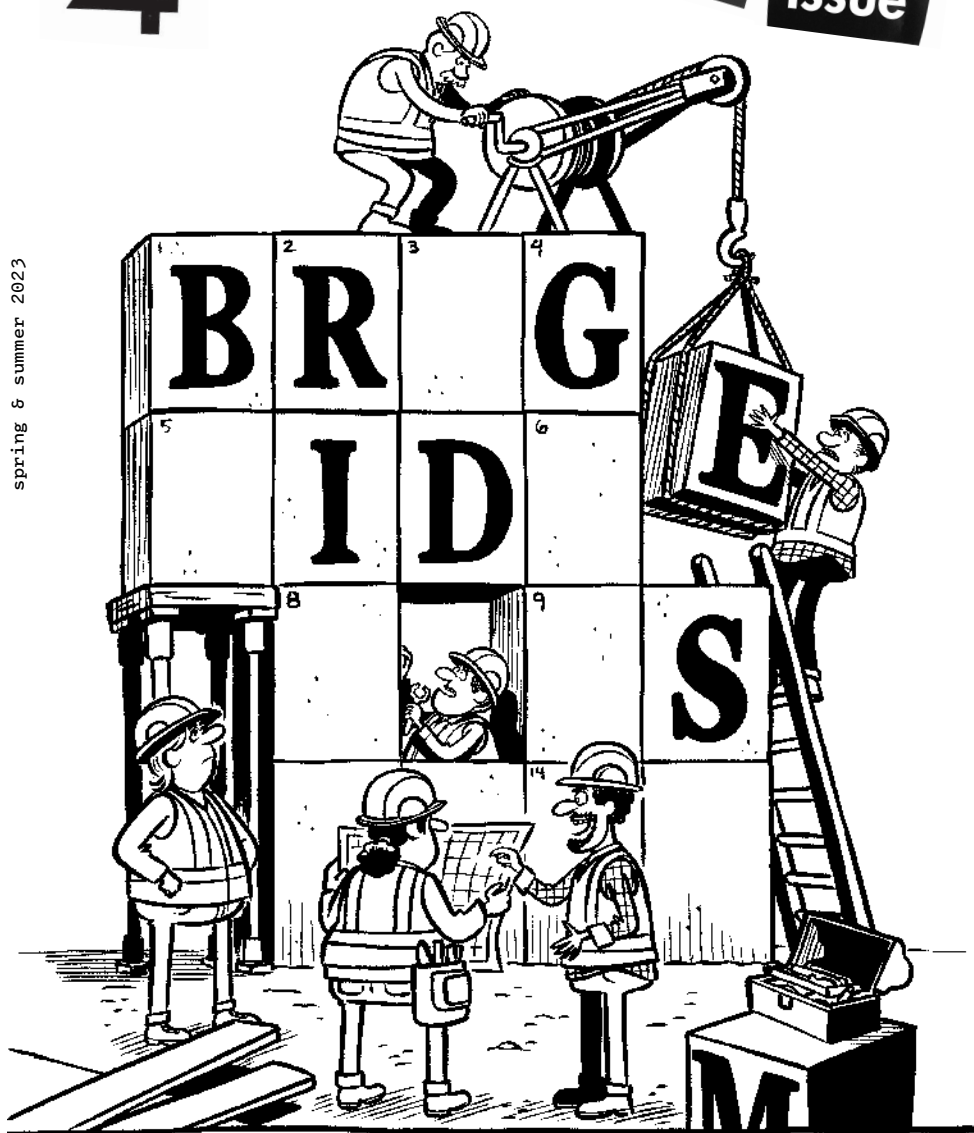


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The Puzzle Issue

spring & summer 2023



Presented by:

Bklyn
Public Library

Justice
Initiatives

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Cover illustration by Mike Cavallaro

Puzzles

for incarcerated people

Dear Readers and Solvers,

In 2021, I published my first crossword in a print newspaper, *USA Today*. Soon after, I got a phone call about Z, a person I'm very close to, who has been incarcerated in a state penitentiary for some years. "Z solved your crossword!," the person on the phone said. "*USA Today* is the only paper he can get in prison, and whenever he gets a copy, he solves the crossword."

Even though I've known Z for most of my life, our relationship has been complicated since the events that led to him going to prison, and I had no idea that he had started solving crossword puzzles. When I published mine, I had no clue that it would form a new connection between us. I suddenly had a vision of him in his cell, solving the *USA Today* crossword every day (well, whenever he could get the paper, at any rate). To some people, a crossword puzzle is a meaningless diversion, but for him, it was a valuable chance to do something interesting, to stretch his mind, and to focus on things outside his surroundings.

Then my vision broadened to include incarcerated solvers everywhere, and completely changed the way that I thought about making puzzles. I hadn't been able to imagine the actual people who would solve my puzzle, but

now I thought about the millions of people in jails and prisons for whom a crossword might be a welcome activity. Even if only a tiny fraction of this country's incarcerated people looked at my puzzle, it still made me feel incredibly humbled and fortunate, and gave so much more meaning to the fact that I'd made it.

I don't think I have illusions about the importance of crossword puzzles. I don't think they are changing the world. But I now know that for a few minutes a day, they bring Z some joy, and some relief from tedium and frustration. And I'm grateful for the chance to be a part of that.

This set of puzzles is made by 20 people who feel the same way. The 30 puzzles in this issue—which feature 3 word searches and 27 crosswords of various sizes and difficulties—have been edited and packaged specifically for this purpose. There are puzzles in here (and tips on how to tackle them) for brand-new solvers, old pros and everyone in between.

