various difficulty levels, and tips for how to solve them, but also word searches and a collection of variety puzzles - word puzzles of miscellaneous types. With over 30 puzzles altogether, from easy breezy to punishingly tough, there's something in here for everyone.

We're also offering something brand new in this issue of the zine: a chapter on how to make crosswords of your own. Making (or "constructing," as it's officially called) a crossword is an even more challenging puzzle than solving one, so if you've conquered everything in these pages and want a real mind-bender, crossword construction could be just the mental workout you're after.

On behalf of the dozens of people who helped put this issue together, thank you for inspiring us, and thank you for solving!

-Kate Chin Park

# Word Search Puzzles

by Kelsey Dixon

## Word Search 1: Let's Rock!

M	I	C	A	Z	R	G	D	A	W	Z	Q	P	Z	D
Y	E	U	Y	H	V	L	A	E	L	L	J	I	G	I
F	A	T	M	L	A	M	W	A	W	C	K	U	V	U
F	D	A	J	R	G	Y	R	X	F	W	N	P	T	N
O	F	A	E	A	V	E	D	C	R	Y	S	T	A	L
O	G	M	M	L	N	N	I	A	R	P	I	W	S	F
L	E	E	H	I	C	L	A	G	R	A	N	I	T	E
S	R	U	M	K	U	I	M	P	M	T	G	E	R	J
G	O	D	S	J	C	M	O	H	A	P	L	A	P	B
O	Y	J	M	P	A	E	N	L	R	B	E	A	A	X
L	T	P	M	G	Y	S	D	S	B	G	H	V	D	M
D	Z	L	S	T	Q	T	P	E	L	I	A	Q	G	W
S	X	X	Q	U	U	O	P	E	E	L	A	M	R	R
C	E	I	G	D	M	N	K	L	R	W	R	O	C	K
W	I	D	C	A	V	E	M	V	V	C	D	D	F	B

EMERALD  
GRANITE  
LAVA  
MARBLE  
PEBBLE

DIAMOND  
GEM  
JASPER  
MAGMA  
MINERAL

CRYSTAL  
FOOLS GOLD  
GYPSUM  
LIMESTONE  
MICA  
ROCK

Word Search 2: The Rainbow Connection

by Kelsey Dixon

T G M I S S P I G G Y O X Q G  
P C G R O V E R L W Q T T U Z  
L Q B H X U F N A N I M A L P  
U A B X M S K A W P J I G J V  
O S C A R T H E G R O U C H B  
D V S A M E A G L E J X N X S  
A K V L Q H O K C O E O O B C  
F O Z Z I E B E A R Z I B D R  
Z C O O K I E M O N S T E R O  
K E R M I T H M O B M Z K Y W  
X J M L S I L G L H N R Q W L  
H N T H H E D D I E M I N W F  
Q Q N D L W G Z K M O Z M X K  
S W E D I S H C H E F Z D L E  
Z B I G B I R D S S A O H C F

ANIMAL  
ELMO  
GROVER  
OSCAR THE GROUCH  
SAM EAGLE

BIG BIRD  
FOZZIE BEAR  
KERMIT  
RIZZO  
SWEDISH CHEF

COOKIE MONSTER  
GONZO  
MISS PIGGY  
ROWLF

Word Search 3: Sweet Thing

by Kelsey Dixon

L A F F Y T A F F Y V G A G X B E N P W  
S T R I F T G U M M Y B E A R U Q Y A N  
O N V J Z P N S T A R B U R S T T S Y H  
O T I R O S K I T T L E S A J T N M D N  
G A K C B L M I L K W A Y O A E C A A J  
I L I L K K L C Y H J Y L P Z R Q R Y J  
S M T S E E M Y T Q E O T F W F X T J Q  
O O K I O T R U R H Q N L W X I Y I Z O  
D N A P T U R S S A I Z R B W N J E R T  
K D T Y O Y R R Q M N J G T E G P S E A  
M J P H B Z E P R D F C N M D E W J E I  
H O K A A H Y E A F J W H M A R B D A V  
O Y B A J W P Y S T M I K E A N D I K E  
T D K W K P I N B I C X N O R O D M L Z  
T Z R E E S E S E E X H J I X O S M X P  
A F F P L G R P R N D E K S I I U L S Y  
M K E N E R D S T O O T S I E R O L L N  
A B C A N D Y C O R N D T T D V M D R Z  
L M C M I L K D U D S R H Q F S V P D C  
E N P P G W H K K H W O T B G K M E A N

ALMOND JOY  
CANDY CORN  
HOT TAMALES  
LAFFY TAFFY  
MILK DUDS  
PAY DAY  
REESE'S  
SNICKERS  
TOOTSIE ROLL

BABY RUTH  
GUMMY BEAR  
JOLLY RANCHER  
M AND M'S  
MILKYWAY  
PEPPERMINT PATTY  
SKITTLES  
SOUR PATCH KIDS  
TWIX

BUTTERFINGER  
HERSHEY  
KIT KAT  
MIKE AND IKE  
NERDS  
PEZ  
SMARTIES  
STARBURST

## Word Search 4: Deep Blue Sea

by Kelsey Dixon

O M D F W L G F W D S P Q S L U R S P B  
M Y J O A E Q P I U F G T D C J Y O J R  
A U C E L Z J U Q F Y D S J R A Y W M R  
N U S G R P Q V Q O I J E Q A V U X Z B  
L C D H U S H R I M P T A D B X N W G R  
C H E N S I T I G K Q U H C T B C I D F  
I O E R J Z X U N L S R O H B P J B H Z  
G N N L K S W B Y H H T R R W H V W L C  
M O O C T O P U S S A L S L Z T U C U Y  
D L S T H D Y K G H R E E Q B I W I T R  
U J T W Q G H W P T K X X R S C L A M Q  
I K A P H K W S G F P L V X L P P X P B  
W C R H N A R W H A L A A I Y A O X X I  
E J F O L H L R V A W O X K A O S N Z O  
P S I D V P A U L A J V K C L X W G G W  
S B S O H X Q G L G J E L L Y F I S H E  
V A H D V N E A H K A T X D D Z C H L J  
L O B S T E R Q B Z O Z X G O T T E R J  
O L Z I W O I Y I Z Y R L Q W R X N I W  
N T B T C R Q L L C C T E E L B Z G Y X

CLAM  
CRAB  
JELLYFISH  
OCTOPUS  
SEAHORSE  
SHRIMP  
STARFISH

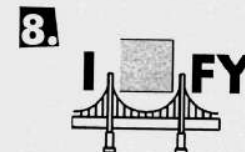
CORAL  
EEL  
NARWHAL  
RAY  
SHARK  
SQUID  
WALRUS

CONCH  
DOLPHIN  
LOBSTER  
OTTER  
SEAL  
SPONGE  
TURTLE

# Variety Puzzles

## Bridges by Erik Agard & Kelsey Dixon a variety puzzle

Write a letter on each bridge to form a common English word. The added letters, when read in order, will spell out this puzzle's theme.



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

## Abridged

by Erik Agard

For each answer in the word bank, you can remove one letter to make it fit one of the clues. An apt phrase will be spelled out by reading the removed letters (not necessarily from top to bottom...)

<u>Clue</u>	<u>Answer</u>	<u>Letter Removed</u>
<u>Removed</u>		
Santa	_____	—
Cow	_____	—
Wood	_____	—
Space	_____	—
Vegas	_____	—
Honey	_____	—
Dudes	_____	—
Language	_____	—
Legit	_____	—
Hair	_____	—
Morrison	_____	—

### Word Bank

BEEP	COMBO	COMETH	GERMANE
LASS	LOGO	MENU	MOOR
REALM	SLEIGHT	TONIC	

## Mixed Upped

by Mike Lieberman

In this puzzle, the right-hand answers will use the same letters as the left-hand answers in the same row, but with one additional letter in each row, which you have to figure out for yourself. (Some of the letters on both the right- and left-hand sides have been filled in for you. None of those are the new additional letters.)

When you have answered the clues correctly, the four "new" letters in the right-hand grid can be unscrambled and added to the shaded row to spell an appropriate word.

H				1	P				
	O			2		L			
		M		3			A		
			E	4				T	
									E

- Disorderly stack
- Gullible person
- Checkers or chess
- Romantic outing

- Developmental stage
- What Noah's Ark was built for
- Picture
- Triangular river mouth feature

## Scaling Up

by Mike Lieberman

For each pair of clues, insert one of the below two-letter musical "notes" inside the answer to the first clue to get the answer to the second clue. (For example: the note *RE* can be added to PAID to make PAIRED.) The length of each word is given. Each note will be used exactly once.

DO RE MI FA SO LA TI

1. Treasure holder (5) / Marie Curie, for one (7)

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

2. Indian dish (5) / Not thorough (7)

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

3. Unfavorable (7) / Promoting a product (9)

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

4. Food from heaven (5) / One-named singer called the "Queen of Pop" (7)

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

5. Hard to find (6) / Classic Al Pacino movie (8)

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

6. "West Side Story" / Mosquito-borne disease (7) heroine (5)

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

7. Hot dog sounds? (5) / Employers of babysitters (7)

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

## Daffynitions

by Mike Lieberman

Some words look like two different words put together. For example, **CARNATION** can be split into the words **CAR** and **NATION**. Daffynitions are silly, fake definitions for these words, like pretending **CARNATION** means "country that loves driving." In the puzzle below, can you find words that fit both the real definition (on the left) and the daffynition (on the right)?

Definition	Answer	Daffynition
Pink flower	<u>C</u> <u>A</u> <u>R</u> <u>N</u> <u>A</u> <u>T</u> <u>I</u> <u>O</u> <u>N</u>	Country that loves driving
Figuring something out	-----	Skinny monarch
St. Patrick's Day symbol	-----	Fake diamond
Color of the rainbow	-----	Scream in pain
Item in the weight room	-----	Alarm at a pub
Person filing a lawsuit	-----	Ordinary quarrel
Place to work	-----	Finished with figure skating
Inactive, like a volcano	-----	Insect in a college student's room
Really angry	-----	Eyeball
Talking	-----	Male sheep's
aimlessly	-----	jewelry
Newsworthy	-----	Incapable

# FOUR SHARE

by Mike Lieberman

Answer each pair of clues so that the letters in the shaded squares in the top answer match the letters in the shaded squares in the bottom answer. The first one has been done for you.

- Five-armed sea creature
- Carelessly thrown together

1

S	T	A	R	F	I	S	H
S	L	A	P	D	A	S	H

- 12 hours past noon
- U.S. state

2


- Restaurant employee
- NFL and NHL team name

3


- Popular Maryland dish
- Get schooled?

4


- Really, really bad
- Fajita component

5


- Nuts, bolts, etc.
- Union of two people

6


- High-velocity pitch
- Cultural gathering

7


- Arrange things
- Three pointer?

8


## How to Solve a Crossword Puzzle

If you've never solved a crossword before (or just want a refresher), here are some tips:

1. Clues are separated into Across (answers run from left to right) and Down (answers run from top to bottom). Each entry starts at its clue's number.
2. It's normal to not know a lot of the answers at first! Look at all the clues and find the stuff you feel pretty confident about. Enter those first.
3. Once you have some letters in the grid, it can help you narrow down options. For example, let's say you have an Across clue of [Chess piece], 4 letters. That could be PAWN, KING, or ROOK, so you might leave it blank at first. But maybe the Down clue that crosses the first letter is ["The \_\_\_ is Right" (TV show)]. You might know right away that that's PRICE. Then you know the Across answer begins with a P, and you can fill in PAWN. A lot of crossword solving is just about going through this process over and over.
4. Looking stuff up is completely legitimate! If you have the chance to look up an answer, or check the spelling of a word, go right ahead. It's good to stretch your mind, but not so great to be frustrated.
5. Take breaks. You'd be surprised how often coming back to a clue later will lead you to suddenly think of the answer.

**There are some rules that crosswords always follow.** Keeping these in mind will help you think of possible answers:

Clue/Answer Matching

- Part of speech: if the clue is a noun (a person, place, thing, or idea), the answer will be also. Same goes for an adjective (describing word), verb (action word), etc. For example, the clue [Eerie] could have the answer SPOOKY, because they are both adjectives and could replace one another in a sentence, but HORROR wouldn't work as an answer, because that's a noun.
- Tense: the clue and answer will have the same tense (e.g., past, present, or future). If the clue is [Dined], the answer could be ATE, but not EAT or EATING.
- Singular/plural: the clue and answer will either be both singular, or both plural. So the clue [Items useful for completing crossword puzzles] could be PENS, but not PEN. The clue [Ballpoint and fountain, for two] could also have the answer PENS, because it's naming two types; but the clue [Ballpoint or fountain] would be PEN, singular, because the "or" means it's only asking for one. (Remember, some plural words don't end with an "S.")

Other Languages

Occasionally, a crossword puzzle will contain answers in other languages besides English. This doesn't happen too often; only with words that are well-known. For example, because many people in the U.S. know some Spanish words, even if they don't speak Spanish fluently, there are occasionally some well-known Spanish words in puzzles. Here are some examples of non-English crossword entries:

["Goodbye," in French], 5 letters: ADIEU

["Hasta \_\_\_"], 5 letters: LUEGO

[Number between seis and ocho], 5 letters: SIETE

Abbreviations and Shortened Forms:

Many crossword entries are common, everyday abbreviations. Look for an indication in the clue, like in the examples below:

[When some people attend church: Abbr.], 3 letters: SUN (abbr. of "Sunday")

[Sports org. for the Rays and Blue Jays], 3 letters: MLB (the shortened form "org." is an indication that the answer will be an abbr.)

[Stranger, for short], 5 letters: RANDO (short for "random")

Quotes

If a clue is entirely in quotes, that means that the answer will be something that means the same thing as that quote. For example:

["Darn it!"], 4 letters: RATS

["Beats me"], 6 letters: NO IDEA (remember, entries can be more than one word!)

Common Abbreviations in Crossword Clues:

- e.g. = for example
- i.e. = in other words
- etc. = and so on

Finally...

Have fun! Remember to take breaks, especially if you get frustrated. Use a pencil with an eraser, if you can, so that it's easier to correct mistakes. (And don't worry: mistakes are normal.) If you don't have an eraser, try writing letters lightly and small in the corner of a box until you're sure they're right, and then writing them big and bold.

Happy solving!

# Crossword Puzzles

## Beginner Puzzles

### Crossword 1

Difficulty: Beginner

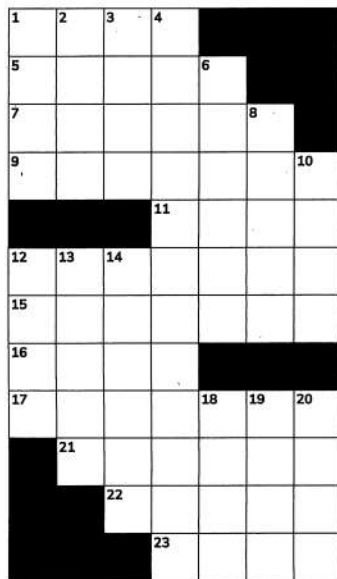
Brooke Husic

#### ACROSS

- 1 See-through fabric for some practice jerseys
- 5 "League" of fancy colleges in the northeast U.S.
- 7 Acidic flavor associated with oranges and lemons
- 9 "Don't \_\_\_ their potential!" ("You might be underestimating them!")
- 11 Rubber circle around a wheel
- 12 Bottoms in bed
- 15 Least lit
- 16 Initial poker bet
- 17 "What'd I tell you?!"
- 21 French island in the Pacific Ocean
- 22 Sweet rice wine
- 23 Complete collections

#### DOWN

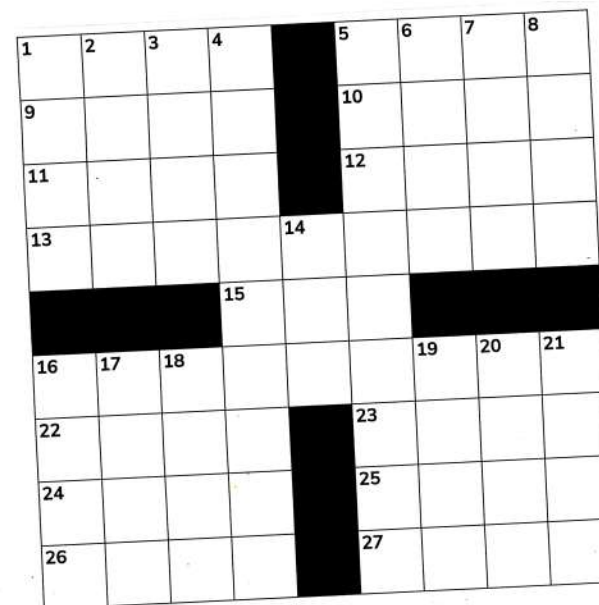
- 1 Devices for announcers and karaoke singers
- 2 Battle of good versus \_\_\_
- 3 Location
- 4 Remark from a video game character who's about to give you an item
- 6 Lying on one's back
- 8 Puts in order
- 10 Place for baby birds
- 12 Smartphone predecessors (Abbr.)
- 13 "Together Again" singer Jackson
- 14 Squad who manages a celebrity's image
- 18 Give an offer of employment
- 19 Going \_\_\_ (arguing)
- 20 Containers for sardines



### Crossword 2

Difficulty: Beginner

Erik Agard



#### ACROSS

- 1 "\_\_\_ tuned"
- 5 Attire
- 9 The Great Lakes: Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Superior, and \_\_\_
- 10 "Ah, understood"
- 11 Singer Simone
- 12 It's similar to fog
- 13 "Reason it out!"
- 15 Fish eggs
- 16 XX or OO, in tic-tac-toe
- 22 \_\_\_ a bell (sounded familiar)
- 23 Rescue
- 24 One-twelfth of a foot
- 25 Not odd
- 26 \_\_\_ and greet
- 27 One-hundredth of a dollar

#### DOWN

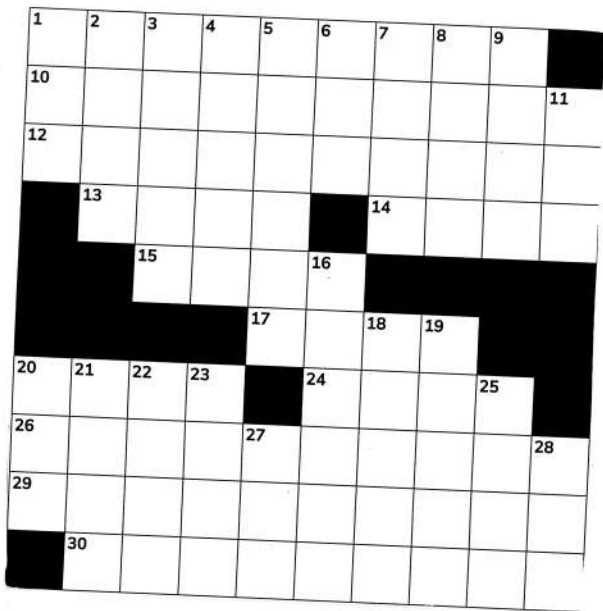
- 1 Counterpart of "receive"
- 2 Group of three
- 3 "You \_\_\_ said nothing but a word!"
- 4 "Sure, sure, heard that before"
- 5 "I'll be with you in one moment"
- 6 Earth's largest continent
- 7 Conserve your energy
- 8 Nickname that's short for the same thing as Lizzy
- 14 Very very long time
- 16 Slight haircut
- 17 Decrease gradually
- 18 A single time
- 19 Rant and \_\_\_
- 20 Baker's appliance
- 21 Past-tense version of "go"