Thank you to the Justice Initiatives team at Brooklyn Public Library for producing this issue of *Bridges*. Thank you to Z. And thank YOU, for reading this and (hopefully) trying out the puzzles, and for inspiring me and many others.

Kate Chin Park

Word Search Puzzles

Monster Mash!

by Kelsey Dixon

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

Beast
 Bowser
 Cenobite
 Cthulhu
 Dracula
 Frankenstein
 Gargoyle
 Godzilla
 Gritty

King Kong
 Loch Ness
 Mothra
 Mummy
 Ogre
 Orc
 Pod People
 Reptar
 Sandworm
 Yeti

Crossed Countries

by Kelsey Dixon

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

Afghanistan	Ethiopia	Madagascar	Samoa
Australia	France	Malaysia	Singapore
Bahamas	Germany	Mexico	South Africa
Belize	Greece	Myanmar	Spain
Brazil	Haiti	Nepal	Switzerland
Canada	India	New Zealand	Togo
China	Indonesia	Nicaragua	Tuvalu
Costa Rica	Iraq	Nigeria	Ukraine
Cuba	Ireland	Pakistan	Venezuela
Djibouti	Jamaica	Philippines	Vietnam
Egypt	Luxembourg	Poland	Zimbabwe

Sports Scramble

by Kelsey Dixon

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

Athletics
 Avalanche
 Bills
 Buccaneers
 Bulls
 Cardinals
 Cavaliers
 Celtics
 Chiefs
 Diamondbacks
 Dolphins
 Eagles

Flyers
 Forty Niners
 Giants
 Golden
 Knights
 Grizzlies
 Hawks
 Hurricanes
 Jaguars
 Jazz
 Knicks
 Kraken
 Lakers

Lions
 Maple Leafs
 Mariners
 Mavericks
 Nationals
 Nets
 Oilers
 Orioles
 Packers
 Padres
 Raiders
 Raptors
 Ravens

Royals
 Saints
 Seahawks
 Sixers
 Spurs
 Tigers
 Timberwolves
 Trailblazers
 Twins
 Vikings
 Warriors
 Wizards
 Yankees

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 too. 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—but you won't need to include a space.)

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!

Difficulty: beginner

Crossword 1

by Kate Chin Park

Across

- 1 Sneeze sound
- 6 "Worked like a ___!"
- 7 Far northeast U.S. state famous for lobster
- 8 "Tiny Dancer" singer John
- 9 "Break me off a piece of that ___ Kat bar"

Down

- 1 Wile E. Coyote brand of choice with products like "Dehydrated Boulders: Just Add Water" and "Do-It Yourself Tornado Kit" and "Female Road-Runner Costume"
- 2 Item for writing on a sidewalk or classroom board
- 3 Caribbean nation that borders the Dominican Republic
- 4 "Ready ___, here I come"
- 5 Sign of things to come

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
	9			

Crossword 2

by Erik Agard

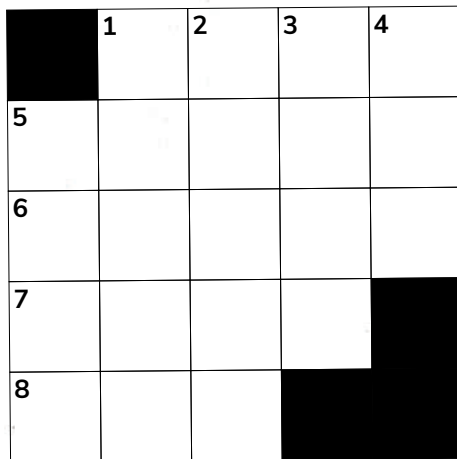
Difficulty: beginner

Across

- 1 What <3 symbolizes
- 5 Name repeated in the title of a Santana song
- 6 Beneath
- 7 Distort in a particular direction
- 8 Sticky substance on roads

Down

- 1 South Asian island country
Sri —
- 2 Alphabetical is one
- 3 Opinion
- 4 Body part with a lobe
- 5 Has to



Difficulty: beginner

Crossword 3

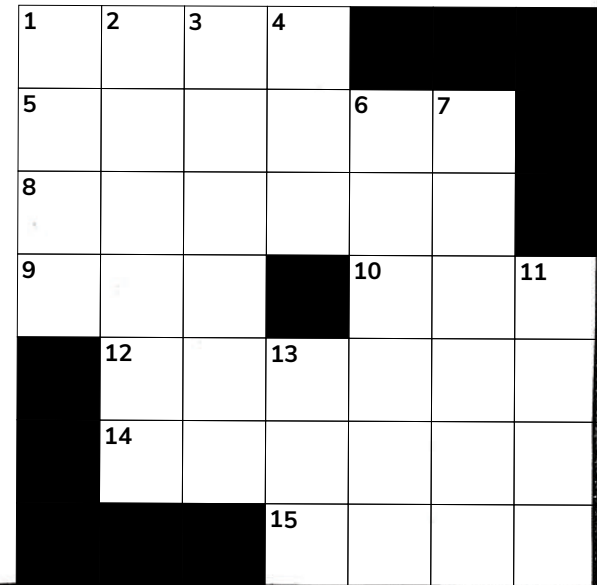
by Kate Chin Park

Across

- 1 Pokey-outy parts of a coat rack
- 5 Alternative to Down, in a crossword puzzle
- 8 Opportunity
- 9 Weight unit equal to 2,000 lbs
- 10 Label for Harry Belafonte, Alicia Keys, and Duke Ellington
- 12 Name that might get shortened to Eddie
- 14 Flowed slowly, like water through a crack
- 15 "Place your ___!" (casino cry)