**Crossword 3**  
Difficulty: beginner

Brooke Husic

**ACROSS**

- 1 Competitions that the home team travels to play
- 10 "Join me at my place!"
- 12 "If we're being real ..."
- 13 See 7-Down
- 14 Tennis champion and AIDS activist Arthur
- 15 No \_\_\_ Traffic
- 17 What a leaky faucet tends to do
- 20 Magnum \_\_\_ (artist's greatest work)
- 24 Small earring, or belt decoration
- 26 "Pride and Prejudice" author
- 29 Devices that orbit the Earth and help us communicate with each other
- 30 Relaxation location in a certain Asian style



**DOWN**

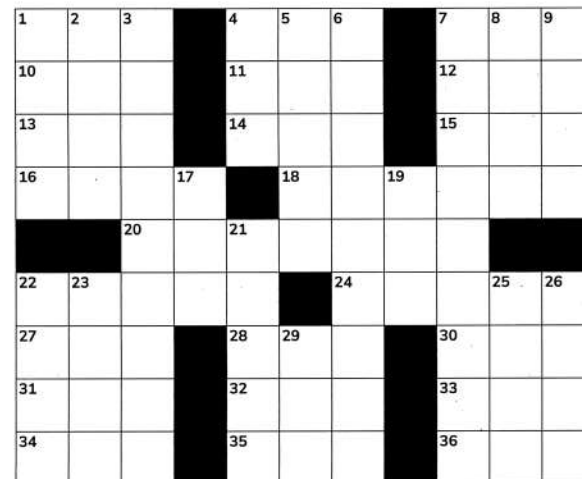
- 1 Perform in a stage play
- 2 Warm sweater material that can be itchy
- 3 Range
- 4 "That... does not sound good"
- 5 Give your all
- 6 "Unfortunately, that's gonna be \_\_\_ from me"
- 7 Leonardo da Vinci painting "The \_\_\_ 13-Across"
- 8 Nights before Christmas and New Year, for example
- 9 Shortened word for a get-together
- 11 Abbr. for a state highway
- 16 "The Little Mermaid" villain
- 18 "They scored!!"
- 19 Tries to get a little ball in a little hole (maybe past a windmill)
- 20 Breakfast beverages that can have pulp or no pulp, for short
- 21 Bruno Mars collaborator Anderson . \_\_\_
- 22 "Do \_\_\_ others as you would have them do \_\_\_ you"
- 23 Person who has visions of the future
- 25 Shallow's opposite
- 27 Ginger \_\_\_ (soft drink that might ease an upset stomach)
- 28 U.S. agency that employs cryptologists (Abbr.)

**Crossword 4**  
Difficulty: beginner

Kate Hawkins

**ACROSS**

- 1 They came after records and tapes
- 4 Perform in a show
- 7 Core muscles
- 10 Fib
- 11 Dr. \_\_\_ (rapper and mogul)
- 12 Actor and martial artist Bruce
- 13 \_\_\_ de Armas ("Knives Out" actress whose first name is spelled the same backwards and forwards)
- 14 Lipa who sings "Levitating"
- 15 Make a wager
- 16 Michelle of "Everything Everywhere All at Once" and "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon"
- 18 Sneaky investigator
- 20 Join forces to get something done (or, alternately, a wrestling duo such as the Dudley Boyz)
- 22 Wash one's body
- 24 Passion
- 27 High (or low) card
- 28 Title for a pastor, for short
- 30 Baseball slugging stat
- 31 "It's cold in here!"
- 32 Compact food packet used in the military (Abbr.)
- 33 "That's gotta hurt"
- 34 "Affirmative"
- 35 What a decade has ten of, for short
- 36 Animal who's part of the family

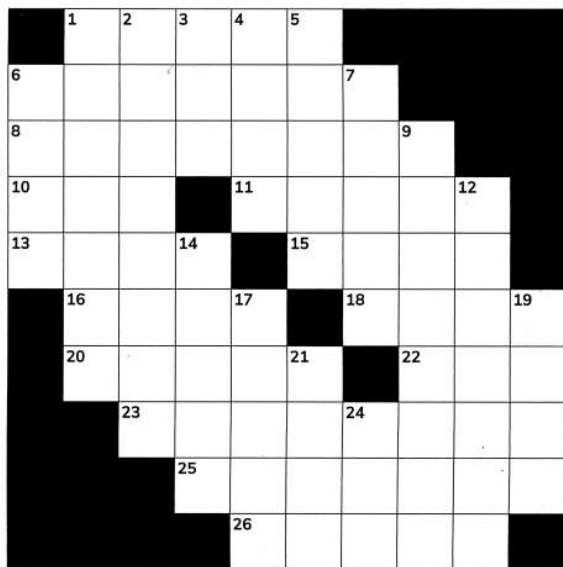


**DOWN**

- 1 Raw material for a potter
- 2 Eat, but in a fancy way
- 3 Marine mammals that use tools and hold hands and are very cute
- 4 Contribute
- 5 Part of a loaf of bread that some kids won't eat
- 6 They're "read" by some fortune tellers
- 7 Event celebrated with a release party
- 8 Root vegetable that might leave your hands stained red
- 9 "Late Night with \_\_\_ Meyers"
- 17 "Funny"
- 19 Flappy part of an elephant
- 21 Unhygienic, like a subway pole
- 22 Infant
- 23 Unit of land area
- 25 Reedy-sounding double reed instrument
- 26 Serious break in friendship
- 29 Mess up

**Crossword 5**  
Difficulty: easy

Brooke Husic



**ACROSS**

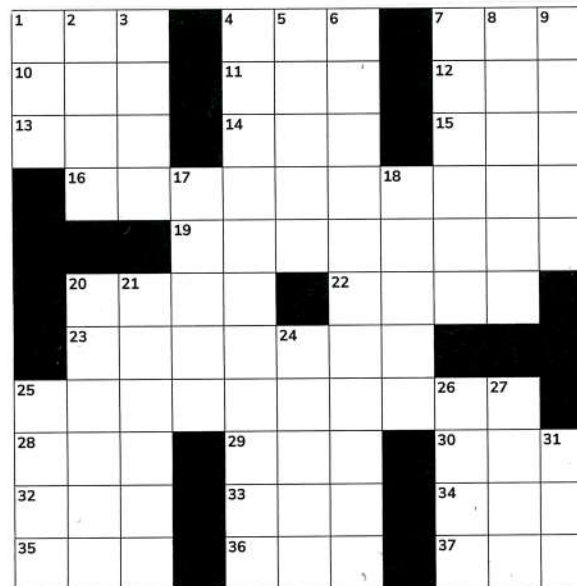
- 1 Trick-taking card game invented in Niger, whose name is found by removing two consecutive letters from 1-Down
- 6 "I'll have \_\_\_" ("Give me one more")
- 8 Said "nah" to
- 10 Basketball players who bring the ball down the court (Abbr.)
- 11 Performed a silent impression of
- 13 Opera singer's solo
- 15 Tennis star Gauff
- 16 Programs downloaded onto smartphones
- 18 Male sheep
- 20 Intends
- 22 "Another Lifetime" singer whose name is hidden in the phrase "banana oil"
- 23 Share your location using a virtual thumbtack-like marker
- 25 Using transparent paper to copy the lines of
- 26 Pines and maples, for example

**DOWN**

- 1 Word scramble, like "they see" for "the eyes," appropriately
- 2 Spread a 7-Down
- 3 Twitter reposts, for short
- 4 Throat-clearing sound
- 5 Military doctor
- 6 Korean word for "Dad" that has the same letters as "papa"
- 7 Unreliable information heard through the grapevine
- 9 Circular dessert made with Texas's state nut
- 12 Realms of expertise
- 14 Not together
- 17 Laugh through your nose
- 19 Poem set to music
- 21 Practice boxing
- 24 Highest playing card in a standard deck

**Crossword 6**  
Difficulty: Easy

Darby Ratliff



**ACROSS**

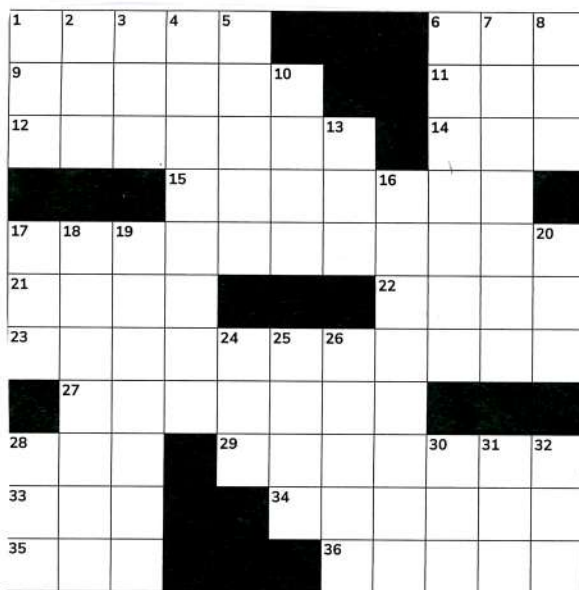
- 1 Communication system using one's 25-Downs (Abbr.)
- 4 Take a drink of iced tea, maybe
- 7 Snake in "Antony and Cleopatra"
- 10 Vegetable in a pod
- 11 \_\_\_, dos, tres
- 12 Restroom, to a Brit
- 13 Bit of ink
- 14 Protectors for left-handed QBs
- 15 The Browns or the Cavs, on a scoreboard
- 16 Space accessed by pulling a specific book on a shelf so that the entire case spins open like a door, maybe
- 19 Replaces on the mound
- 20 Wide smile
- 22 1-1, say
- 23 Struggling without
- 25 Goes for more, in a way
- 28 Wonder
- 29 Stereotypical subway critter
- 30 Initials in a debt statement?
- 32 Accessory in fishing or basketball
- 33 Before, poetically
- 34 Frying implement
- 35 Dentist's degree (Abbr.)
- 36 \_\_\_ Moines, Iowa
- 37 Slide down a snowy hill with slats attached to your feet, basically

**DOWN**

- 1 Appropriate
- 2 Vast watery expanses
- 3 Tardy
- 4 Knocked over your king in a game of chess, for example
- 5 Info from spies
- 6 Papers that are often yellow and slightly sticky
- 7 Nook
- 8 Sang on one's own
- 9 Sonnets, limericks, haikus, etc.
- 17 Weeps
- 18 Rule
- 20 Chewed, like a chipmunk
- 21 Starts fresh
- 24 "You're important to me"
- 25 Helping \_\_\_
- 26 Queso and guac, for two
- 27 Take a long bath
- 31 College, to a Brit

# Crossword 7

Difficulty: Easy



## DOWN

- 1 Word between "ready" and "go"  
 2 Shiba \_\_\_ (dog breed)  
 3 Screw up  
 4 Red fruits treated as vegetables  
 5 Get married in a rush  
 6 Boom boxes  
 7 Breakfast protein in a patty or links  
 8 Spring month that's often rainy (Abbr.)  
 10 Kissers  
 13 Hip-to-ankle limb  
 16 Blood lines?  
 17 Bit of advice  
 18 City of Angels?  
 19 Hair pieces?  
 20 Professors' aids, for short  
 24 \_\_\_ de plume (pen name)  
 25 One of many aired during the Super Bowl  
 26 #1 hit by Outkast in 2003  
 28 Owns  
 30 "Chandelier" and "Cheap Thrills" singer  
 31 Finish  
 32 Sense of self-importance

# Darby Ratliff

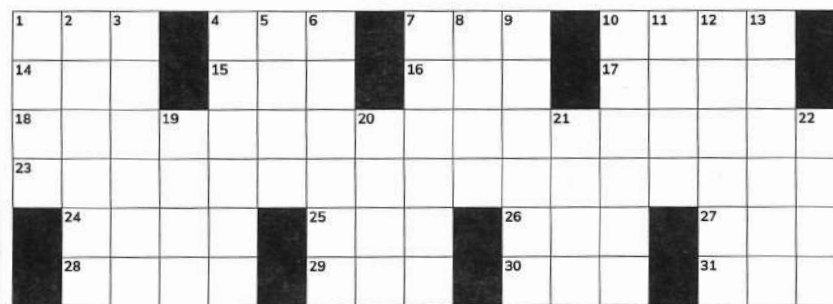
## ACROSS

- 1 Seven, in Spanish  
 6 Govt. org that administers retirement benefits  
 9 Sign up for a class  
 11 Pat  
 12 Tumult  
 14 Currency abbr. for France and Germany  
 15 Shows up  
 17 "Delicious!"  
 21 Vanish \_\_\_ thin air  
 22 Ancient Roman garment worn at some frat parties  
 23 What ))) and ((( are  
 27 Hosts  
 28 Egg layer  
 29 "Just one peek?"  
 33 Help  
 34 Artificially coloring  
 35 Text format (Abbr.)  
 36 Roasted, in Spanish

# Crossword 8

Difficulty: Easy

Brooke Husic



## ACROSS

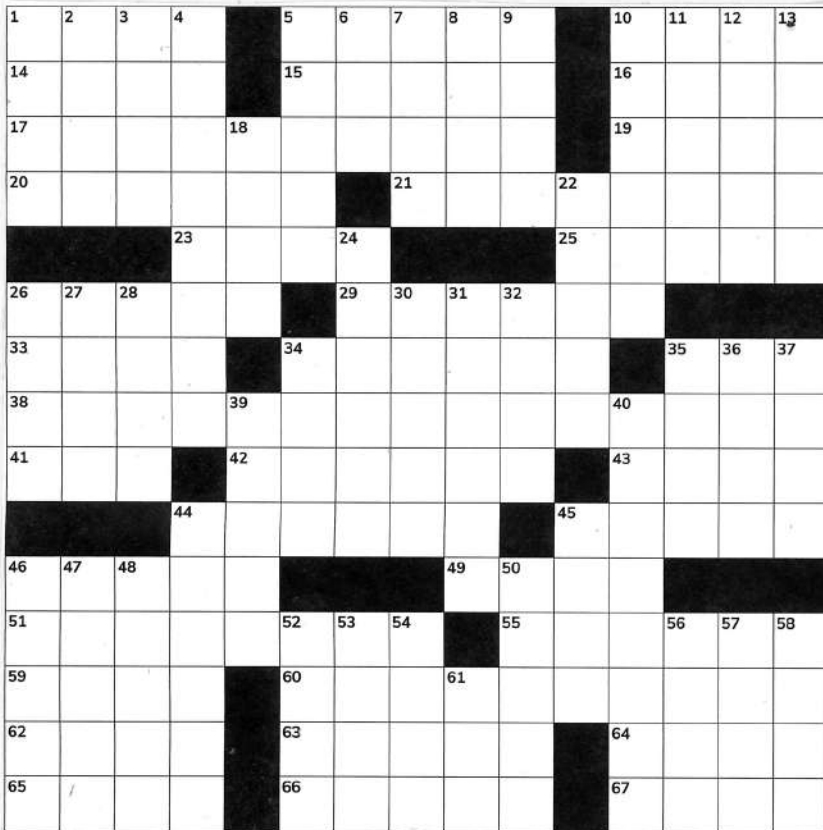
- 1 Teacher's replacement for the day, for short  
 4 Some male romantic partners (Abbr.)  
 7 Like a glowing candle  
 10 Prefix before -batics or -polis  
 14 Primate such as a gorilla  
 15 Edge of a canyon or a wine glass  
 16 Schmutz on a barbecue grate  
 17 Nickname for NBA great James  
 18 Dionne Warwick song with the lyrics "The moment I wake up / Before I put on my makeup / \_\_\_ for you"  
 23 Donna Summer song with the lyrics "When you're laying so close to me / There's no place I'd rather you be than with me / I \_\_\_"  
 24 Greek goddess whose name is hidden in the word "mistletoe"  
 25 \_\_\_ Records (British recording company)  
 26 Wear the merch of  
 27 Say something untrue  
 28 Trickle from a melting icicle  
 29 Big body of water  
 30 Ambulance driver's certification (Abbr.)  
 31 Rds. and blvds., for example

## DOWN

- 1 Large piece of fabric attached to a boat's mast  
 2 Convinced to pay more  
 3 Dam-making mammal  
 4 Shirt that looks like an undergarment  
 5 Baklava dough  
 6 Breaks into a grin  
 7 Country between Estonia and Lithuania  
 8 Land accessed by bridge or boat  
 9 "\_\_\_ here!" ("Our guests have arrived!")  
 10 Sudden  
 11 Clawed crustacean on a beach  
 12 Regal-sounding name for Kansas City's baseball team  
 13 "I don't like that \_\_\_!"  
 19 Abominable snowman  
 20 Large, heavy book  
 21 Expressive written work that may have a rhyme scheme  
 22 Whiskeys similar to bourbons

**Crossword 1 (№9)**  
Difficulty: Medium

Kelsey Dixon



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Bridges

**ACROSS**

- 1 Sound of balloon deflating
- 5 Island country that hosted season 10 of "Survivor"
- 10 In addition
- 14 "Star Wars" character famous for her "space buns" hairstyle
- 15 Do-\_\_\_ (second tries)
- 16 Informal contraction
- 17 Hidden bonuses in movies or video games
- 19 "Houston, we've had a problem" org.
- 20 Swear to
- 21 Good speller?
- 23 Pinkish
- 25 Regroup and rejuvenate before a fresh take
- 26 Observes Ramadan
- 29 "'Guys Are Just \_\_\_ to Get Along With,' Says Woman Who Only Hangs Out With Her Cardboard Cutout of One Direction" (headline on the satirical site "Reductress")
- 33 Midwest state that once promoted itself as "the state of perfect balance"
- 34 Affectionate touch
- 35 Distinctive period in history
- 38 Time away from obligations to take care of oneself
- 41 [Gasp!]
- 42 Give to a mutual aid organization, for example
- 43 "That's \_\_\_!" ("My bad!")
- 44 Restful state
- 45 College with campuses in Amherst and Boston (Abbr.)