Down

- 1 Agreement such as a treaty
- 2 Noise effects in caves (caves) (caves) (caves)
- 3 Large, in Spanish
- 4 Child who's a boy
- 6 Result of falling on your knee
- 7 Something nobody else knows
- 11 Calculates a sum
- 13 What a spider "weaves"



Crossword 4

by Kate Chin Park

Difficulty: easy

Across

- 1 Half-___ (coffee order that won't wake you up quite as much)
- 4 "Uh-uh, that's garbage"
- 8 Body position that might be upright or slouchy
- 9 Word similar to "quantity," for short
- 10 Nerf ___ (toy that shoots foam pellets)
- 11 Fast food chain serving American-style Mexican food
- 13 Carpet cleaner that uses heated water vapor
- 14 What eyes do

Down

- 1 Palaces
- 2 ___-country and ___-rock (types of music)
- 3 Iconic 1997 NBA Finals performance by an ailing Michael Jordan, who later said that he wasn't sick but suffering from food poisoning
- 4 Apple tablets
- 5 Space object with a tail
- 6 ___ Lee, martial arts legend
- 7 Sir, in Spanish
- 12 1990's home workout fad ___ Bo

		1	2	3		
4	5				6	7
8						
9				10		
11			12			
13						
		14				

Difficulty: easy

Crossword 5

by Rafael Musa

Across

- 1 Bone in a "cage"
- 4 Place with treadmills
- 7 Largest city in Georgia (abbr.)
- 8 Winning tic-tac-toe row
- 9 Mardi ___ (celebration that brings thousands of revelers to Bourbon Street in New Orleans)
- 11 Hot guy
- 12 "That's the way the cookie crumbles"
- 15 Consideration when buying foundation makeup
- 16 Group of orbiting celestial bodies
- 18 "Jane ___" (1847 novel)
- 19 "___! Soy Dora" (greeting from Dora the Explorer)
- 20 Decompose
- 21 Online chats, for short
- 22 Transport option for a school field trip, often

- 23 Drink sometimes served with tapioca pearls

Down

- 1 From ___ to riches
- 2 Expression of faith
- 3 Movement of the '60s & '70s with parallels to the Harlem Renaissance
- 4 Did some serious unpacking of emotions
- 5 "Get what I'm saying?"
- 6 Pie a la ___ (dessert with ice cream)
- 10 The ___ (hobbits' home)
- 11 Move noisily, like water
- 13 Plural ending with drop-, walk-, or shoo-
- 14 Home for a pig
- 16 Belgrade resident
- 17 Maize dough used to make gorditas or tamales

1	2	3			4	5	6
7					8		
9			10		11		
12				13	14		
	15						
16							17
18					19		
20						21	
22						23	

Crossword 6

by Brooke Husic

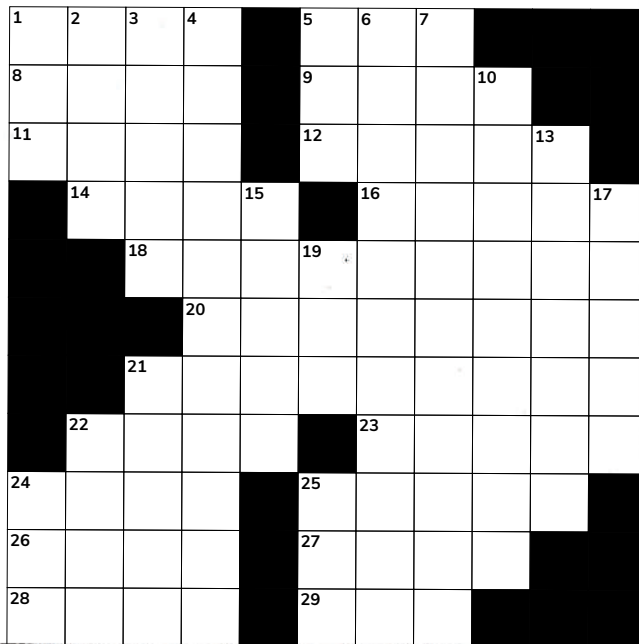
Difficulty: easy

Across

- 1 Exchange
- 5 Have a role in a play
- 8 Spanish for "stick"
- 9 Hold onto tightly
- 11 Move like water in a river
- 12 Intro's opposite
- 14 Fingers, but on feet
- 16 Oily or slippery, maybe
- 18 Spray that gives a scent to a room
- 20 Move to a new place
- 21 Scoots over, perhaps
- 22 Without, in French
- 23 ___ couture (high fashion, also in French)
- 24 Drink a whole can at once, say
- 25 True statements
- 26 Bird that symbolizes peace
- 27 Boats like Noah's
- 28 Person who can predict the future
- 29 Degrees for physicians

Down

- 1 Rating on a sunscreen bottle
- 2 Knicks great Frazier
- 3 Distant and detached
- 4 "Mighty Morphin'" figure of '90s TV
- 5 "That was ages ___"
- 6 Is super smitten
- 7 Songs that share their names with the albums they're on
- 10 Paper copies
- 13 Smallish spotted wildcats
- 15 Tries to find
- 17 Krispy ___ Doughnuts
- 19 Direction opposite north-northwest: Abbr.
- 21 Dusty purple hue
- 22 Boot or sneaker
- 24 Music media in jewel cases
- 25 Close relatives or friends, for short