- 46 "The arc of the \_\_\_ universe is long, but it bends toward justice"
- 48 Romantic outing
- 49 Go to la-la land
- 51 Magazine with many earth science and human interest photos, for short
- 59 \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ (extremely close)
- 60 "You're not fooling anyone"
- 62 Filmmaker and activist Newsome
- 63 Shrek and Fiona, for example
- 64 Tons
- 65 Result of getting plastered?
- 66 Take another pass at
- 67 Hecho a \_\_\_ (handmade, in Spanish)

**DOWN**

- 1 Coerced \_\_\_ bargains (issue for the Innocence Project)
- 2 Major accomplishment
- 3 It might be made in anger or triumph
- 4 Potato bit in many casseroles
- 5 Stops along a cruise route
- 6 Abbr. after Madison, Lex, or 5th
- 7 A crab has ten of them
- 8 2012 Best Picture winner directed by Ben Affleck
- 9 Massive country in the Cold War, for short
- 10 Cheese in many Indian dishes
- 11 People not telling the truth
- 12 "I wish I could \_\_\_ that" ("Ewww")
- 13 Begin

- 18 Those, in Spanish
- 22 Toothpaste brand
- 24 "I'll pass, thanks"
- 26 "Is everyone hanging out without me?" concern, slangily (Abbr.)
- 27 Throat-clearing sound
- 28 Take the stage in a karaoke bar
- 30 Neighborhoods
- 31 Ready for the show to begin
- 32 Bit of land in the ocean
- 34 Horsey sound effect made with coconut shells
- 35 Fashionista in Pixar's "The Incredibles"
- 36 NFL franchise that moved from St. Louis back to LA
- 37 Thumbs up votes
- 39 Singer with the albums "19," "21," "25," and "30"
- 40 The Orioles in Baltimore or the Mets in Queens
- 44 Club : golf :: \_\_\_ : tennis
- 45 The Beehive State
- 46 CNN competitor
- 47 Grand musical stage production
- 48 Formula 1 events
- 50 Itching with eagerness
- 52 Unpleasant aroma
- 53 Desire
- 54 Basis for a lawsuit
- 56 Met \_\_\_ (fashionable annual fundraiser)
- 57 Supply-and-demand subject, for short
- 58 Doctor Octopus aka \_\_\_ Octavius (Spider-Man villain)
- 61 "Just one \_\_\_ person, please"

Medium Hard Puzzles

## How Do Themes Work in Crosswords?

In a "themed" crossword puzzle, there will be a set of answers (usually 3 to 6 of the longest answers) that all have something in common (the theme). Sometimes they will all have to do with the same general topic, but more often, their commonality will be some sort of wordplay. Wordplay just means any sort of playfulness with words. Here are a few types of wordplay that you might see in a crossword:

- Entries start or end with the same set of letters
- Entries contain words with similar or related meanings
- Entries contain hidden anagrams. An anagram is a word scramble; two words are anagrams of each other if they contain the same set of letters but in different order, like TASTE and STATE

Usually, a themed crossword puzzle won't tell you up front what the theme is: you'll figure it out while you solve. In easy-to-medium difficulty puzzles, theme entries will often contain circled or shaded squares, to alert you to the fact that the letters in those squares will have something to do with the theme.

Sometimes, you will be able to solve a themed crossword even without understanding how the theme works, and you can figure it out afterwards. However, it can be fun to figure out the theme while you're solving, and sometimes it can help you figure out answers.

For example, let's say you notice halfway through solving a puzzle that its circled letters seem to contain the names of animals hidden inside longer answers, like CAT inside of SCATTERED and LION inside MILLIONAIRE. Knowing that might help you decide that SELFISHLY is the correct answer for the clue [Without concern for others], because it contains the word FISH.

### "Revealers"

Some themed crosswords contain "revealers," which are clues/answers that explain what the theme is. In the animal example, the revealer clue might be [Place for rescue pets . . . or what this puzzle's longest answers are, literally] and the answer might be ANIMAL SHELTER (meaning that the longer answers "shelter," or contain, the animal words within). Not all themed crosswords contain revealers, but for the ones that do, they can be helpful in understanding how the theme works.

# 10: TGI

Difficulty: beginner

Kate Chin Park

## ACROSS

1 Droop

4 Comic book sound akin to "kapow!"

7 "Thanks, I \_\_\_ you"

8 Equipment in a game of ultimate

10 Something a boxer makes?

11 Get the job done

15 Nearby regions

16 Inquire 18 Capital of GA

19 Fitbits and smartwatches count them

21 It happens first thing in the morning

24 Garden of \_\_\_

25 Period of time that includes the days found in 8-, 11-, and 21-Across

28 They're shorter than LPs

29 Rds. and aves.

30 Lighter option?

## DOWN

1 Weep uncontrollably

2 "Holy \$&\*!" feeling

3 "\_\_\_ whiz..."

4 Absolute closest pals, in texts

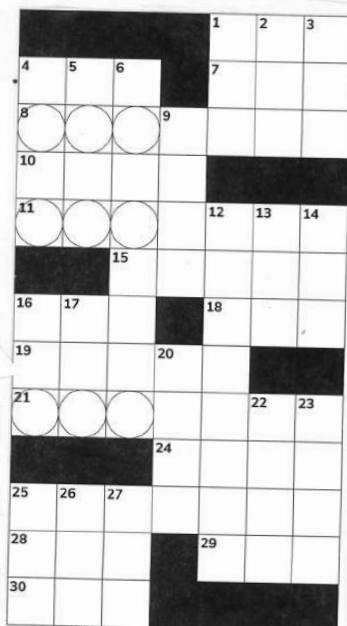
5 Resort/spa/casino on the Las Vegas Strip

6 Not correct

25 Spider's art project

26 Prefix before -center or -graph

27 "Leave full-screen mode" key



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9 What not to do to James Bond's martinis

12 Where beach cottages and boardwalks can be found

13 Lard or oil

14 High-end French designer brand, for short

16 Biblical beast of burden

17 Name that sounds like a thick soup

20 Education for young kids, informally

22 Shipped 23 Making \_\_\_ meet

# 11: Let's Get Moving!

Difficulty: easy

Kate Hawkins

## ACROSS

1 Org. for Eagles, Ravens, and Falcons

4 That woman

7 "Yes, captain!"

8 Harold "\_\_\_" Jordan (one of the Green Lanterns)

9 TV shows that often have laugh tracks

11 Useful item for washing a car or a dog

12 Event where things might be half off

15 Green guacamole ingredient

19 Portable tape player that debuted in 1979

20 Green guacamole ingredient

21 Potential, so to speak

24 They're swum in pools

25 Revolutionary who was crucial to the creation of the Soviet Union, along with Lenin

29 \_\_\_ de Janeiro, Brazil

30 Green spherical veggie

31 Make a request

32 "\_\_\_ takers?"

## DOWN

1 "Illmatic" rapper

2 "This might be interesting to learn ..." (Abbr.)

3 Allow

4 "Get away from me, fly!"

5 Turkey alternatives at Thanksgiving

6 "If all \_\_\_ fails ..."

10 Set of tasks to cross off



12 Observed with one's eyes

13 DuVernay who directed "Selma," "13th," and "When They See Us"

14 "Very funny, haha"

16 Amongst

17 Title for a lady

18 The value of any number divided by itself

21 Prefix before -marine or -marathon

22 Home to the Notre-Dame and the Louvre

23 Give the creeps

26 Business that might offer massages

27 Barbie's boyfriend

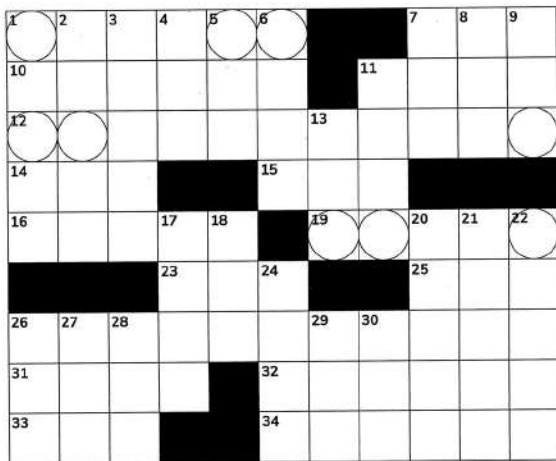
# 12: Wrong Division

Kate Chin Park

Difficulty: Easy

## ACROSS

- 1 "\_\_\_ of the Sad Young Men" (slow song by Roberta Flack)
- 7 One generating lots of buzz?
- 10 Scaly housepet
- 11 Draped dress
- 12 Sticker that a new parent might adhere to their back windshield
- 14 Fib
- 15 Rib
- 16 Happen as a result
- 19 Like brownies and cupcakes
- 23 Sleep stage
- 25 Guac basis
- 26 Bryan Cranston show whose spinoff was "Better Call Saul" ... or what 1-Across, 12-Across, and 19-Across are doing?
- 31 Not a charade
- 32 Made a BOI-OI-OI-OI-OING sound, maybe
- 33 Charade
- 34 End of an ultimatum



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- 2 "Didn't you ask me that yesterday?"
- 3 Friction-reducing substances
- 4 Place, as bricks
- 5 "That's gonna be \_\_\_ from me"
- 6 Like a dark, damp basement
- 7 Sheep's bleat
- 8 Make a blunder
- 9 Feast in Islam
- 11 Bubbly beverage
- 13 Neckwear at a crab boil
- 17 \_\_\_ Mountains (Russian range)
- 18 "I SEE A SPIDER!!!"
- 20 Capital of Afghanistan
- 21 Mary Ann \_\_\_ (real name of "Middlemarch" author George Eliot)
- 22 Evade
- 24 Soup that might be served before sushi
- 26 Garment with straps and cups
- 27 Letters by a red dot on a TV remote
- 28 Grab a snack
- 29 News org. that was once audio-only
- 30 Test that's a prereq for some MA programs

## DOWN

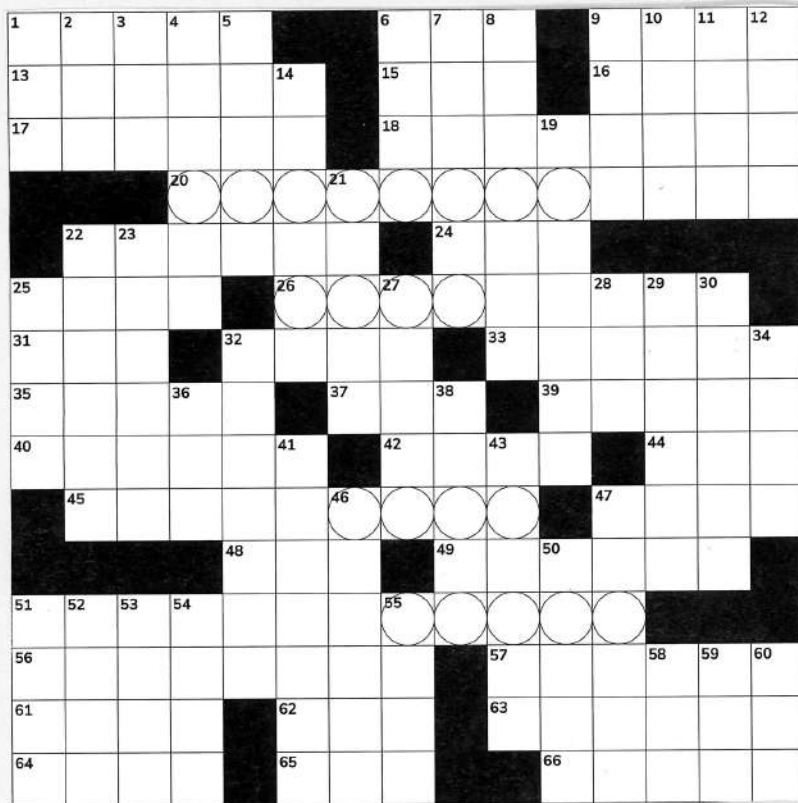


Commuters heading home on the Coney Island bound 6th Avenue Express, 1960 One, works on crossword puzzle. Photo by Irving I. Herzberg

# 13: Taking the Plunge

Difficulty: Medium

Bridges



Nate Cardin

## ACROSS

- 1 Some housekeeping employees  
 6 \_\_\_ Jones Industrial Average (Wall Street index)  
 9 Kindergarten basics  
 13 Come to terms with  
 15 Prefix before -corn or -cycle  
 16 Pirate's booty  
 17 Name before McCartney (in fashion) or Artois (in beer)  
 18 With expert skill  
 20 \* State of mind for someone about to skydive?  
 22 \_\_\_ floss  
 24 Crossed paths  
 25 Art \_\_\_ (style of the Empire State Building)  
 26 \* Moment of fear for a skydiver making a leap?  
 31 Nighttime class for some immigrants, for short  
 32 Prom night wheels  
 33 Defense in a swordfight  
 35 Black Panthers co-founder Bobby  
 37 Fido's foot  
 39 Name with the same letters as "grade"  
 40 Figure skating gold medalist Yamaguchi  
 42 Loch \_\_\_ Monster  
 44 Had a meal  
 45 \* Descent for a skydiver who's confident it will go fine?
- 47 Squandered, as a lead  
 48 Language suffix  
 49 Flew like an eagle  
 51 \* Landing gear that a skydiver hopes not to have?  
 56 Once was  
 57 Necklace fasteners  
 61 "I Put a Spell on You" singer Simone  
 62 Not new  
 63 Talk smack about  
 64 "Teenage Dream" singer Perry  
 65 Letter after bee and cee  
 66 Shoulder wrap
- 21 Thickened, like hot dogs after cooking  
 22 Landscape such as the Sahara, Mojave, or Gobi  
 23 Cream-filled pastry  
 25 Basic piece of office furniture  
 27 2016 Disney film set in Polynesia  
 28 Assistance  
 29 Entertain extravagantly, perhaps with food and stories  
 30 Hugely pleased  
 32 "Food's ready!"  
 34 Sketched  
 36 Baton Rouge sch. attended by Shaq  
 38 From the country whose capital is Cardiff  
 41 Announcer's shout after a field goal  
 43 Display poor posture  
 46 Like a weak excuse  
 47 "Take a deep \_\_\_ ... everything's going to be fine"  
 50 Geographic reference book  
 51 Thick crud  
 52 Cambodia's continent  
 53 Common monthly living expense  
 54 Time for cake and candles, briefly  
 55 Formally give over  
 58 Salty body of water  
 59 Comic book combat sound  
 60 Weekend sketch comedy show, for short

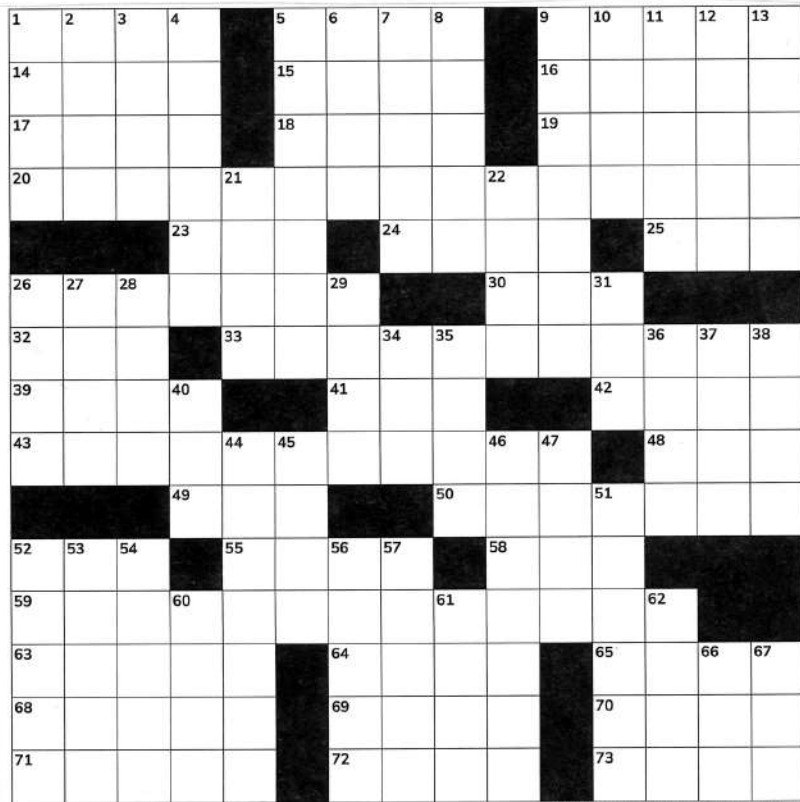
## DOWN

- 1 More, in Monterey  
 2 What movie casts do  
 3 Hockey surface  
 4 Franklin \_\_\_ Roosevelt  
 5 Word following banana or 7-10  
 6 Two-part, like some people's citizenship  
 7 Highway entrance  
 8 Observe  
 9 School reunion attendee  
 10 \_\_\_ tie (cord that might be leather)  
 11 Chilly  
 12 Eyelid affliction  
 14 "Empire" and "Hidden Figures" actress \_\_\_ P. Henson  
 19 What a dog does when its favorite stick is thrown across the park

Themed Puzzles

**14: Speak Up!**  
Difficulty: Medium

Alex Boisvert



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**ACROSS**

- 1 Soothing substance
- 5 Little rascals
- 9 Loot \_\_\_ (video game discovery that might require payment to open)
- 14 "Milk's favorite cookie"
- 15 DEA agent
- 16 Man's name that reverses to a woman's name
- 17 Pod with growth potential?
- 18 Run-DMC, Nirvana, or TLC
- 19 Chickens coming home to \_\_\_
- 20 1984 hit for George Michael
- 23 "The Force Awakens" villain Kylo \_\_\_
- 24 Thick cut
- 25 Rugby score
- 26 Simone Biles, for one
- 30 Musician Stewart who once said, "I've tried to have a regular haircut, but it just pops back up again, so this is the way it's going to be"
- 32 Measure of profitability (Abbr.)
- 33 Cardiac concern
- 39 Stare at rudely
- 41 "How are you today?," in cow
- 42 Time long past
- 43 Back up one's boasts
- 48 Young'un
- 49 Baseball stat or period of time
- 50 Efficient but polluting engines
- 52 Plonked down

- 55 State that was the birthplace of seven U.S. presidents, but they were all mediocre at best, so is this really something to brag about?
- 58 Chain that sells supplements
- 59 Song made famous by the Isley Brothers and later covered by the Beatles
- 63 72-Across in embarrassing fashion
- 64 Cut down to size?
- 65 Woman in "Family Guy" or "Superman"
- 68 Oscar who wrote "The Picture of Dorian Gray"
- 69 Nation whose official languages are Spanish, Quechua, and Aymara
- 70 Uncut
- 71 Knight's noble horse
- 72 Stumble
- 73 Spot for stuck cats