Across

- 1 Brazilian berry with three vowels in its name
- 5 Whiskey bar measurement
- 9 Standards
- 11 Queenly, maybe
- 13 Popular cell phone brand in the '90s
- 14 Mental picture
- 15 Person from Poland or Slovenia, for example
- 17 Dessert with a crust
- 18 Performs a step between shuffling and dealing
- 22 Tennis great Arthur with a stadium named after him
- 23 Prefix with -metric (for exercise) or -tope (in chemistry)
- 24 Sing the praises of
- 25 Uses a chair
- 28 Period from sunset to sunrise
- 32 Noodle dish you might eat in Bangkok
- 34 Structure created by a beaver
- 35 City home to the Cavaliers and the Browns, on scoreboards
- 36 "And so on": Abbr.
- 37 Tree on Washington, DC's National Mall
- 38 Polite way to address someone
- 39 "Yikes!"
- 40 Sneaky

Crossword 7

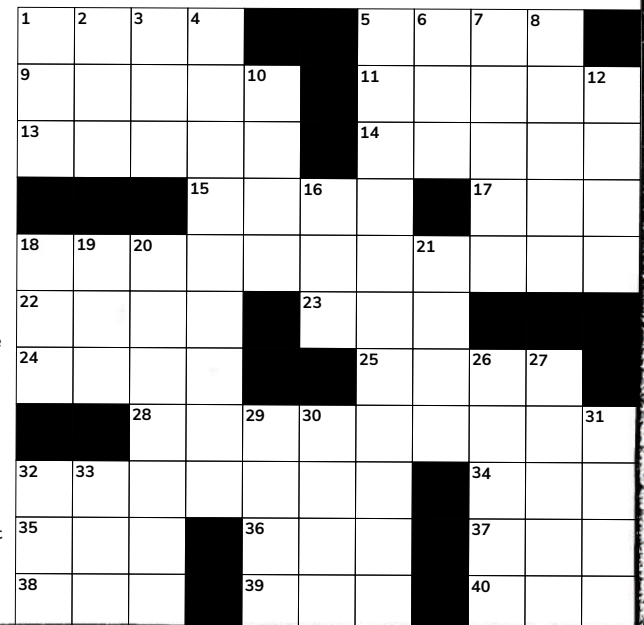
by Brooke Husic

- 7 Mouth-hanging-open astonished, poetically
- 8 Wizard's talent
- 10 Pepper's partner (or Pepa's partner)
- 12 Vegetable similar to an onion
- 16 Type of tuna at a sushi restaurant
- 18 Nickname for a university in Berkeley (or for Berkeley's state)
- 19 Country between Mexico and Canada: Abbr.
- 20 It comes after lightning
- 21 "You have to!"
- 26 Rise and fall of bodies of water
- 27 Little
- 29 Clarified butter
- 30 Despise
- 31 TV award
- 32 Non-Apple laptops
- 33 "The Greatest" boxer

Difficulty: easy

Down

- 1 ___ Arbor, Michigan
- 2 Make a sound like a dove
- 3 Boat in Genesis
- 4 "You have to show me that again"
- 5 Opts for a car with a clutch pedal & gearshift
- 6 ___ sleep (phase when dreaming occurs)



Difficulty: easy

Crossword 8

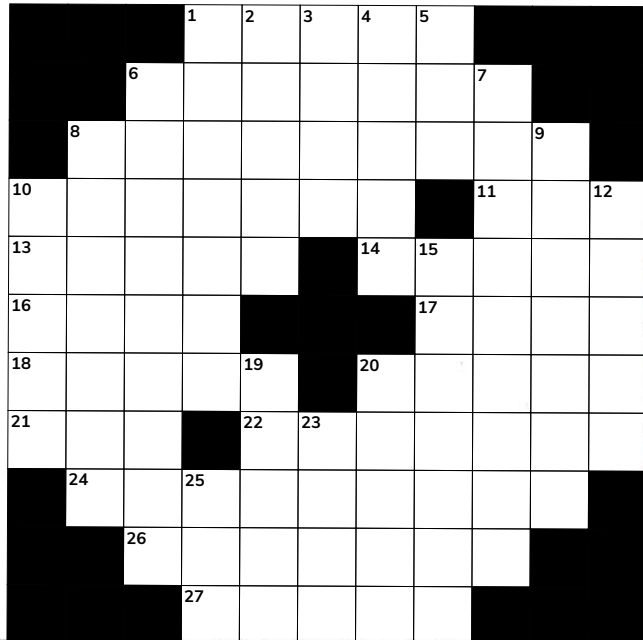
by Erica Hsiung-Wolcik

Across

- 1 Overused plot device
- 6 Like many resorts, geographically
- 8 Romantic lead in "In the Mood For Love" and villainous father in "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings"
- 10 Purrr-tal to the backyard
- 11 "Just a ___ in a machine"
- 13 Tree nut that looks like it's wearing a hat
- 14 Points tally
- 16 ___ Adeyemi, author of "Children of Blood and Bone"
- 17 Massive
- 18 First stage in Little League
- 20 Draped Indian dresses
- 21 "Hurrah!"
- 22 Like some country roads
- 24 Last one to arrive, in a playground taunt
- 26 Try again, in a way
- 27 Double-dog ___ (big-time challenges)

Down

- 1 Curly vine or bit of hair
- 2 Synthetic fabric common in clothing
- 3 Capital of Norway
- 4 Structures that jut out of wharfs
- 5 What comes after the dot in a college's web address
- 6 Sonia ___, US Supreme Court Justice
- 7 Cheer on
- 8 Serve-yourself setup that might have tortillas, carne asada, frijoles, and salsa
- 9 Stuffing one's face
- 10 ___ remark (something said with one's metaphorical claws out)
- 12 Winged honkers
- 15 Fancy ski lodges
- 19 "Whole ___ Love" (Led Zeppelin song)
- 20 Perceive
- 23 Close by
- 25 Partner of Bill for an "Excellent Adventure"



Crossword 9

by Rafael Musa

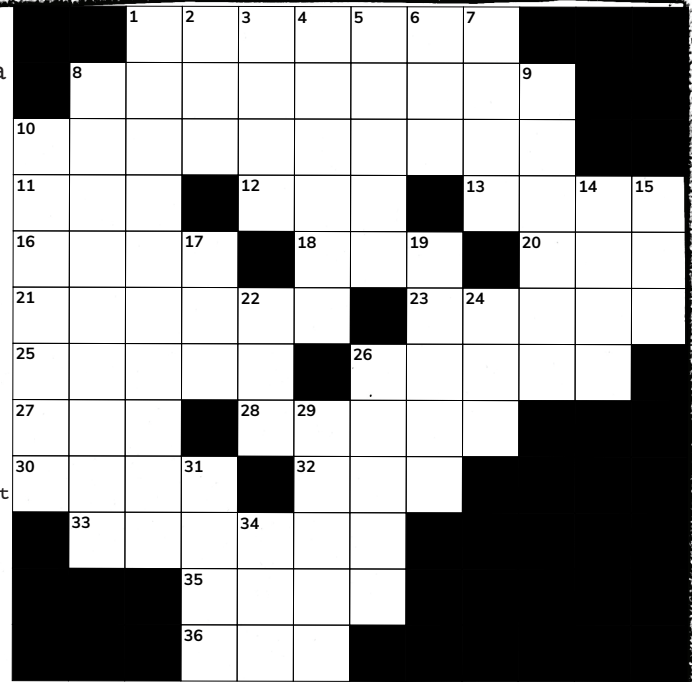
Difficulty: MEDIUM

Across

- 1 Nowhere near
- 8 "What's up?"
- 10 Tennis feat named for one of the greatest players of all time
- 11 "___ ... Sasha Fierce" (2008 Beyonce album)
- 12 "Inside the NBA" channel
- 13 Like a 1-1 soccer game
- 16 "Fair point"
- 18 Forensic TV franchise
- 20 Street such as NYC's Park or Madison: Abbr.
- 21 "Gotta run to my next appointment!"
- 23 Internet content that begs to be shared
- 25 Approaches
- 26 4-Down neighbor famous for its bullfighting
- 27 "On vacation" inits., for a desk worker
- 28 Prepared to propose, maybe
- 30 Creatures of habit?
- 32 "___ second now..."
- 33 People born and raised in San Antonio, for example
- 35 Function in trigonometry
- 36 Synonym (and rhyme) for dry

Down

- 1 "Drive to Survive" sport often considered the pinnacle of motor racing
- 2 Astonishment
- 3 Loooooong complaint
- 4 Country whose biggest city is Paris
- 5 Takes a breather
- 6 Olive ___ ("Popeye" character)
- 7 Deterrent for medieval soldier thinking about laying siege to a castle
- 8 "Don't say no just yet"
- 9 FL school whose mascot is Sebastian the Ibis
- 10 Attend without actively participating, maybe
- 14 What every leap year is, number-wise
- 15 ___ Moines, Iowa
- 17 Site of the body's smallest bone
- 19 Suggest without saying
- 22 Disapproving sound
- 24 Enjoy some goiabada or gorditas
- 26 Word after common or spidey
- 29 Childcare professional
- 31 Media festival in Austin with a directional name, for short
- 34 Tire filler



Crossword 10

by
Brooke Husic

Difficulty:
medium

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11									12	
13									14	
15					16	17			18	
19			20					21		
			22							
23	24	25						26	27	28
29				30					31	
32			33			34	35			
36						37				
38						39				

Across

- 1 Atlantic or Pacific, for example
- 6 Drug company that makes aspirin
- 11 Unfamiliar person, for short
- 12 Wombs
- 13 Nonspecific dread
- 14 Tasteless
- 15 "Haha"
- 16 Dollop
- 18 "Sprechen ___ Deutsch?"
- 19 "Bye for now!"
- 22 Cross the threshold
- 23 Gymnast considered by many to be the greatest of all time
- 29 Hawaiian string instrument, for short
- 30 Notre Dame legend Parseghian
- 31 Fire department employee: Abbr.
- 32 Something gathered by a spy, briefly
- 34 Singer Braxton who was once in a group with her sisters Toni, Towanda, Trina, and Tamar
- 36 Name hidden in the phrase "water ride"
- 37 Safe place
- 38 Used a curse word
- 39 Not sour or bitter

Down

- 1 Spoken-aloud exams
- 2 Boat for a trip down the river
- 3 "A Wrinkle in Time" author L' ___
- 4 Non-football content aired during the Super Bowl
- 5 "Have to be real with you here..."
- 6 Sudsy soaks
- 7 Georgia's capital, for short
- 8 What makes bread rise
- 9 Bert and ___
- 10 Person on a bus
- 17 Opposite of inner
- 20 Type of naval officer, for short
- 21 The Diamondbacks, as listed on a scoreboard
- 23 Outfits for some interviews
- 24 "This wasn't news to me"
- 25 Subway system
- 26 Exit
- 27 Awards show host
- 28 Time at a job
- 33 Make a mistake
- 35 Like much sushi