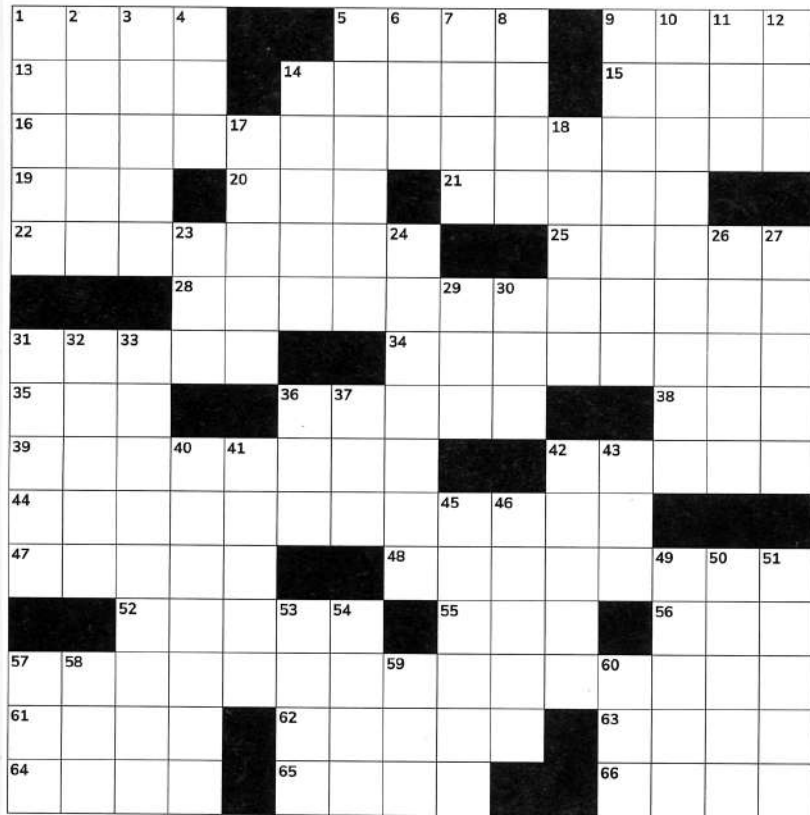
**DOWN**

- 1 Pear variety
- 2 "\_\_\_ Mom Off Thinking About Princess Diana Again" (satirical headline)
- 3 "To read," in Spanish (or a synonym of 39-Across, in English)
- 4 Up-to-date
- 5 Extreme
- 6 Planet whose color is due to rust in its atmosphere
- 7 Overly proper person
- 8 Bad-tempered expression
- 9 Reindeer cousin
- 10 El Amazonas y el Congo, por ejemplo
- 11 Take as one's own
- 12 Supposedly "humane" weapon
- 13 Way in
- 21 Jacob's wife, in the Bible
- 22 Damage
- 26 \_\_\_ up
- 27 Discipline with a focus on breathing
- 28 Run-of-the-\_\_\_
- 29 Domesticated
- 31 Like some senses of humor
- 34 Turn bad
- 35 Lumpy-skinned leaper
- 36 Embedded agent
- 37 River that flows through Kazakhstan and Russia
- 38 Cincinnati squad
- 40 \_\_\_ out a living
- 44 Went at a jaunty pace
- 45 "lol"
- 46 Break out into a grin
- 47 Lottery-like game
- 51 Make with clay
- 52 Hearty meals
- 53 Expect eagerly
- 54 "Speak Up!," for this crossword
- 56 Totally incapable
- 57 Even more bizarre
- 60 Fries or a salad, say
- 61 Disembodied voice in an iPhone
- 62 Word before "de force" or "de France"
- 66 Serious fury
- 67 Get a glimpse of

**15: Dog Tags**  
Difficulty: Medium

Jenn Hughes and Shannon Rapp

Bridges



**ACROSS**

- 1 \_\_\_ San Lucas (city in Baja)  
5 Shed skin, like a snake  
9 Diminish  
13 Love of the Spanish language?  
14 \_\_\_ Lama (spiritual leader from 21-Across)  
15 Stopping places  
16 Eager-to-clean sporting dog?  
19 Raised trains  
20 College in the Ocean State (Abbr.)  
21 See 14-Across  
22 Venison  
25 Shapes of speedskating tracks  
28 Martial-art-practicing toy dog?  
31 Eating it keeps you regular  
34 Radiating  
35 Ambient music pioneer Brian  
36 Houses in Honduras  
38 Airport near Long Island City (Abbr.)  
39 \_\_\_ and cheese (simple boxed meal)  
42 Jazz legend Davis  
44 Patriotic working dog?  
47 Spools of film  
48 Explores a shallow reef  
52 \_\_\_ Vista (Miami neighborhood)  
55 Key in the NW corner of a keyboard  
56 Salish \_\_\_ (waters of the Pacific Northwest)  
57 Extremely clever hound dog?

61 Lacking color

- 62 Religion that seeks the unity of religions  
63 Paul who sang "Lonely Boy" and wrote "She's a Lady"  
64 Knee parts prone to athletic injury (Abbr.)  
65 Perform an ovariectomy, more familiarly  
66 Contents of some "bunnies"

**DOWN**

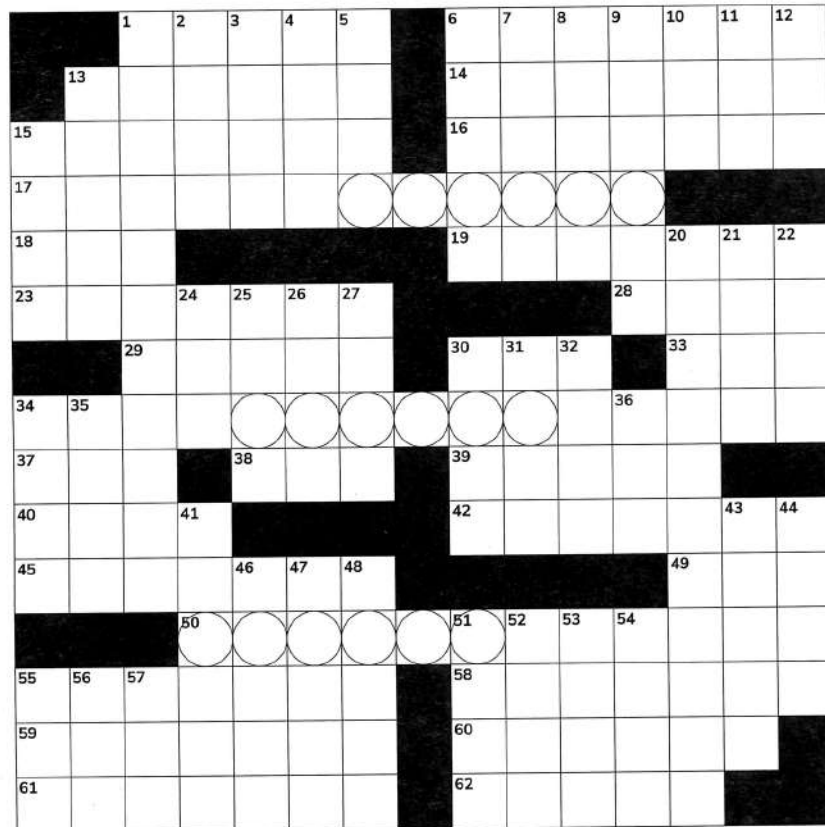
- 1 Studied up for a job?  
2 Fully sufficient  
3 Capital of Idaho  
4 Creature fighting on the bad side in "The Lord of the Rings"  
5 "Flashdance" song with the lyric "They all say she's crazy"  
6 Ancient  
7 Final  
8 Conical tent used by Plains Indigenous peoples  
9 Trough for treading grapes  
10 Lawyer who faced character assassination after testifying at a Supreme Court confirmation hearing in 1991  
11 Direction opposite SSW  
12 Class where you might become bilingual, for short  
14 "\_\_\_ ask ...?" ("Is it OK for me to inquire ...?")  
17 "Harold & \_\_\_ Go to White Castle"  
18 Approximately  
23 State hwy., e.g.  
24 Video game series that's like a virtual doll house  
26 Stretch that's part of warrior pose  
27 Looooong stories  
29 Words before "Believer" (for the Monkees) or "Barbie Girl" (for Aqua)  
30 That dude's  
31 Thigh bone  
32 Extremely silly  
33 Lawn game that's kind of like curling without ice  
36 Trig concept hidden in "ecosystem"  
37 Santa \_\_\_ winds  
40 Entices  
41 Restore to factory defaults  
42 French thanks  
43 "No clue," in a text  
45 Like a street with unidirectional traffic  
46 Green dinosaur of Super Mario Bros.  
49 Channel for college ball  
50 Vegetables that kind of look like gigantic scallions  
51 Took a chair in front of  
53 Word that aptly rhymes with "grabs"  
54 "Now!"  
57 Place to get a wrap, maybe  
58 Non-PC?  
59 "Solved it!"  
60 Paw part

Themed Puzzles

## 16: Crossings

Difficulty: Medium

Will Nediger



## ACROSS

- 1 Most common last name in the U.S.
- 6 Distance between outstretched hands
- 13 "That much is apparent to me"
- 14 Type of cup that rhymes with "malice" and "palace"
- 15 More brutally honest
- 16 Animals such as mice and squirrels
- 17 Structure that's falling down, in a nursery rhyme
- 18 School in College Park, just north of D.C. (Abbr.)
- 19 Hidden part of the internet
- 23 "Killing Me Softly with His Song" singer  
Flack
- 28 Prefix similar to hemi- and demi-
- 29 Babies' boo-boos
- 30 Cigarette detritus
- 33 Vaccine that covers three childhood diseases, for short
- 34 Sign warning that the road in front of you might be lifted up
- 37 "Quit \_\_\_ whinin'!"
- 38 Place with steam rooms and treatments
- 39 Simple skateboard trick
- 40 Odds and \_\_\_
- 42 Opening between the vocal cords
- 45 "I was wrong, big deal!"
- 49 Playing card worth either one or eleven in blackjack
- 50 Connect two disconnected things ... like 17-, 34-, and 50-Across do for the right and left sides of this puzzle's grid
- 55 Draw out
- 58 Temperature-reducing substance for an engine
- 59 Name used for an anonymous woman in a court case
- 60 Wallace's dog, in an animated franchise
- 61 Some hunting dogs
- 62 Completely determined about
- 20 "Well, well, well, if it isn't my old nemesis"
- 21 Protagonist of a Jane Austen novel
- 22 One with a lot of tweets?
- 24 "Gross!!"
- 25 Bones in a cage
- 26 18-Across athlete, casually
- 27 Continent that includes Iraq
- 30 All excited
- 31 Exchange for money
- 32 Angel's head topper
- 34 Coloring agents
- 35 Gambling city in the same state as Las Vegas
- 36 Song that charts
- 41 Rental from a renter
- 43 "Sorry, got other plans"
- 44 Month before Oct.
- 46 Eat away at over time
- 47 Inconsequential
- 48 Relatively easy sections of jigsaw puzzles
- 51 Heart tests, for short
- 52 Ripped
- 53 Owl's sound
- 54 Red Muppet of Sesame Street
- 55 Bedtime clothes, informally
- 56 Name that sounds like a beam of sunshine
- 57 Toronto's prov.

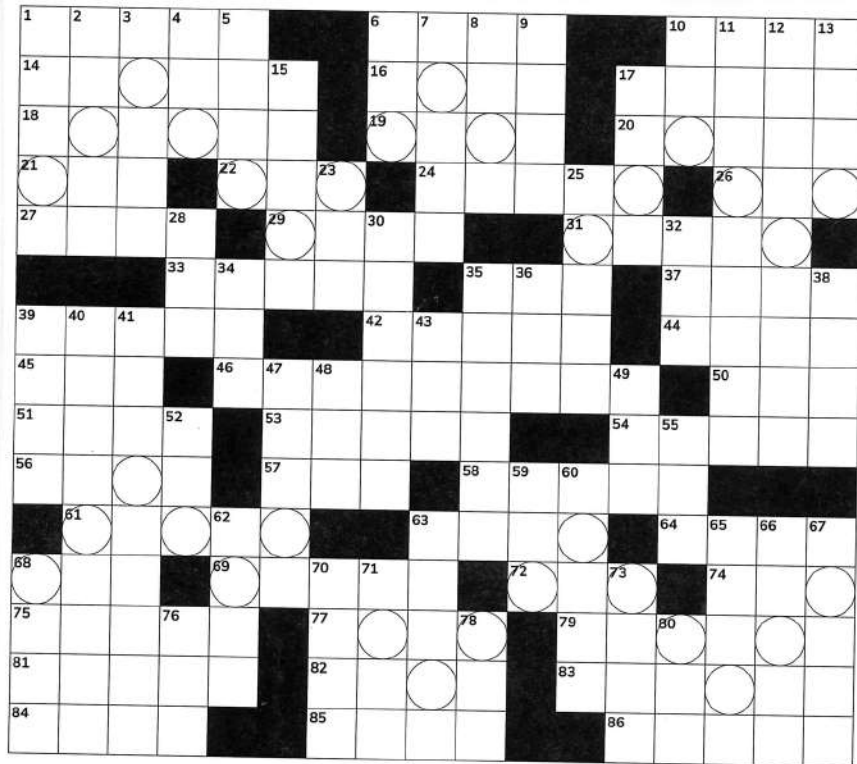
## DOWN

- 1 Collections of controls for mixing audio
- 2 "Do you \_\_\_? I'm trying to concentrate"
- 3 Smell \_\_\_ nose as taste \_\_\_ tongue
- 4 Person who's older than 12, but younger than 20
- 5 Rosemary or basil
- 6 Bitter-tasting
- 7 \_\_\_ Island (only state smaller than Delaware)
- 8 Nickname for Margaret or Maggie
- 9 Catches some Z's
- 10 Something knocked over by a bowling ball
- 11 Perform on film
- 12 '80s Nintendo console
- 13 Instant replay technique
- 15 Fuzzy image

**17: We Can't Wait for June**  
 Difficulty: Medium

Rebecca Goldstein and  
 Kate Chin Park

Bridges



**ACROSS**

- 1 Wonder Woman's headpiece
- 6 Happy as a \_\_\_
- 10 Document
- 14 At most
- 16 Pleasant
- 17 Green place in the desert
- 18 Conserve because of drought, e.g.
- 19 Indian bread
- 20 Place for a double-wide
- 21 Exec. with Silicon Valley experience, maybe
- 22 "\_\_\_ here or to go?"
- 24 Ruffle on a Ruffle
- 26 Name whose middle letter is sometimes doubled
- 27 Gas company with a blocky green and white logo
- 29 Vending machine bills
- 31 "That thing's given me \_\_\_ of trouble" (complaint about a malfunctioning gadget)
- 33 Settle a debt with
- 35 Nowhere to be found (Abbr.)
- 37 First man, in some religions
- 39 Have great success
- 42 VCR button
- 44 "Yeah, don't think so"
- 45 Paris affirmative
- 46 Beach Boys song that mentions Santa Cruz, Redondo Beach, and Waimea Bay ... and is depicted by this puzzle's circled letters
- 50 Mo. for Rosh Hashanah in 2024
- 51 "Por \_\_\_ lado ..." ("On the other hand ...")
- 53 Some squishy ottomans
- 54 Indian bread?
- 56 Squint
- 57 Fish that might shock you
- 58 Desserts with frosting

**DOWN**

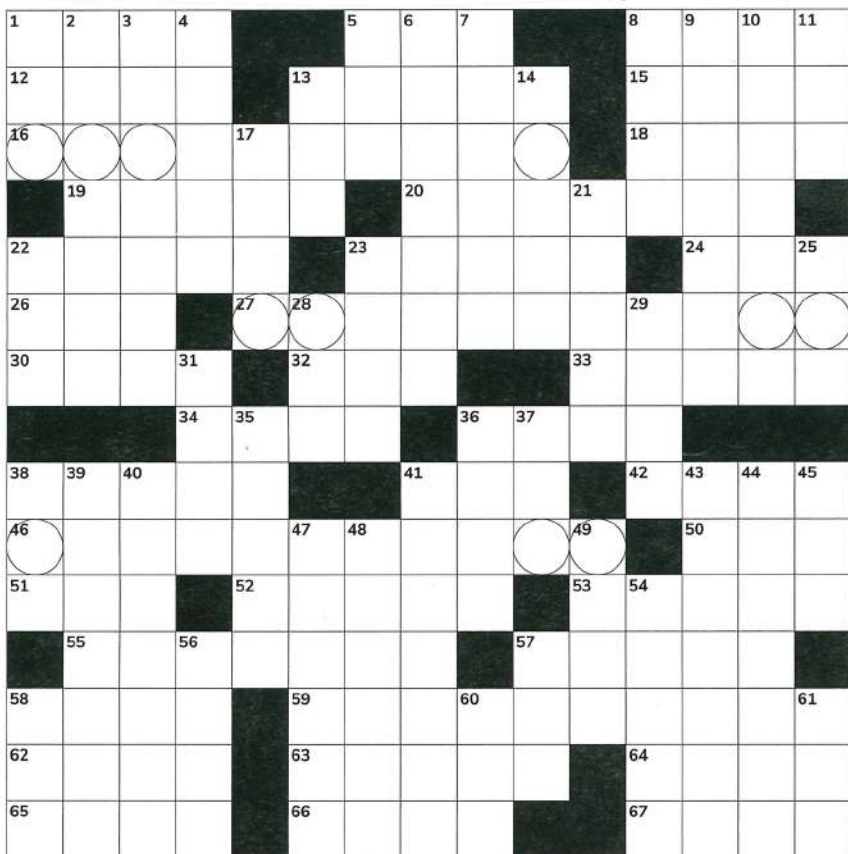
- 61 Roast mercilessly
- 63 Type of tea that literally means "tea"
- 64 Queen in "Frozen"
- 68 Bird that can hoot or screech
- 69 More bizarre
- 72 Term similar to "sweetie"
- 74 Legally possess
- 75 \_\_\_ for the stars
- 77 Stuns
- 79 "Love it"
- 81 Pasta, bread, rice, etc.
- 82 Notable achievement, like finishing a crossword puzzle
- 83 One whistling in the kitchen?
- 84 Ridiculous-looking limbs on a T. rex
- 85 Sounds of disapproval
- 86 Misses the playoffs, maybe
- 15 Rapper \_\_\_ Dogg
- 17 Cookie in some SONIC Blasts
- 23 Certain genetic molecule
- 25 Unwelcome cloud while hiking?
- 28 Mrs., in Mexico
- 30 A lot to look at
- 32 \_\_\_ de toilette
- 34 Hospital depts. for urgent cases
- 35 Stand-up type of person
- 36 Hospital dept. for critical patients
- 38 Speck
- 39 Slime
- 40 Puffer or parka
- 41 Sound of a drill?
- 43 Peanut butter brand
- 47 Flip over
- 48 Poke bowl topping
- 49 "I know you \_\_\_, but what am I?"
- 52 www.bklynlibrary. \_\_\_
- 55 Purpose
- 59 [Deep exhale]
- 60 Stand at a mall
- 62 Marvels at a beautiful sight, maybe
- 63 Apt rhyme of "squeak"
- 65 Plunders
- 66 Seriously built, physique-wise
- 67 South American range
- 68 Black and white whale
- 70 Inane
- 71 Woolly mamas
- 73 Holiday celebrated by gifted kids?
- 76 "The Price is Right" network
- 78 Houston and Canal in NYC, for example (Abbr.)
- 80 Classic Pontiac

Themed Puzzles

# 18: Bust a Move!

Difficulty: Medium/Hard

Shannon Rapp



Bridges

## ACROSS

- 1 "Just \_\_\_" ("Not much")
- 5 Something running on a smartphone
- 8 General \_\_\_ Chicken
- 12 "Joy of Cooking" writer Rombauer
- 13 Less friendly
- 15 Source of stress for some teenagers
- 16 Basswood relative with a distinctive smell
- 18 "That really sticks in my \_\_\_"
- 19 Diet that doesn't include dairy or meat
- 20 Major player?
- 22 Platform
- 23 Vessel in a biergarten
- 24 Abode for peas
- 26 Verse's beginning?
- 27 Pair of aces?
- 30 Old timey "Yikes!"
- 32 Used to be
- 33 In a dryly humorous way
- 34 Bread machine?
- 36 \_\_\_ track
- 38 Pioneering video game company

- 41 Salsa or hummus
- 42 Cathedral alcove
- 46 Guide for a valuable mission?
- 50 Once around
- 51 Lobe location
- 52 Occupied
- 53 Tennis star Naomi, or the Japanese city where she was born

- 55 IDs for servicemembers
- 57 Loosen, as laces
- 58 Soup choice at a sushi bar
- 59 Street style invented in the Bronx ... or what 16-Across, 27-Across, and 46-Across each do, as indicated by the circled letters?
- 62 Snooty person
- 63 L, sometimes
- 64 Offensive term
- 65 Citrus fruit with an unappealing name
- 66 Miniaturizing suffix after cigar- or kitchen-
- 67 Talk up

Themed Puzzles

## DOWN

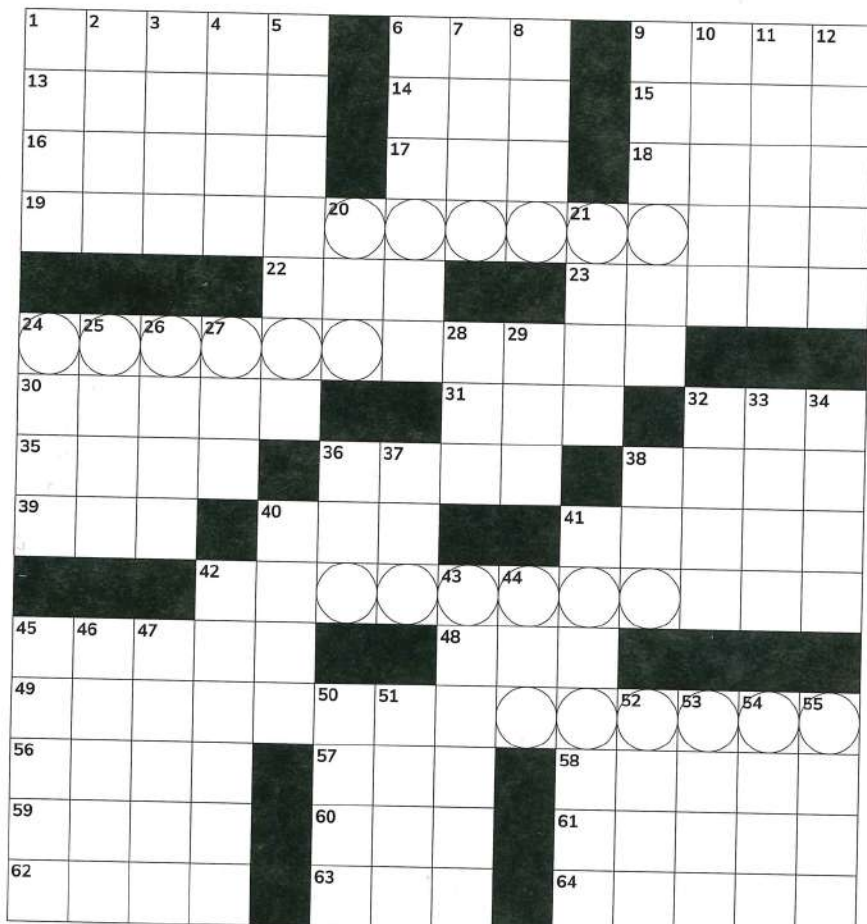
- 1 Feel awful
- 2 Job for a cabbie
- 3 Stereotypical affliction in soap operas
- 4 Scout's honor?
- 5 Play a part ... or a part of a play
- 6 Group of swingers in Pittsburgh?
- 7 Implement used on apples and potatoes
- 8 Social finesse
- 9 Hardworking and determined
- 10 Like a player who seemingly can't miss
- 11 Patch things up, maybe?
- 13 Stop on a road trip
- 14 Thing of the past?

- 17 Wyatt of the O.K. Corral
- 18 Comes down in a blizzard
- 19 "You'll \_\_\_ the day you betrayed me!"
- 20 Long-necked bird
- 21 "Who \_\_\_?" (Cincinnati Bengals chant)
- 22 Be indebted to
- 23 Major or Minor bear in the nighttime sky
- 24 Bilingual Nickelodeon explorer
- 25 Go see
- 26 Small coin
- 27 Hoppy beverage
- 28 Snacked
- 29 Word before post and card
- 30 Alternative to stick and roll-on
- 31 Chocolate cake, e.g.
- 32 Without embellishment
- 33 Drinkware at a sushi bar
- 34 Government org. with an Office of Water
- 35 Not qualified or equipped
- 36 Rascally toddler
- 37 Small lake
- 38 Hidden goods
- 39 Mongolian desert
- 40 Four-string instrument at a luau, for short
- 41 East Lansing sch. whose alumni include Magic Johnson and Draymond Green
- 42 Get older and wiser
- 43 Poet's "before"

# 19: Smash That!

Difficulty: Medium/Hard

Rachel Fabi and Claire Rimkus



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Bridges

## ACROSS

- 1 Loads and loads
- 6 Success for a baseball player or recording artist
- 9 Low instrument
- 13 Object streaking through space
- 14 Thurman of "Pulp Fiction"
- 15 "Whoopsies ..."
- 16 Air freshener's output
- 17 Opposite of min.
- 18 Something "shed" while crying
- 19 Dotting a t or crossing an i, say
- 22 Word before garden or master
- 23 Senior member of a tribal nation
- 24 "Let's go!"
- 30 Holds onto
- 31 "Yes," in Côte d'Ivoire
- 32 Poorly lit
- 35 Former flames
- 36 Stuff that piles into dunes
- 38 This place
- 39 Bank on it!
- 40 "ur funny"
- 41 Hair dye choice
- 42 "Wouldn't it be nice ..."
- 45 Intensely dislike
- 48 MLK Day's month
- 49 Overcome the taboo around subjects such as abortion ... and what's happening in the circled letters?
- 56 Bored reaction

57 \_\_\_ Grande

- 58 Enduring pain without showing it
- 59 Kristoff's reindeer, in "Frozen"
- 60 "That cost me an \_\_\_ and a leg"
- 61 Stroll
- 62 What Midwesterners call pop
- 63 Pod member?
- 64 Positive RSVPs

- 25 iMessage or SMS, e.g.
- 26 Appear
- 27 Satnav tool
- 28 "... like a \_\_\_ of bricks"
- 29 Contraceptive device that's often painful to insert (Abbr.)
- 32 Sandwich seller
- 33 Make smooth
- 34 \_\_\_ mortals
- 36 "Please! Someone come and rescue me!"
- 37 Prefix for a non-mainstream genre
- 38 Be selfish with
- 40 Browse social media without interacting, say
- 41 "Wish I could tell you!"
- 42 Singer/songwriter Newsom
- 43 Oluo who wrote "So You Want to Talk About Race"
- 44 \_\_\_ o menos (more or less)
- 45 Chasm
- 46 TV network whose name is also an appreciative cheer
- 47 Cut, like logs
- 50 Snare
- 51 Bring onto the team
- 52 "I feel so seen by this meme"
- 53 Loads and loads
- 54 One of 26.2 in a marathon
- 55 Pocket rockets

## DOWN

- 1 What a get-rich-quick scheme probably is
- 2 Main character in the Colson Whitehead novel "The Underground Railroad"
- 3 Run \_\_\_ (get out of hand)
- 4 Pop star Lovato, whose name rhymes with 21-Down
- 5 Poem parts
- 6 Merciful
- 7 Mosque leader
- 8 Cab
- 9 Castaway's message-carrier
- 10 Leading
- 11 Untrustworthy person, metaphorically
- 12 More achy
- 20 Precious stone
- 21 Prefix before -precious or -annual
- 24 Maker of an office chair called "Järvfjället"

Themed Puzzles

## A Note on Solving Hard Crosswords

Harder crosswords might have difficult words and more advanced trivia knowledge, but most of all, they have harder clues. Here are some things to look out for:

### Context

Harder crosswords will have clues that, when you first read them, seem impossible to know, but that actually provide bits of information that will help you reason out the answer. Here's an example:

[Warsan Shire or Joshua Jennifer Espinoza compositions]: 5 letters

Your reaction to this might be that you've never heard of either of these people, so how are you supposed to know the answer? But you do have one piece of information that you can use regardless: the word "compositions." No matter who the people are, the answer will be a (plural) word for things that have been composed, such as books, songs, poems, and so on. You still don't know the answer, but once you get one or two of the letters from the crossing answers, you can make a reasonable guess.

Even when you don't know many of the words or names in a clue, you might be able to infer information from how the clue is written, such as whether the answer will be a person, place, thing, idea, action, description, conversational phrase, abbreviation, or something else.

### Question Mark Clues

Clues that end with "?" have some sort of pun or double-meaning at work. (Note: this does NOT refer to question marks inside quotations, like in the clue ["What's up?"], where the answer will simply be a word or phrase with the same meaning as

"What's up?".) Here are some examples of question mark clues:

[Message bounceback?] ECHO

Your initial read of this clue might call to mind the idea of an email message getting bounced back because it is undeliverable. Instead, it refers to the way that echoes bounce off of surfaces.

[Just between us?] EQUITABLE

Normally, "just between us" would mean "no one should know besides you and me." In this case, though, it's saying that the situation between us should be just (as in justice).

[Shadowy places?] LIDS

The surface meaning here appears to be places that are deep in shadow. Instead, it's referring to the fact that lids are places to apply eye shadow.

### Some Other Tricks in Hard Clues

"Hidden" capital letter at the start of a clue, so that you don't know whether the word is just a regular noun, or the name of a person or place.

Example: [Gal in DC movies], with the answer GADOT (Gal Gadot plays Wonder Woman)

Words with different meanings for the same spelling. Example: [Polish location], with the answer SALON ("polish" refers to nail polish, not to Poland)

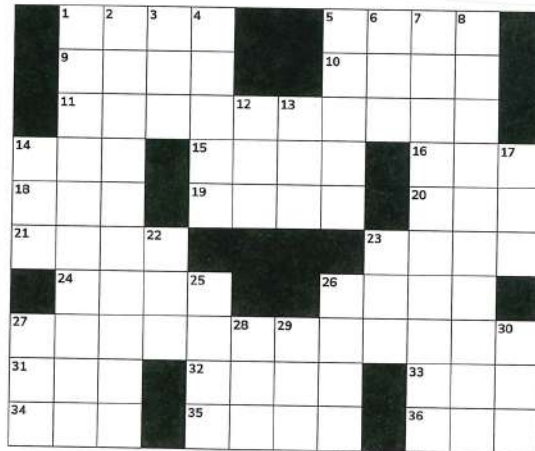
# Crossword 20

Kate Chin Park

## ACROSS

- 1 Team
- 5 \_\_\_ check
- 9 Starburst?
- 10 Industry where "disruption" is considered a good thing
- 11 With 27-Across, words that complete Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s remark that "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but \_\_\_"
- 14 Notable period
- 15 Genre based in Seoul
- 16 Sketchbook contents
- 18 South of Mexico?
- 19 Accessory to which Girl Scout badges may be pinned

- 20 Down
- 21 "I'm exactly like that," in a social media post
- 23 Tentative tries
- 24 Certain TV input
- 26 Chips \_\_\_! (brand whose Chewy cookies stay soft for a frankly alarming amount of time)
- 27 See 11-Across
- 31 Word after long or home
- 32 So ready
- 33 Just peachy
- 34 The Cavs, on a score display
- 35 Turn on remotely?
- 36 Code for the nearest airport to Astoria, Queens



Originally published on Puzmo.com

## DOWN

- 1 Not on the level
- 2 Reassuring words
- 3 "\_\_\_ Been to the Mountaintop"
- 4 Items next to checkboxes
- 5 G.O.A.T. three-point shooter Curry
- 6 Write
- 7 At times
- 8 Furry source of comfort in a hospital, perhaps
- 12 Tap selection
- 13 Word before Alamos or Angeles
- 14 "Washington Black" author Edugyan
- 17 Six-pt. plays
- 22 Large Australian?
- 23 "Six inch heels, \_\_\_ walked in the club like nobody's business" (Beyoncé lyric)
- 25 Gets to
- 26 "When I liberate myself, I liberate others. If you don't speak out \_\_\_ nobody going to speak out for you": Fannie Lou Hamer
- 27 Fearsome fantasy foe
- 28 Added charge
- 29 Apt name for a kingly pup
- 30 Precursor to rocksteady

## ACROSS

- 1 Inch, quart, or gram
- 5 Feature of a Dalmatian's coat
- 9 Word after "super" (in astronomy) or before "Scotia" (in geography)
- 10 Hi-\_\_\_ (like the latest devices and algorithms)
- 11 (This answer is the first two words that finish the quote started in the clue. The second word is a synonym for "quietness")
- 14 Historically significant time span
- 15 Music genre whose first letter stands for a region of Asia (Hyph.)
- 16 Creative works, collectively
- 18 Spanish word for "south" that becomes a word meaning "confident" when followed by an "E"
- 19 Band worn shoulder-to-hip
- 20 Feeling blue
- 21 Words of self-recognition whose letters, when scrambled, spell what a stopwatch measures (2 wds.)
- 23 Drinks tentatively
- 24 Acronym for High-Definition Multimedia Interface
- 26 Greeting from a sailor
- 27 (This answer is the last three words that finish the quote started in the 11-Across clue. The last word is a synonym for "allies")
- 31 Compete in a footrace
- 32 Finely honed
- 33 Synonym for "thumbs up" that's an anagram of a type of tree (Hyph.)
- 34 Ohio airport code hidden in the phrase "music lesson"
- 35 Racy iMessage, for example
- 36 New York City airport code found in "algae"

## DOWN

- 1 Characterized by false statements
- 2 "Your slip-up didn't cause any problems" (3 wds.)
- 3 "Now seen it all!"
- 4 Things that need to get done
- 5 Nickname that you might get by dropping -en or -anie from the end of the full name
- 6 Implement for writing with ink
- 7 Infrequent
- 8 Pooch trained to improve someone's life (2 wds.)
- 12 Type of beer hidden in the phrase "clip art" (Abbr.)
- 13 \_\_\_ Angeles, CA
- 14 Name found in "resistance"
- 17 NFL scores found by taking only the consonants in "etudes" (Abbr.)
- 22 Flightless bird hidden in the phrase "dance music"
- 23 \_\_\_/her pronouns
- 25 Annoys
- 26 Contraction equivalent to "isn't"
- 27 "Lord of the Rings" monster (or, if followed by an "A," a black-and-white ocean predator)
- 28 Cost for services
- 29 T. \_\_\_ (ferocious dinosaur)
- 30 Music genre that becomes what hockey players do when "TE" is added to the end

hints

hints by Brooke Husic

Use these hints if you are struggling with the main clues for this puzzle!

Difficulty: medium/hard - refer to the next page for an easier set of clues with the same answers!

**Crossword 21**  
 Difficulty: medium/hard

Erik Agard

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
9					10			
11				12				
		13						
14	15						16	17
18					19			
20					21			

**ACROSS**

- 1 Sorcerer
- 5 Miles Morales and Peter Parker spin them
- 9 "Whose bright \_\_\_ was that?"
- 10 Hielo, cuando se derrite
- 11 Field for a star student?
- 13 Phrase of refusal
- 14 Unscrambling?
- 18 Eid al-\_\_\_
- 19 Even
- 20 Smallest unit of matter
- 21 Sunscreen stats

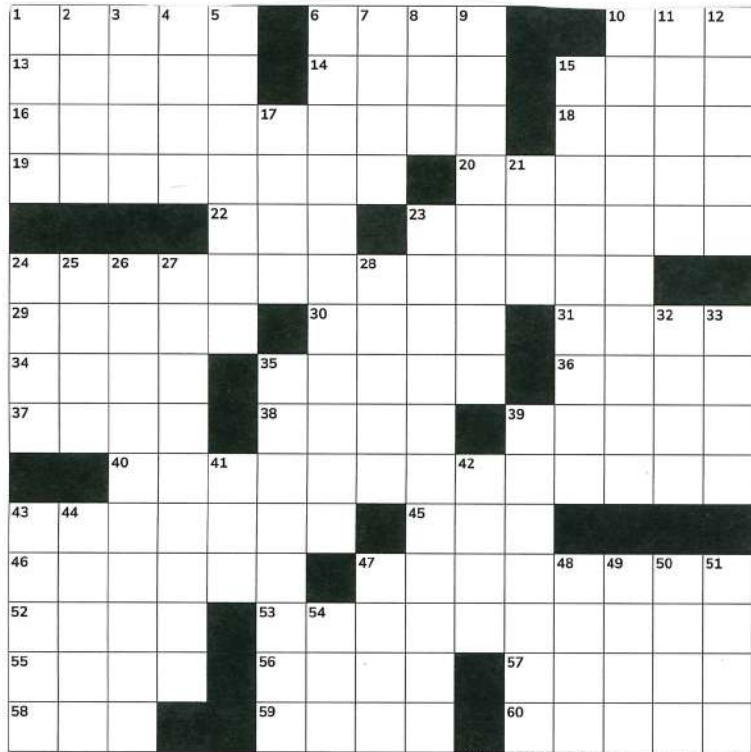
**DOWN**

- 1 The Heat, on scoreboards
- 2 Commercials
- 3 Access
- 4 Sticky notes?
- 5 Chopped ingredient in baklava
- 6 Solo act?
- 7 Fly, for example
- 8 Utter
- 12 "\_\_\_ Child" (1970 song by the Five Stairsteps)
- 14 "\_\_\_" tree falls in the forest ...
- 15 Something metaphorically picked
- 16 Travel expert?
- 17 Abbreviation for units of distance



**Crossword 22**  
Difficulty: Hard

Robyn Weintraub



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Bridges

**ACROSS**

- 1 \_\_\_ pants (cropped style)
- 6 Website useful for cinephiles
- 10 Structure that can make a lake
- 13 "Hasta la vista!"
- 14 Additional
- 15 Chutney-covered pancake, often
- 16 Like many pliers used by jewelry makers
- 18 Squirts from squids
- 19 Ready to eat, in a way
- 20 Didn't win over
- 22 N.L. East player with a "W" on his cap
- 23 Bartholomew JoJo (Springfield birth certificate name)
- 24 Lookout above?
- 29 French city hidden in "far less"
- 30 Roam
- 31 Subtle approvals
- 34 Cajones
- 35 Firefighters have big ones
- 36 Bird feeder ingredient
- 37 It can come before "Bravo"
- 38 Kimono sashes
- 39 Destination during Dhu al-Hijjah
- 40 "You've got nothing to lose"

- 43 Maximally agile in one's golden years
- 45 Bounce
- 46 Exam for a British teenager
- 47 Something you might do while working out
- 52 Like one who joins the family?
- 53 Reaction to a surprise party
- 55 \_\_\_ probandi (burden of proof)
- 56 Puma rival
- 57 Like the Statue of Liberty at night
- 58 Hooded figure representing a pharaoh
- 59 Statuette for a TV honoree
- 60 Many new drivers

- 10 Admonition to those who aren't straight with you?
- 11 Give an invitation for
- 12 Person whose career is set in stone?
- 15 Provides, as advice
- 17 Actor Morales whose name has three different vowels
- 21 "daaaaaamn"
- 23 Is a hero
- 24 Lady \_\_\_
- 25 Risk territory
- 26 Ready to take on the world
- 27 Family clan
- 28 Major denial?
- 32 Style of some old jewelry with geometric motifs
- 33 WHIP in baseball, e.g.