Crossword 11

by
Brooke Husic

Difficulty:
medium

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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13										
	14							15		
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21	22	23						24	25	26
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32									33	

Across

- 1 Stacks of blocks that get taller and less stable over the course of the game
- 12 Phoney guide?
- 13 Title for a certain pageant queen
- 14 Aliens, for short
- 15 Poetic "before," as in "Pluck the roses ___ they rot"
- 16 Missouri city that used to be home to the Rams: Abbr.
- 18 Some streets: Abbr.
- 19 The "A" of AV
- 21 Options when nothing else has worked
- 27 Something to put on a resume
- 28 Stopped sitting down
- 29 Brownish image filter
- 30 Any minute now
- 31 Damage to a fender
- 32 Bother
- 33 Recording genius ___ "Scratch" Perry

Down

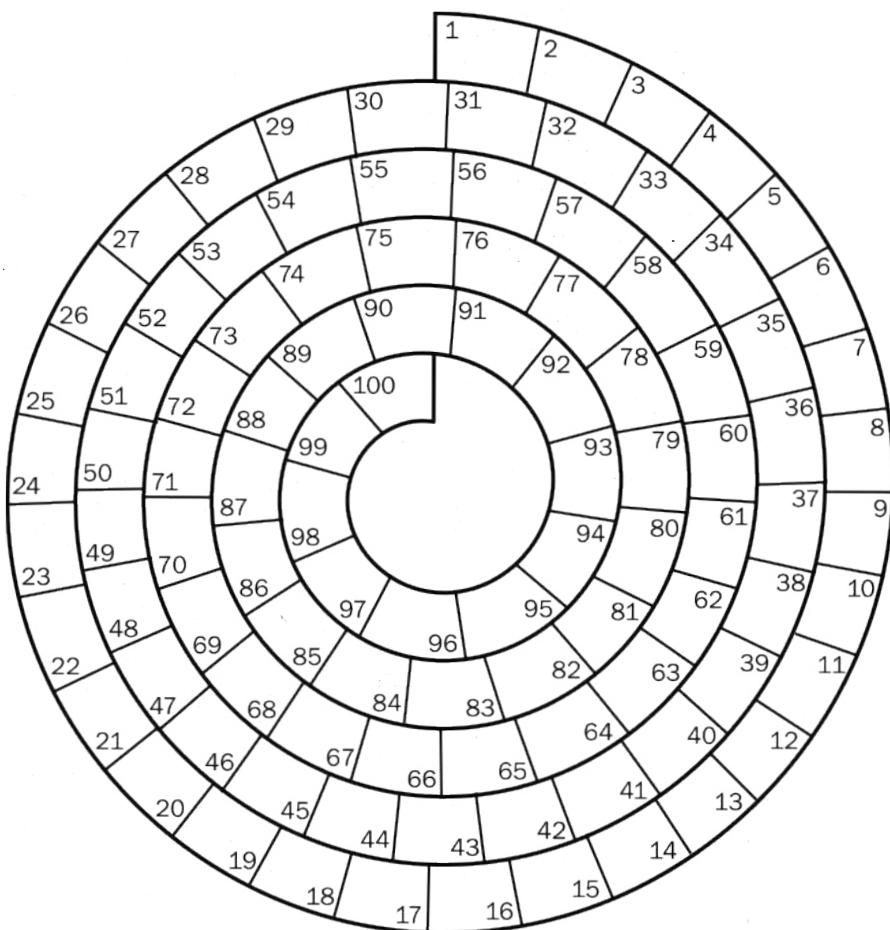
- 1 Topping similar to jelly
- 2 Great lake near Buffalo
- 3 Homes for wasps or birds
- 4 Place to fill up with diesel
- 5 Obamacare initials hidden in "Obamacare"
- 6 Male cat
- 7 Dedicated poem
- 8 "Nooooo, this is a disaster!"
- 9 Some monarchs in the Middle East
- 10 Speed competition
- 11 Spot for a body wrap or facial treatment
- 17 Drew in with temptation
- 18 Gets higher
- 20 Shorthand for a software ___eloper
- 21 South Asian yogurt drink that might have mango puree added
- 22 Professional in a movie
- 23 Trembled
- 24 Drive away
- 25 Texting tech. before smartphones that's a letter followed by a number
- 26 Alaska or Alabama

Something different: a spiral puzzle

Difficulty: medium

by Alex Boisvert

When completed, this grid will contain two series of words—one reading inward from 1 to 100, the other outward from 100 back to 1. Every space will be used exactly twice. Work from both sets of clues to complete the puzzle.



Inward

- 1-7 Whaler's weapon
- 8-12 City-related
- 13-16 "Dancing Queen" quartet
- 17-22 One who can't get enough of working out (2 words)
- 23-26 What Valentine's Day celebrates
- 27-32 Bring to mind
- 33-36 Prominent features on a jackrabbit
- 37-44 Largest city in Turkey
- 45-52 The "Cal" in Apu's alma mater "Cal Tech", on "The Simpsons"
- 53-59 Star of the show, in a bullfight
- 60-63 Gull-like seabird whose name sounds like a word meaning "rotate"
- 64-67 Garfield's canine frenemy
- 68-77 Kenny G's instrument of choice (2 words)
- 78-83 Over the moon
- 84-88 Played a part, in a play
- 89-92 "Yeah, right!" (2 words)
- 93-96 Preposition made by mashing two other prepositions together
- 97-100 Owl's cry

Outward

- 100-95 Uncomfortably warm (2 words)
- 94-91 Little informal letter
- 90-86 Fancy toilet feature
- 85-81 Officer-in-training
- 80-76 Amazon-created virtual assistant
- 75-71 Radar, but underwater
- 70-63 Zeus, but underwater
- 62-58 Like bell bottoms or acid-washed jeans
- 57-54 Contents of a spreadsheet
- 53-50 Actor Damon of "The Bourne Identity"
- 49-46 Home of the NCAA's Bruins
- 45-42 "You hate playing card suits that look like clovers? Join the ___"
- 41-38 Washington's MLB team, for short
- 37-32 Nation whose official language is Hebrew
- 31-28 Delicate fabric found on wedding dresses
- 27-22 Rise up, like a French peasant in 1789
- 21-18 "If you don't like water, don't join the Navy, if you don't like flying, don't join the Air Force, and if you don't like walking, the ___ might not be for you."
—Rory Albanese
- 17-11 Fashion company Dolce & ___
- 10-6 Bruno ___ ("That's What I Like" singer who headlined the Super Bowl halftime show in 2014)
- 5-1 Winfrey who has eleventy kajillion dollars (approx.)

How do Themes in Crosswords Work?

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: a 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.

13 Shower Caps

by Shannon Rapp

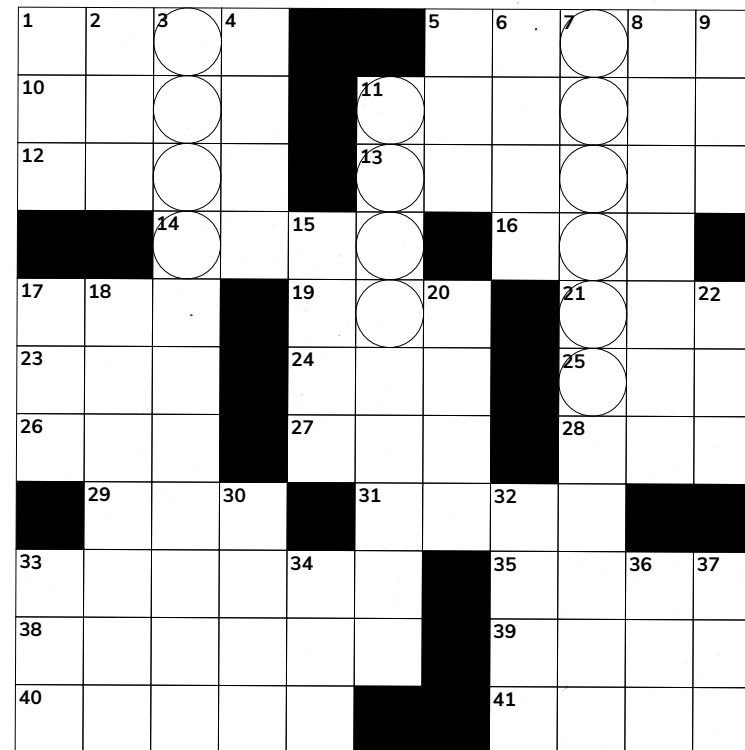
Difficulty: easy

Across

- 1 Darlin'
- 5 Path traveled by a planet around the sun
- 10 October birthstone
- 11 Pay with a credit card
- 12 Spider's creations
- 13 "All right, let's do it your way"
- 14 Hoot and holler
- 16 "Much ___ About Nothing" (Shakespeare play)
- 17 ___ I Am ("Green Eggs and Ham" character)
- 19 TV commercials
- 21 Class with paint
- 23 Expert
- 24 "Finger-lickin' good" eatery
- 25 Author Harper who wrote "To Kill a Mockingbird"
- 26 ___ and yang (idea from Chinese philosophy)
- 27 Time span of note
- 28 "The More You Know" spot, for one
- 29 Change course suddenly
- 31 Black-&-white hunter in the sea
- 33 Ibuprofen brand
- 35 Pasta that looks like rice
- 38 Bless with oil
- 39 Shape of a "Well done!" sticker, maybe
- 40 St. Louis baseball team, for short
- 41 Use a keyboard to write