**DOWN**

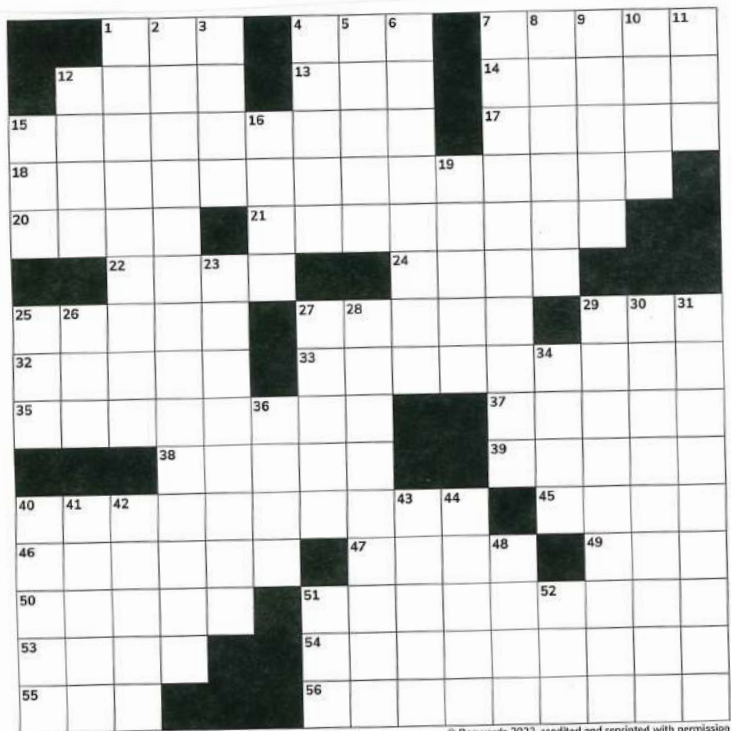
- 1 "Please, Mom!?!"
- 2 Gulf of \_\_\_ (Djibouti waterfront)
- 3 Apple, pumpkin, and key lime
- 4 Wouldn't stop teasing
- 5 Long and Staten
- 6 Words next to an online checkbox
- 7 Largest object in the Earth's orbit
- 8 Residents and interns, for example (Abbr.)
- 9 Straight shots

- 35 "Everything good?"
- 39 Plots in detail
- 41 "The thing is ..."
- 42 Honker
- 43 Polynesian country whose capital is Apia
- 44 Intends
- 47 Where you might find a date?
- 48 Snowman accessory
- 49 Run without going anywhere?
- 50 Check on Rudolph?
- 51 Feasts
- 54 "I Will Follow \_\_\_"

Hard Puzzles

**Crossword 23**  
Difficulty: Very Hard

Chandi Deitmer and John Lieb



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Bridges

- ACROSS**
- 1 Theme material of 10th anniversary gifts
  - 4 Vientiane resident
  - 7 Places for cramps
  - 12 Candy choice in a tube
  - 13 Something many people were down with in 1991
  - 14 Cynthia who is an "O" away from an EGOT
  - 15 "Surely not ..."
  - 17 Parents may tiptoe away from them
  - 18 Hint at the end of a mediocre date
  - 20 Doubled assent
  - 21 Aid in shifting one's focus
  - 22 Running shoe brand
  - 24 Hereditary title of India
  - 25 Name for fantastic creatures in Shakespeare and Disney
  - 27 Portmanteau for an alluring expression
  - 29 Fountain brand with Orange Lavaburst
  - 32 Preference for many audiophiles
  - 33 Gets one-upped, say
  - 35 Use up all one's goodwill
  - 37 Mythological temptress
  - 38 Where Dr. J was a Minuteman
  - 39 Site of a cinematic haunting, for short
  - 40 Call to attention?
  - 45 God that anagrams to a unit
  - 46 Those traveling southeast to the Four Corners, say
  - 47 Mollify
  - 49 Time out?
  - 50 Phases that might be buggy
  - 51 One for whom ball is life?
  - 53 Send out
  - 54 Treated like a higher-up?
  - 55 Something with a final four that's worth remembering? (Abbr.)
  - 56 Plug away
- DOWN**
- 1 Successful anti-slavery rebellion leader Louverture
  - 2 Words of concession
  - 3 Meeting point
  - 4 Game with multiple bouncing balls
  - 5 Natural selection for high schoolers studying natural selection, for short
  - 6 Medical tests with reduced noise levels
  - 7 Character who appeared with Steve Urkel in a TGIF crossover episode
  - 8 Capital city southwest of Skopje
  - 9 Out doors?
  - 10 It's a wrap!
  - 11 Contacts with access
  - 12 Flatbread
  - 15 Gender identity designation
  - 16 Chichén \_\_\_\_\_ (archaeological site)
  - 19 Ceramics layer
  - 23 They don't fill you with confidence
  - 25 Mean figure (Abbr.)
  - 26 2016 Olympics host
  - 27 Guitar legend whose stage name is a punctuation mark
  - 28 System whose operators are often dashing?
  - 29 Add an E to F-A-C, say
  - 30 One tightening an axel?
  - 31 Classic arcade game featuring fleas and scorpions
  - 34 Permeate or pervade
  - 36 They might be folded
  - 40 Makes smoother, in a way
  - 41 Groceries, e.g.
  - 42 \_\_\_ on (observed)
  - 43 One whose clip is an art?
  - 44 Elijah, in Islam (per one spelling)
  - 48 Tom or billy
  - 51 Antonym of guzzle
  - 52 Nickname for Olivia

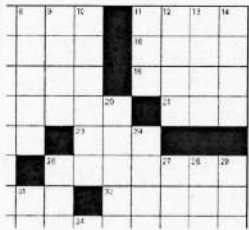
Hard Puzzles

# Making Crossword Puzzles

If you're interested in making crossword puzzles, the number one thing you can do is PUT REPS IN: it can be challenging and slow, but lots and lots and lots of attempts will eventually pay off! Of course, it's slower without computer software, but this guide will give you a few tips to make the process less mysterious.

## The Rules (to follow every time)

1. No words shorter than 3 letters
2. No sections that are completely cut off from the rest of the grid by black squares
3. Every letter must be part of an Across entry AND a Down entry



→ In the left image, the top-right corner violates rule 2 by being cut off from the rest of the grid.

In the right → image, the "L" of HELLO and the G of "HEIGHT" are not part of both an Across and Down entry, violating rule 3.



**The Restrictions** (followed by most crosswords published online and in newspapers, but you can decide whether to follow them or not!)

4. "Full-size" grids should be 15x15 squares

- o If you're not making a puzzle to submit, you should let yourself be totally free here. Try small grids first: 5x5 or 9x9 are both great sizes to practice on. You can also make grids that are rectangular rather than square.

5. The black square pattern should usually be symmetrical

- o The most common type of grid symmetry is called "rotational symmetry," meaning the pattern looks the same if you rotate the grid so that it's upside down.
- o If you're not making a puzzle to submit, this is another restriction that you can opt not to follow, in order to make your life a lot easier!

## The Recommendations (for making your puzzles fun and solvable)

6. Entries can be all sorts of things (words, phrases, names, places, abbreviations, titles, non-English words, slang ...) but no matter what they are, they should be as recognizable as possible. "Recognizable" is very subjective; use your best judgment.
7. Try for a variety of entry lengths, including:
  - o Ideally no more than ~20 3-letter words
  - o At least a few entries 9 letters long and longer (in a 15x15 grid)

OK, but how do I actually do this?

The basic process is:

- 1.) If you're making a themed puzzle, come up with your set of theme-related answers (your "theme set"). If the puzzle will be unthemed, pick 1-3 entries that you're excited about putting into the puzzle ("seed" entries).
- 2.) Make the puzzle layout: establish the grid size, place the theme or seed answers, and determine the black square pattern.
- 3.) Fill the rest of the grid.
- 4.) Write all of the clues.

This guide won't get into detail on steps 1 and 4. For a refresher on crossword themes, reread the chapter titled "How Do Themes in Crosswords Work?," and get inspired by puzzles you've solved and enjoyed! For writing clues, make certain that you carefully follow what's laid out in the "How to Solve a Crossword" chapter, under "There are some rules that crosswords always follow." The "Clue/Answer Matching" guidance is important for writing clues that solvers can figure out.

Now let's take a detailed look at what happens in steps 2 and 3, laying out the grid and filling it, which are the most challenging and time-consuming.

## Puzzle Layout

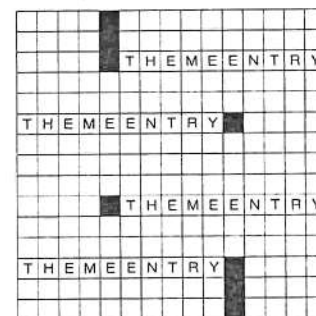
### Creating the Grid

With a ruler or other straight edge, create a grid of the size you want. (Use graph paper, if you can find any. Some gridded sheets have been provided in this zine for you to use.) It's best to use a pen to draw the lines, but pencil is also OK. For coloring in the black squares and adding letters, definitely use pencil (unless you have no other option), because you will probably need to do a lot of erasing

### Placing an Answer Set

Placing your theme or seed answers will happen concurrently with shading in black squares. Write in one answer; a common place to start is in the third row, starting from the left edge. Shade in a black square after that entry. (Notice that if you're working in the third row, this will result in there being a Down slot only 2 letters long above the black square. Because all entries must be 3 letters or longer, shade in those two squares. You'll need to do this every time you place a black square that results in a 1- or 2-letter slot.) If your grid is going to be

symmetrical, now shade in the corresponding square(s) in a symmetrical position in the grid.



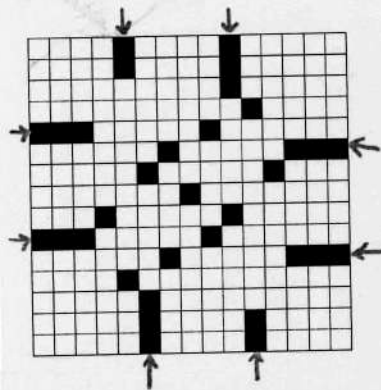
Now place your next theme/seed entry, making sure that it's not too close to the first one. (Spacing things out gives you more flexibility when filling in the grid later.) A good option is to go down a few rows and come in from the other edge (so if your first answer started on the left edge, have this one end at the right edge). Again, shade in the necessary black square(s). At right is what a (symmetrical) grid might look like after doing this process four times.

### Tips for placing a set of entries in a 15x15 grid:

- If you have an odd number of entries, one of them needs to go in the center row.
- If some of your entries are 11 letters or less OR 15 letters exactly, place one of those in the 3rd row. If they are all 12, 13, or 14 letters long, place an entry in the 4th row.
- Whenever possible, place the theme/seed entries at the far left or right edges.

### Placing Black Squares (Blocks)

Once you've placed your theme or seed answers, you still need to add a bunch more black squares, or blocks, to break up the big areas of white squares and make the grid fillable. A smart way to proceed is by starting on the edges of the grid. Look at how the grid below has two "fingers" of black squares coming in from each edge: →



Place "fingers" such as those, and then place additional individual blocks to break up any remaining big white areas. The goal is to create a layout that's feasible for you to fill with recognizable entries. If you've tried to make a 5x5 grid, you probably know that even something

that size can be challenging to fill with good words; the challenge becomes much greater with more squares.

### Grid Templates

Grid layout is a long, trial-and-error process, during which even the most experienced professional crossword constructors have to constantly back up or start over. Don't be discouraged if you make mistakes or find it frustrating - that's normal!

When you're first starting out, it may be helpful to borrow grid patterns from other puzzles; it's not considered plagiarism to just copy the black square layout. You can also take an existing grid pattern as a starting point and move some of its black squares around (by erasing and re-shading) as you need.

Where to find examples of grids? Well, you can start with any of the puzzles that you find in this zine, or any other crosswords that you come across. To give you some additional resources, at the end of this section is a Grid Library, with blank grids of various sizes and symmetries that you can copy. (Tip: for any two grids of the same size, the one with more slots will usually be easier to fill.)

### Filling the Grid

At this point, you have a grid, a handful of entries, and a black square layout. Next up is filling the rest of the grid. When your only tools for this task are your brain and maybe a dictionary, it might seem daunting, but it's definitely doable - and it's a great mental workout on its own! In a way, making a puzzle is itself a puzzle. Here are some pointers to get you started.

A note on terminology: this section will use the terms entry and slot. An **entry** is one of the answers within a crossword puzzle grid. A **slot** is a set of squares that accommodates an entry. So FISH is an **entry** that could go into a four-letter slot.

#### Plan of Attack

1. First fill the slots that have the fewest possible fills. "Fills" means "entries that can possibly fit in that slot."
2. Fill slots that already contain some letters before filling empty slots.
3. Fill longer slots before shorter slots.

The basic idea behind these rules is to fill the tougher slots first, leaving more flexible slots for later. A slot like ??XF?? has only a few possible fills, so you want to fill in that slot right away. A slot like ??G??D isn't as worrisome - though it's obviously less flexible than an empty slot of the same length. You want to fill longer slots before shorter slots because short entries are inherently more flexible. Many short entries can become new entries if any one letter needs to change - PEN, for instance, can become BEN, PAN, or PEG (among others). Longer entries aren't usually as flexible. For example, you can't change any one letter in PENCIL and still have a usable entry.

These rules are meant to be reapplied continuously. Let's say you begin by finding the slot with the fewest possible fills and filling it. All the slots that cross your new entry now contain another letter, which makes them logical candidates to be filled next. Each new addition imposes new fill priorities. (The tricky part is deciding which rule takes precedence in a given situation. Which slot do you fill first: a long empty slot or a short slot with two letters filled? There's no definite answer. Look for factors constraining each slot, like nearby letters, and use your best judgment.)

Rule 1, about prioritizing slots with the fewest possible fills, raises an obvious question: How do you know how many fills a given slot has? Fortunately, you don't need to know the exact answer. This rule of thumb is more about filling difficult slots before easy ones; you should try to recognize when a letter pattern won't accommodate very many words, but you don't need to be able to, for example, identify that a slot has 5 possible fills rather than 6. (However, if you have an internet connection, you can go to a site such as OneLook.com and perform a wildcard search to get this information.)

Of course, filling a grid isn't just about putting entries in; you also have to decide if and when to take entries out again if they don't seem to work. Except for theme entries, you can't get too attached to any of the entries in a grid, because you may end up replacing them. Filling your grid is a trial-and-error process that can take hours or even days, depending on the size of the area that you're filling and the quality of fill that

you're willing to accept. (After you struggle with a given area for a while, a fill containing one or more bad entries can start to look pretty good.)

## Grid-filling Techniques

### Technique 1: Alternating vowels and consonants

When you put entries directly on top of one another (or beside one another in vertical stacks), picking entries that invert their neighbors' consonant/vowel patterns is often a good idea. For instance, if a given Across entry fits the pattern cvccv (c = consonant, v = vowel), an entry that fits the pattern vcvvc might be a good choice for the entry above or below it.

Take this rule with a grain of salt, because it's way too broad to apply in all cases. Plenty of promising candidates for slots don't invert their neighbors' consonant/vowel patterns. The rule is best applied at the tops of stacks: Most entries that begin with a consonant have a vowel next, and most entries that begin with a vowel have a consonant next.

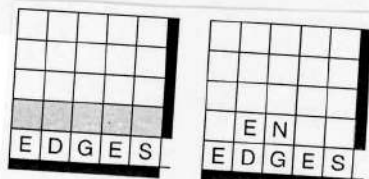
### Technique 2: Building stacks by adding adjacent layers

When stacking entries, starting at the top or bottom of the stack and adding entries layer-by-layer is best. Visualizing whether or not the crossing slots can still form words is easier when there aren't gaps between the fixed letters. As you add each new layer, check the crossing slots that you suspect have few or no possible fills. If only a few fills exist for a crossing slot, temporarily insert each one and try to fill the rest of the stack. Having a fixed crossing entry helps you choose the next layers. If you can't complete the stack using any of the crossing slot's possible fills, you know that the previous layer's entry was a bad choice.

If you have a theme or seed entry (or some other non-negotiable entry) running through a stack, incorporate those fixed letters into your stack right away. For instance, if you have a five-row stack and the theme entry is on the fourth row,

fill the fifth row first, then fill upward from the third row. (Stacks near the top of the grid usually get built from the bottom up because theme entries often appear on the third or fourth rows, near the bottoms of these stacks. The symmetrical stacks near the bottom of the grid get built from the top down.)

If the sheer number of possibilities for a given layer makes choosing one difficult, you might try hand-picking one or more of the entry's letters and treating them as fixed letters - at least until you discover whether or not they work. In general, pick letters that form plenty of possibilities in the crossing slot (see the example below). Your choices for entries naturally become more restricted as you add more layers to the stack, so build in as much flexibility as you can, while you can.



In the above example, notice that adding fixed letters that form friendly crossing slots (???ED, ???NG) can bring the array of options down to a manageable size.

#### Technique 3: Mapping consonants and vowels

If you have trouble finishing a half-filled area, try mapping it - that is, figuring out which squares will probably contain vowels and which squares will probably contain consonants. (You can lightly pencil small v's and c's into the squares to keep track.) Begin mapping by looking for slots that must fit a certain pattern; all entries that fit ??NG, for instance, begin with a consonant and have a vowel second. In some cases, you're mapping what's likely, not what's definite. Most of the fills for ??NT begin with a consonant and then a vowel, but a few exceptions exist, such as AIN'T, AUNT, and ISN'T.

Mapping shows you in advance which slots are likely to cause problems. For instance, you may find that one of your slots is completely overloaded with consonants. Then you have to figure out how to shoehorn in a vowel - perhaps by using one of those exceptions to the normal word patterns, like AIN'T, AUNT, or ISN'T. Mapping also limits the number of choices you need to consider for a given slot, which can save you a lot of time.

#### Technique 4: Dividing and conquering

As we've previously seen, filling one slot imposes new fill priorities on the crossing slots, making them logical candidates to be filled next. You can theoretically fill an entire grid by moving from entry to adjacent or crossing entry like this, but that approach can be very limiting. What you want to do is fill the most difficult areas first, even if those areas aren't immediately next to one another.

Fortunately, a puzzle's black square pattern often divides the grid into a number of mini-grids, connected by only a few entries. The grid below is divided into seven mini-grids, three along the top and bottom and one in the middle. You can use these divisions to your advantage: The "boundaries" of the mini-grids make good stopping points in the filling process.



(Note: this example and the one on the following pages were taken with permission from Patrick Berry's "Crossword Constructor's Handbook.")

In the above example, you can begin with mini-grids 2 and 6, where the theme entries are most heavily concentrated. Apart from the connections formed by theme entries, each of these mini-grids is connected to its neighbors by only two squares. When you reach the mini-grid boundaries, you don't need to keep filling the grid sections right next door; none of the slots crossing the shaded squares have a high fill priority. Longer slots with more fixed letters can be found elsewhere in the grid, so filling one of these slots next makes more sense.

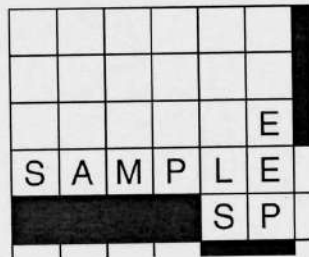
When a long entry connects two mini-grids, try to fill the first mini-grid so that the connecting entry has several possible fills, not just one. The fewer choices you leave yourself, the higher the chance is that you won't find a fill for the second mini-grid - which means you'll have to redo the first one.

### Applying the Techniques

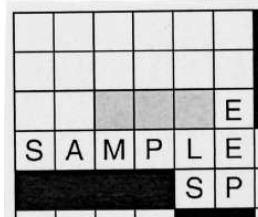
Here is an example of the process of manually filling a typical grid corner, which uses the techniques described in the preceding section.



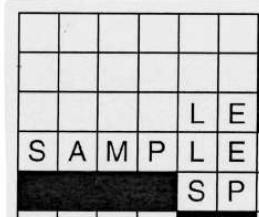
1: A typical corner to be filled. Letters already in the grid are nonnegotiable. The logical starting point for this fill is the third-row Across slot, building the stack from the bottom up.



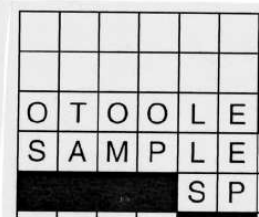
2: Hand-picking one or two letters in the target slot can make filling easier. The Down slot ???EP has the fewest possible fills, and most of them end ??EEP, so I'll try that first.



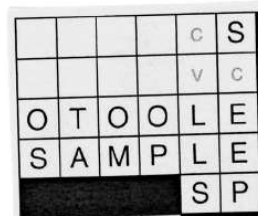
3: In picking a row for a stack, I often try to invert the previous row's consonant/vowel pattern. But with the E already in place, that's too many vowels in a row. At least one of the three shaded spaces needs to be a consonant.



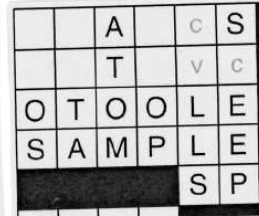
4: I'll put a consonant above the L. (I like to keep my fixed letters together whenever possible.) Another L seems like a good choice: -LE is a common word ending, and ??LLS has plenty of possible fills.



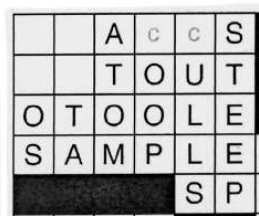
5: I'm finally ready to choose my first word. To start with one that inverts the previous row's consonant/vowel pattern (for the remaining letters, anyway; the L and E are fixed). My choices are ORIOLE and O'TOOLE, plus a few obscurities I'd rather avoid (AREOLE, ETOILE). I'll go with O'TOOLE.



6: Now it's useful to do a little mapping. There are seven words that fit ??EEP, and four of them start with S. Since S is a friendly ending letter, I'll plan on using it. The letter beneath it will be a consonant (denoted here by a small c). All of the entries that fit ??LLS begin consonant-vowel, so I can map those squares too.



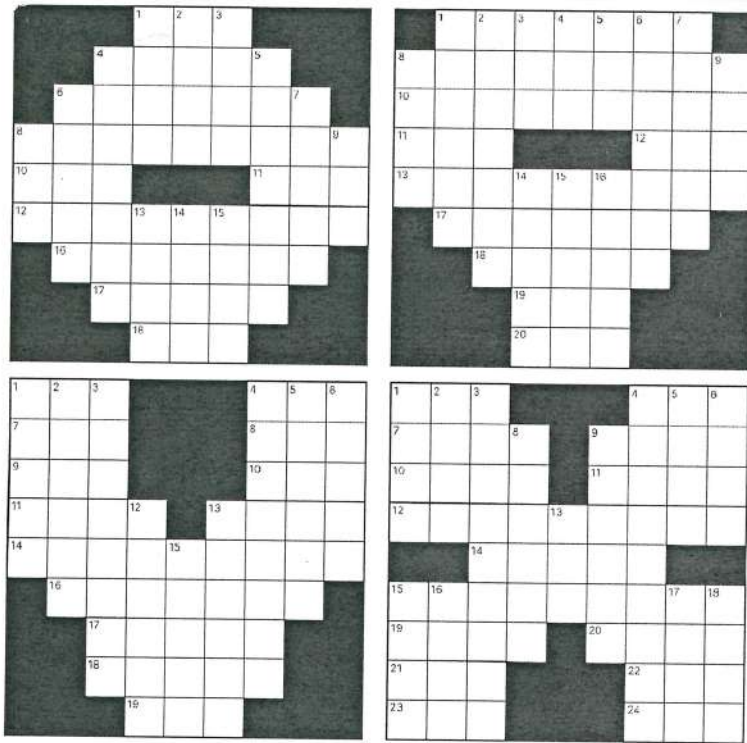
7: Most entries that fit ??OM and ??OP begin with consonants as well (which isn't surprising—most entries *do* start with consonants). But the top Across slot is going to need a vowel *somewhere*, so I need to arrange for one. I'll try putting one at the front of ??OM first. My choices are ATOM and EDOM; I'll go with ATOM.



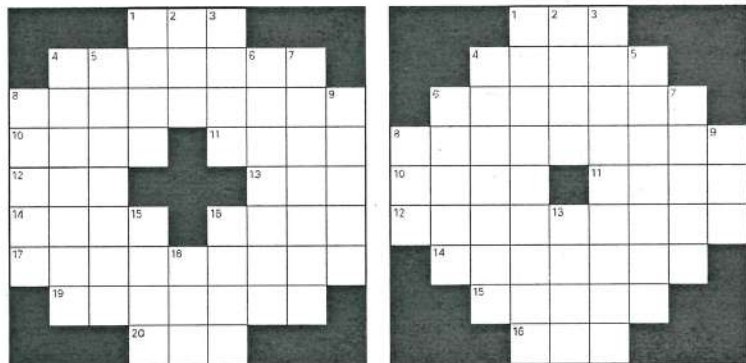
8: I now have a pretty good picture of the second-row Across entry: it has a T third, a vowel fifth, and ends with H, L, T, or W. Browsing through the entries that fit this pattern, I notice a lot of verb phrases ending in OUT: ACT OUT, CUT OUT, EAT OUT, and so on. This seems like a good avenue to explore first.



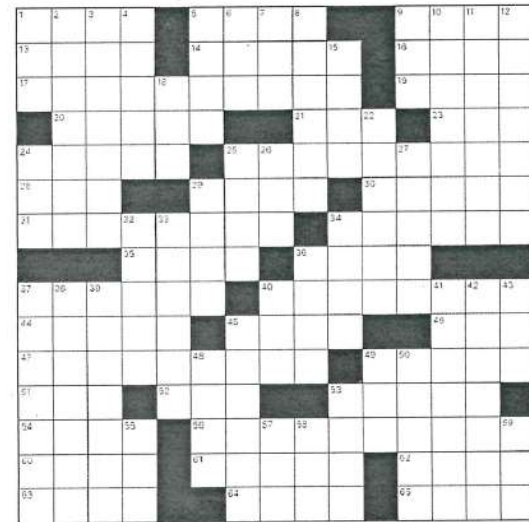
9x9, left-right symmetry



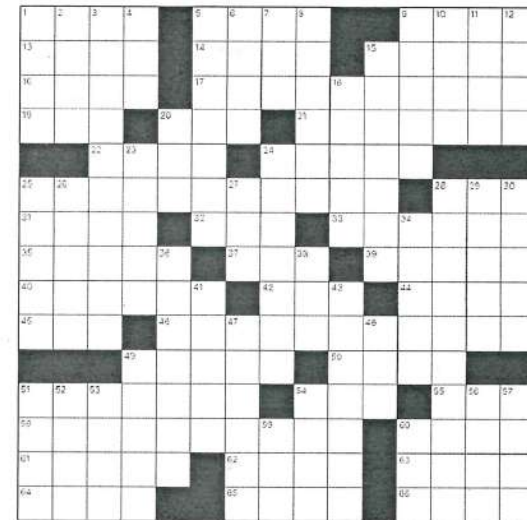
9x9, rotational and left-right symmetry



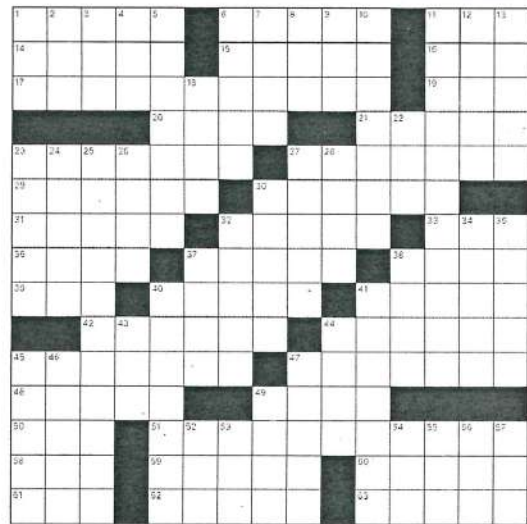
15x15, rotational symmetry, 78 slots, 37 blocks



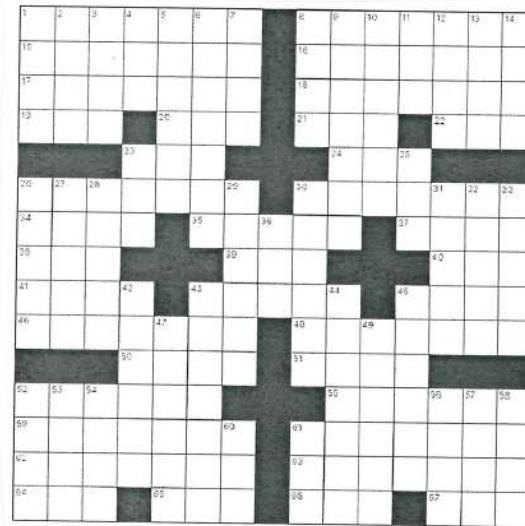
15x15, rotational symmetry, 78 slots, 36 blocks



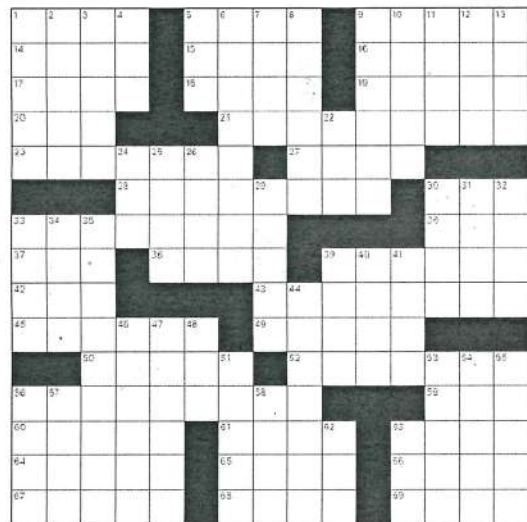
15x15, rotational symmetry, 78 slots, 36 blocks



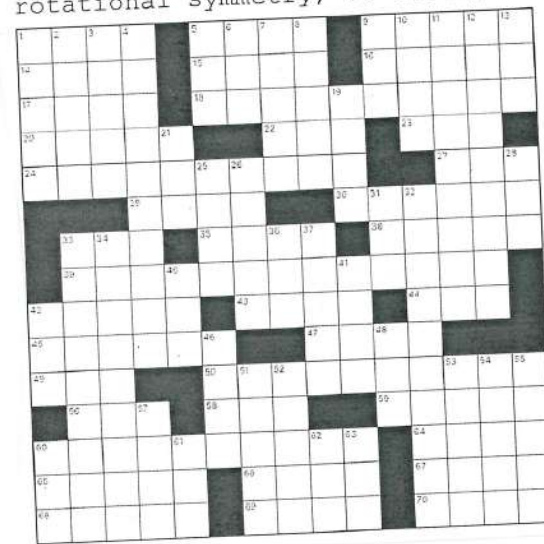
15x15, left-right symmetry, 76 slots, 42 blocks



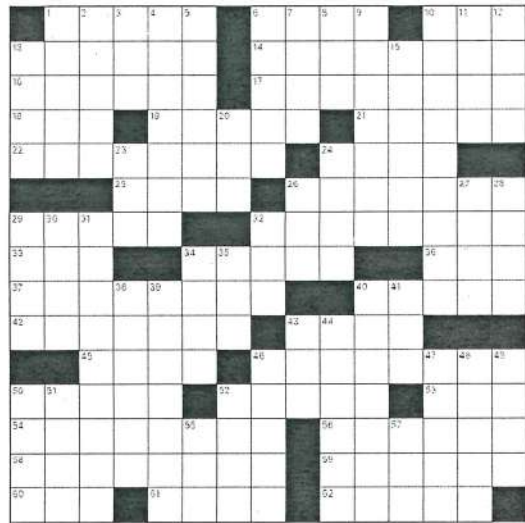
15x15, asymmetrical, 77 slots, 43 blocks



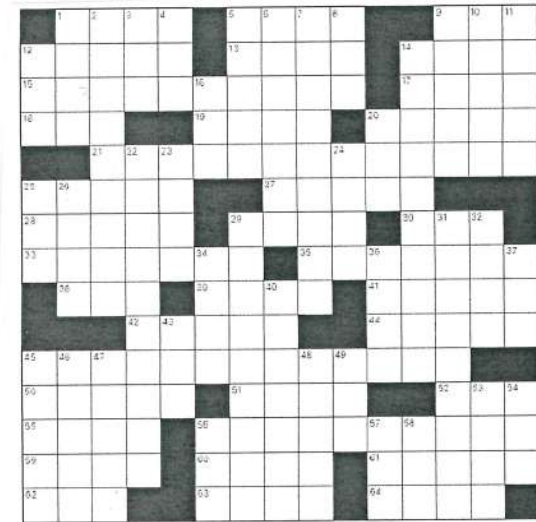
15x15, rotational symmetry, 76 slots, 40 blocks



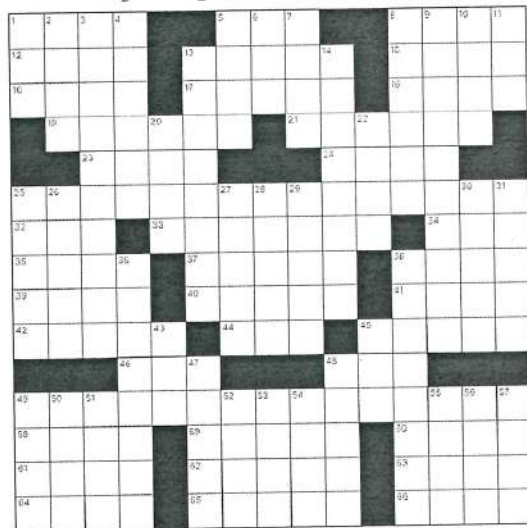
15x15, rotational symmetry, 76 slots, 36 blocks



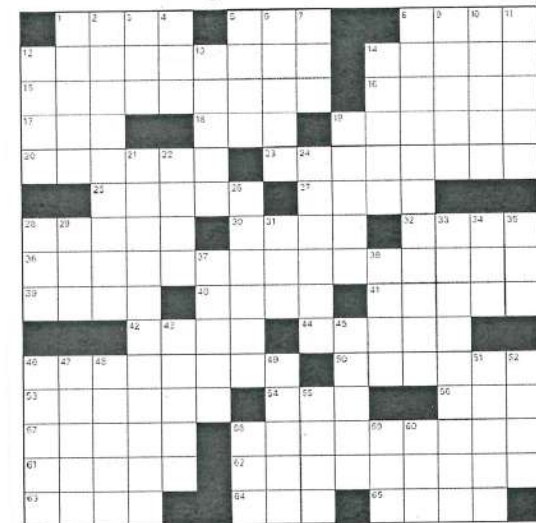
15x15, rotational symmetry, 74 slots, 41 blocks



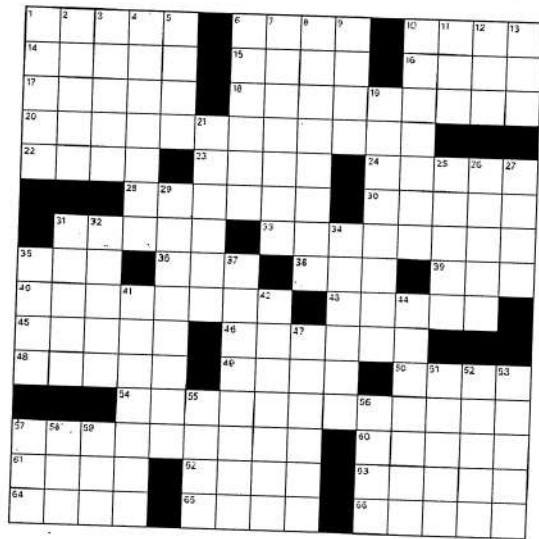
15x15, left-right symmetry, 75 slots, 41 blocks



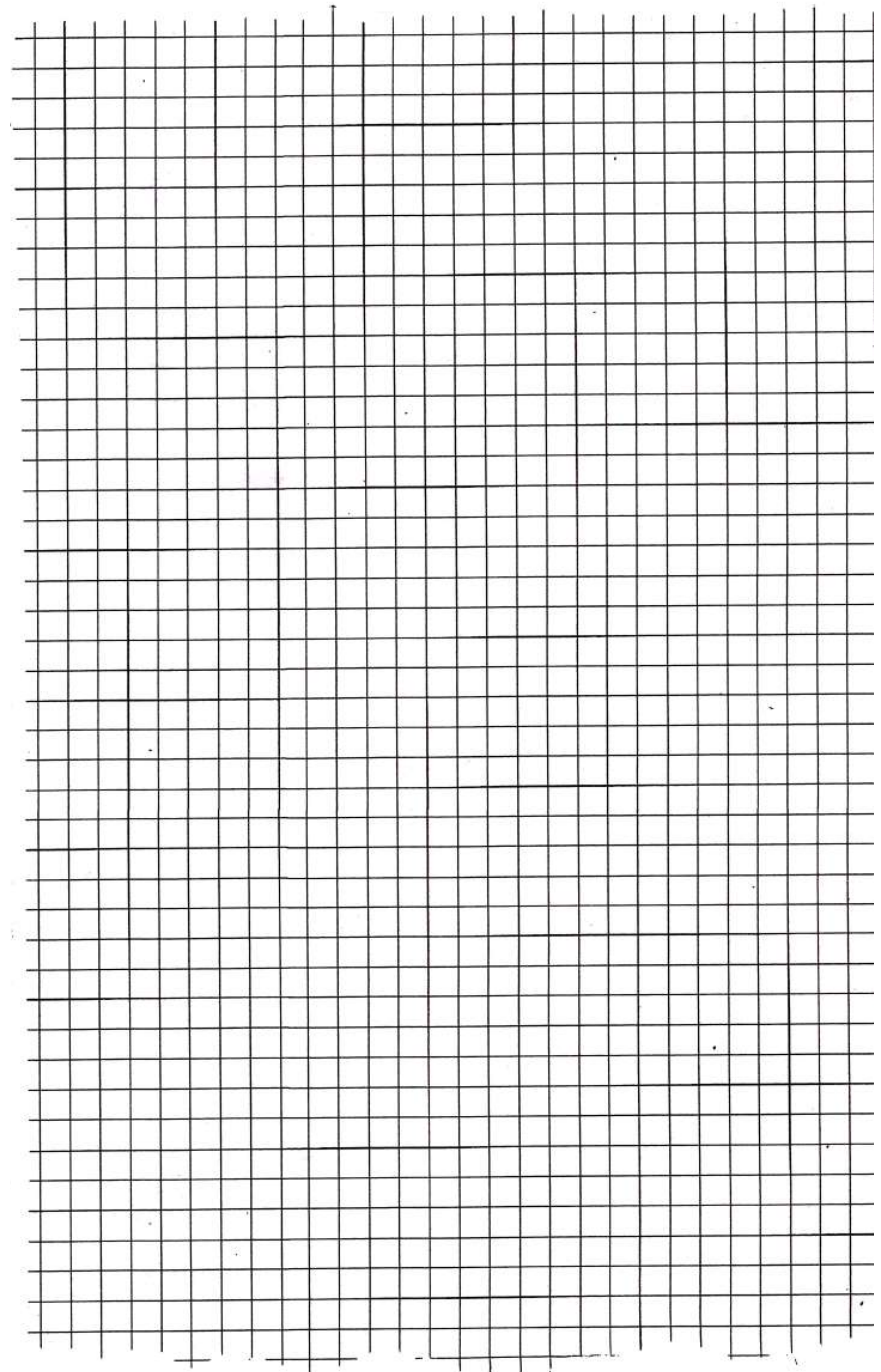
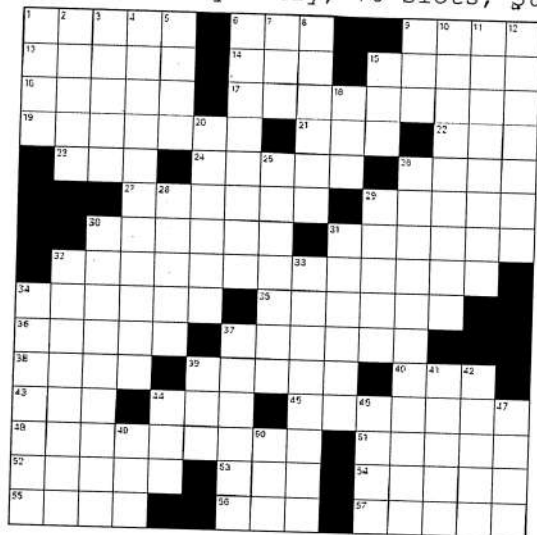
15x15, rotational symmetry, 74 slots, 36 blocks

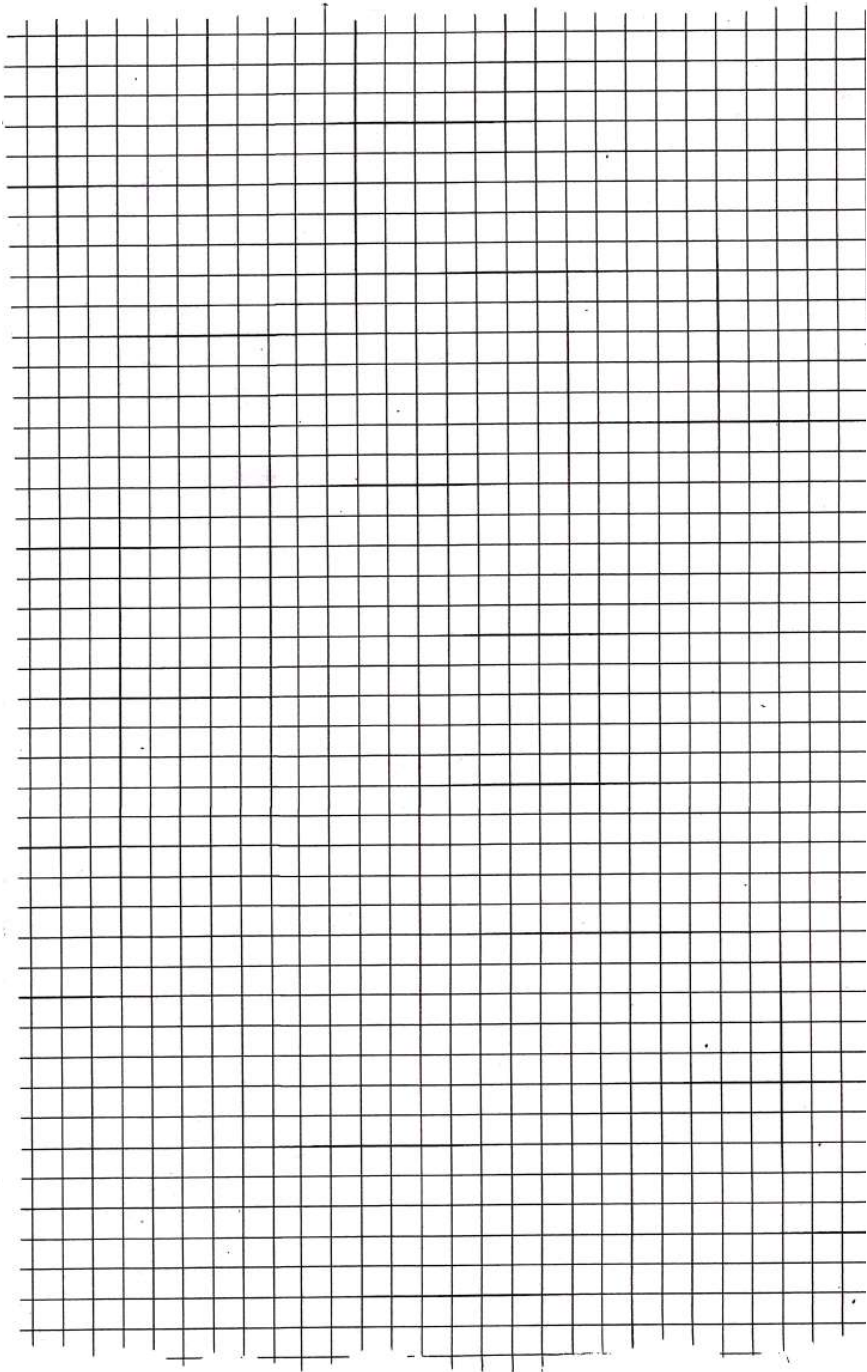


15x15, rotational symmetry, 72 slots, 35 blocks



15x15, rotational symmetry, 70 slots, 38 blocks





**2 The Rainbow Connection**

T	G	M	I	S	S	P	I	G	Y	O	X	G		
F	C	G	R	O	V	E	R	L	W	Q	T	U	Z	
L	Q	B	H	X	U	F	N	A	N	I	M	A	L	P
U	A	B	X	M	S	K	A	W	P	J	I	G	V	
O	S	C	A	R	T	H	E	G	R	O	U	C	H	B
D	V	S	A	M	E	A	G	L	E	J	X	N	X	S
A	K	V	L	Q	H	O	K	C	O	E	O	B	C	
F	O	Z	Z	I	B	E	A	R	Z	I	B	D	R	
Z	C	O	O	K	I	E	M	O	N	S	T	E	R	O
K	E	R	M	I	T	H	M	O	B	M	Z	K	Y	W
X	J	M	L	S	I	L	G	L	H	N	R	Q	W	L
H	N	T	H	H	E	D	D	I	E	M	I	N	W	F
Q	Q	N	D	L	W	G	Z	K	M	O	Z	M	X	K
S	W	E	D	I	S	H	C	H	E	F	Z	D	L	E
Z	B	I	G	B	I	R	D	S	S	A	O	H	C	F

Variety Puzzle 1: Bridges  
Solution: CONNECT FOUR

- Variety Puzzle 4: Scaling Up
- CHEST / CHEMIST
  - CURRY / CURSORY
  - ADVERSE / ADVERTISE
  - MANNA / MADONNA
  - SCARCE / SCARFACE
  - MARIA / MALARIA
  - PANTS / PARENTS

**1 Let's Rock!**

M	I	C	A	Z	R	G	D	A	W	Z	Q	P	Z	D	
Y	E	U	H	V	L	A	E	L	J	I	G	I			
F	A	T	A	J	R	G	A	W	A	X	C	K	P	U	V
O	F	A	E	A	V	E	D	C	R	Y	S	T	A	L	
O	G	M	L	N	I	A	R	P	I	W	S	F			
L	E	H	I	C	L	A	G	R	A	N	I	T	E		
S	R	U	M	K	U	I	M	P	M	T	G	E	R	J	
G	O	D	S	J	C	M	O	H	A	P	L	A	P	B	
O	Y	J	M	P	A	E	N	L	R	B	E	A	X		
L	T	P	M	G	Y	S	D	S	B	G	H	V	A	D	M
D	Z	L	S	T	Q	T	P	E	L	I	A	Q	G	W	
S	X	X	Q	U	O	P	E	L	A	M	R	R			
C	E	I	G	D	M	N	K	L	R	W	R	O	C	K	
W	I	D	C	A	V	E	M	V	C	D	D	F	B		

**3 Sweet Thing**

L	A	F	Y	T	A	F	Y	V	G	A	G	X	B	E	N	P	W		
S	T	R	I	F	T	G	U	M	V	B	E	A	R	U	Q	Y	A	N	
O	N	V	J	Z	P	N	S	T	A	R	B	U	R	S	T	S	Y	H	
O	T	R	I	R	O	S	K	I	T	L	E	S	A	J	T	N	M	D	N
G	A	K	C	B	L	M	I	L	K	W	A	Y	O	A	E	C	A	J	
I	L	I	L	K	K	L	C	Y	H	J	Y	L	P	Z	R	Q	R	Y	J
S	M	T	S	E	E	M	Y	T	Q	E	O	T	F	W	F	X	T	J	Q
O	O	K	I	O	T	R	U	R	H	Q	L	W	X	I	Y	I	Z	O	
D	N	A	P	T	U	R	S	S	A	I	Z	R	B	W	N	J	E	R	T
K	D	T	Y	O	V	R	Q	N	J	G	T	E	G	P	S	E	A		
M	J	P	H	B	Z	E	P	R	D	F	C	N	M	D	E	W	J	E	I
H	O	K	A	H	Y	E	A	F	J	W	H	M	A	R	B	D	A	V	
O	Y	B	A	J	W	P	Y	S	T	M	I	K	E	A	N	D	I	K	E
T	D	K	W	K	P	I	N	B	I	C	X	N	O	R	O	D	M	L	Z
T	Z	R	E	S	E	S	E	E	X	H	J	I	X	O	S	M	X	P	
A	F	F	P	L	G	R	P	R	N	D	E	K	S	I	U	L	S	Y	
M	K	E	N	E	R	D	S	T	O	O	T	S	I	E	R	O	L	L	N
A	B	C	A	N	D	Y	C	O	R	N	D	T	D	V	M	D	R	Z	
L	M	C	M	I	L	K	D	U	S	R	H	Q	F	S	V	P	D	C	
E	N	P	P	G	W	H	K	K	H	W	O	T	B	G	K	M	E	A	N

Variety Puzzle 3: Mixed Upped

H	E	A	P	1
F	O	O	L	2
G	A	M	E	3
D	A	T	E	4

P	H	A	S	E	1
F	L	O	O	D	2
I	M	A	G	E	3
D	E	L	T	A	4
S	L	I	D	E	

1. STAFFISH  
2. MIDNIGHT  
3. WAITRESS  
4. CRABCAKE  
5. HORRIBLE  
6. HARDWARE  
7. FASTBALL  
8. ORGANIZE

9. SLAPDASH

Variety Puzzle 6: Four Share

Crossword 3

1	A	W	A	Y	G	A	M	E	S	
2	C	O	M	E	O	N	O	V	E	R
3	T	O	B	E	H	O	N	E	S	T
4	L	I	S	A	A	S	H	E		
5	T	H	R	I	P					
6	O	P	U	S	S	T	U	D		
7	J	A	N	E	A	V	S	T	E	S
8	S	A	T	E	L	L	I	T	E	S
9	K	O	R	E	A	N	S	P	A	

Crossword 1

1	M	E	S	H					
2	I	V	I	E	S				
3	C	L	I	P	E	R			
4	S	L	E	E	P	O	N		
5	P	A	N	T	S				
6	D	A	R	K	E				
7	A	N	T	E					
8	S	E	E	T	H	A	T		
9	T	H	A	T					
10	S	E	E	T					

Crossword 2

1	S	T	A	Y					
2	E	R	I	E					
3	N	I	N	A					
4	D	O	T	H	E	M	A	T	H
5	R	O	E						
6	G	A	R	B					
7	M	I	S	E					
8	I	S	E	E					
9	I	N	A	R	O	W			
10	T	W	O	I	N	A	R	O	W
11	R	A	N	G					
12	I	N	C	H					
13	M	E	E	T					

Crossword 4

1	C	D	S							
2	A	N	A							
3	L	I	E							
4	A	C	T							
5	D	R	E							
6	L	E	R							
7	A	B	S							
8	Y	E	O	H						
9	E	O	S	L	E	U	T	H		
10	T	A	G	T	E	A	M			
11	B	A	T	H	E	A	R	D	O	R
12	A	C	E							
13	B	R	R							
14	Y	E	S							
15	B	R	E							
16	R	E								
17	P	O	O	F						

Crossword 5

1	A	G	R	A	M				
2	A	N	O	T	H	E	R		
3	P	A	S	S	E	D	U	P	
4	P	A	R	I	A				
5	M	E	A	N	S				
6	C	O	C	O					
7	R	A	M	A	O				
8	D	R	O	P	A	P	I	N	G
9	T	R	A	C	I	N	G		
10	T	R	E	E	S				

Crossword 6

1	M	E	S	H					
2	I	V	I	E	S				
3	C	L	I	P	E	R			
4	S	L	E	E	P	O	N		
5	P	A	N	T	S				
6	D	A	R	K	E				
7	A	N	T	E					
8	S	E	E	T	H	A	T		
9	T	H	A	T					
10	S	E	E	T					

Variety Puzzle 2: Abridged

CLUE	ANSWER	LETTER REMOVED	WORD FROM BANK
Santa	SLEIGHT	T	Sleight
Cow	MOO	R	Moor
Wood	LOG	O	Logo
Space	COMET	H	Cometh
Vegas	LAS	S	Lass
Honey	BEE	P	Beeep
Dudes	MEN	U	Menu
Language	GERMAN	E	Germane
Legit	REAL	M	Realm
Hair	COMB	O	Combo
Morrison	TONI	C	Tonic

FINAL ANSWER: Read letters from bottom to top to get COME UP SHORT

Variety Puzzle 5: Daffynitions

Definition	Answer
Country that loves driving	CAR NATION
Figuring out something out	THIN KING
St. Patrick's Shamrock	SHAM ROCK
Color of the yellow	YELLOW
Item in the weight room	BARBELL
Person filing a lawsuit	PLAIN TIFER
Place to work	OFFICE
Inactive, like a volcano	DORMANT
Really angry	SEething
Talking aimlessly	RAMBLING
Newsorthy	NOTABLE

Variety Puzzle 4: Deep Blue Sea

O	M	D	T	W	L	G	F	W	D	S	P	O	S	L	U	R	S	P	B		
M	Y	L	O	A	E	O	P	I	U	F	G	T	D	C	J	Y	O	J	R		
N	A	U	C	O	E	R	P	O	Q	O	I	J	E	D	A	V	U	X	Z		
L	C	D	H	U	S	H	R	I	M	P	T	A	D	B	X	N	W	G	R		
C	H	E	N	S	I	T	I	G	K	O	C	T	B	C	I	D	F	Z			
I	O	N	R	J	X	X	U	N	L	S	R	O	H	B	P	J	B	H	F		
G	O	N	R	J	X	X	U	N	L	S	R	O	H	B	P	J	B	H	F		
M	O	O	C	T	O	P	U	S	A	L	S	L	Z	T	U	C	U	V			
D	L	S	T	H	D	K	G	H	R	E	Q	B	I	W	I	T	R				
U	J	W	O	G	H	W	P	T	K	X	X	R	S	C	L	A	M	Q			
I	K	A	P	H	N	A	R	W	H	A	L	A	V	A	O	X	X	I			
W	S	A	H	O	L	H	L	R	V	A	W	O	X	K	A	O	S	N	Z		
P	S	I	D	V	A	C	L	A	J	V	K	C	L	X	W	G	W				
V	S	S	O	H	X	Q	L	E	L	L	Y	F	I	S	H	E					
S	B	A	H	O	N	E	A	H	K	A	T	X	D	Z	C	H	L	J			
L	O	B	S	T	E	R	O	B	Z	O	X	Z	O	X	G	O	T	T	E	R	J
O	L	Z	I	W	O	I	Y	I	Z	Y	R	L	O	W	R	X	N	I	W		
N	T	B	T	C	R	Q	L	L	C	T	E	E	L	B	Z	G	Y	X			

Variety Puzzle 3: Daffynitions

Definition	Answer
Country that loves driving	CAR NATION
Figuring out something out	THIN KING
St. Patrick's Shamrock	SHAM ROCK
Color of the yellow	YELLOW
Item in the weight room	BARBELL
Person filing a lawsuit	PLAIN TIFER
Place to work	OFFICE
Inactive, like a volcano	DORMANT
Really angry	SEething
Talking aimlessly	RAMBLING
Newsorthy	NOTABLE

Variety Puzzle 2: Abridged

CLUE	ANSWER	LETTER REMOVED	WORD FROM BANK
Santa	SLEIGHT	T	Sleight
Cow	MOO	R	Moor
Wood	LOG	O	Logo
Space	COMET	H	Cometh
Vegas	LAS	S	Lass
Honey	BEE	P	Beeep
Dudes	MEN	U	Menu
Language	GERMAN	E	Germane
Legit	REAL	M	Realm
Hair	COMB	O	Combo
Morrison	TONI	C	Tonic

FINAL ANSWER: Read letters from bottom to top to get COME UP SHORT

Variety Puzzle 1: Daffynitions

Definition	Answer
Country that loves driving	CAR NATION
Figuring out something out	THIN KING
St. Patrick's Shamrock	SHAM ROCK
Color of the yellow	YELLOW
Item in the weight room	BARBELL
Person filing a lawsuit	PLAIN TIFER
Place to work	OFFICE
Inactive, like a volcano	DORMANT
Really angry	SEething
Talking aimlessly	RAMBLING
Newsorthy	NOTABLE

Variety Puzzle 1: Daffynitions

Definition	Answer
Country that loves driving	CAR NATION
Figuring out something out	THIN KING
St. Patrick's Shamrock	SHAM ROCK
Color of the yellow	YELLOW
Item in the weight room	BARBELL
Person filing a lawsuit	PLAIN TIFER
Place to work	OFFICE
Inactive, like a volcano	DORMANT
Really angry	SEething
Talking aimlessly	RAMBLING
Newsorthy	NOTABLE

Variety Puzzle 1: Daffynitions

Definition	Answer
Country that loves driving	CAR NATION
Figuring out something out	THIN KING
St. Patrick's Shamrock	SHAM ROCK
Color of the yellow	YELLOW
Item in the weight room	BARBELL
Person filing a lawsuit	PLAIN TIFER
Place to work	OFFICE
Inactive, like a volcano	DORMANT
Really angry	SEething
Talking aimlessly	RAMBLING
Newsorthy	NOTABLE





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