Down

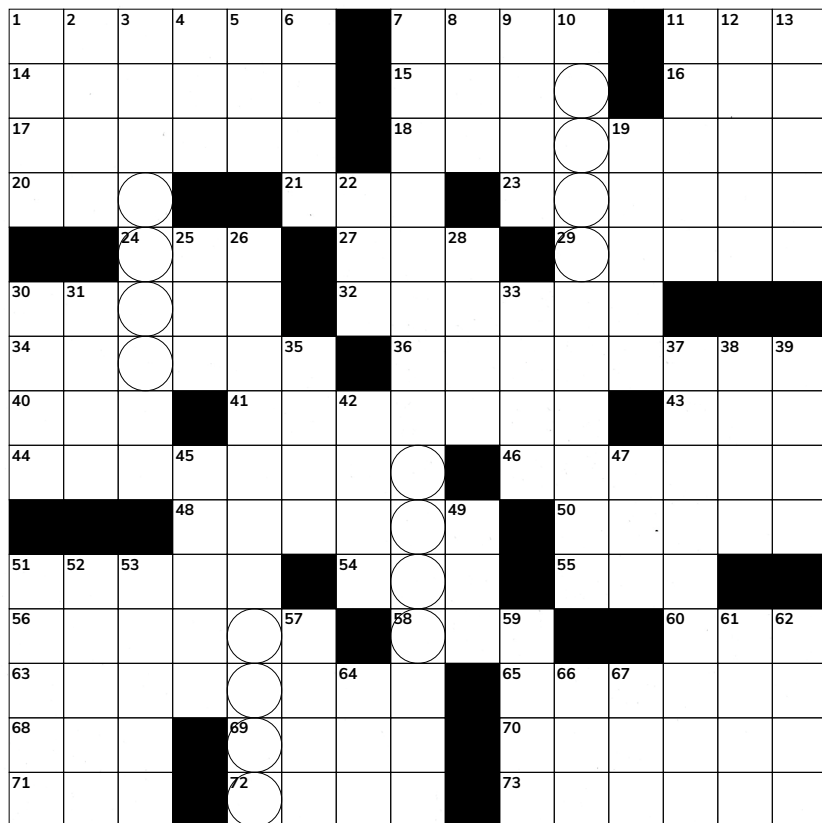
- 1 It might be tied around a gift
- 2 Gorilla, for example
- 3 It helps you keep an ear on a newborn from another room
- 4 "What ___?"
- 5 "I see now!"
- 6 Tennis star Nadal, informally
- 7 Wife-to-be and her companions
- 8 Doesn't pay attention to
- 9 Concert souvenir
- 11 It might bring in a snowstorm
- 15 Michigan, Erie, or Tahoe
- 17 Person who might bug you?
- 18 Grand Canyon state
- 20 Mark from an old injury
- 22 Drink that might be black or green
- 30 Graph paper layout
- 32 "Sure, but it'll ___ ya"
- 33 Cheese-y partner?
- 34 ___ and outs
- 36 Sci-fi sound effect
- 37 Unrefined material



14 Cloudy Days

by Taylor Johnson

Difficulty: medium



Across

- 1 Oversee, as employees
- 7 Distinctive sour flavor
- 11 "Carpenter" or "fire" insect
- 14 Hybrid genre for Lil Peep and Juice WRLD
- 15 Computer brand
- 16 ___-hanging fruit (symbol of an easy win)
- 17 Vehicular word ending with auto- or snow- or bat-
- 18 Board game where players make words using lettered tiles
- 20 "To ___ is human" ("Messing up is natural")
- 21 Chow down
- 23 Thin out, like liquid
- 24 Roker, Gore, and Pacino, to list a few
- 27 Resting place
- 29 Gave a moniker to
- 30 Religious group known for avoiding modern conveniences
- 32 Hazy daze
- 34 Not in any order

- 36 Kind of correct, or at least not wrong
- 40 Storm center
- 41 Highest-ranked Cub Scouts
- 43 Off-road four-wheeler, for short
- 44 Spelling expert?
- 46 Greenish color that appears on copper
- 48 Venues for concerts or sporting events
- 50 ___ closet (place to store towels and sheets)
- 51 Palm leaf
- 54 Close, like a jacket or jeans
- 55 Actor Danson of "The Good Place" and "Cheers"
- 56 Gossipy stories
- 58 Lil ___ X (hip hop artist)
- 60 "Insecure" actress and writer Issa
- 63 Someone might do this when ordering the first round of drinks
- 65 "Hmm... could go either way"
- 68 Number of pins in bowling
- 69 Vanish ___ thin air
- 70 Digital creature that a player feeds and cares for, "like an online hybrid of Pokemon and Tamagotchi," according to one writer
- 71 "___ So Fine" (song by the Chiffons)
- 72 Abbreviation that warns of R-rated content
- 73 The Sunflower State

Down

- 1 Something much-shared on social media
- 2 Love, in Spanish
- 3 "That's a ___!" ("Easy-peasy!")

- 4 Phoenix-based NFL team, on a scoreboard
- 5 Woman, in old-fashioned slang
- 6 Fencing sword
- 7 Skittles catchphrase
- 8 NCAA org. for Duke and Notre Dame
- 9 Geek, maybe
- 10 What to take advice with, in a saying
- 11 Collection of photos or songs
- 12 Actor Nick of "48 Hrs." and "The Prince of Tides"
- 13 Rough blazer material
- 19 "Paul ___ : Mall Cop"
- 22 Bodybuilder's core concerns?
- 25 Acid
- 26 Collector of wet hair
- 28 Like airbags that provide protection for both driver and passenger
- 30 Greek god of war
- 31 Sandwich condiment
- 33 Sound of a pebble thrown into water
- 35 ___ mortals
- 37 Bits that fall from the sky during a storm... and a description of this puzzle's circled letters, literally
- 38 "___ Reader" (digest whose name rhymes with "chutney")
- 39 Third baseman Longoria who was AL Rookie of the Year in 2008
- 42 German auto pioneer
- 45 Popular camera brand
- 47 It leads to overtime
- 49 Place to get a massage
- 51 Foam, like the surface of steamed milk
- 52 Monetary unit in India
- 53 Warning signs
- 57 Places where trains stop: Abbr.
- 59 Where to do the dishes
- 61 Neck of the woods
- 62 Docs named for their treatment of ear, nose, and throat ailments
- 64 Law-enforcement agcy. that regulates possession of explosives
- 66 "Oh, cry ___ river!"
- 67 2,000 pounds

15 Playtime

by Dob Olino

Difficulty: medium

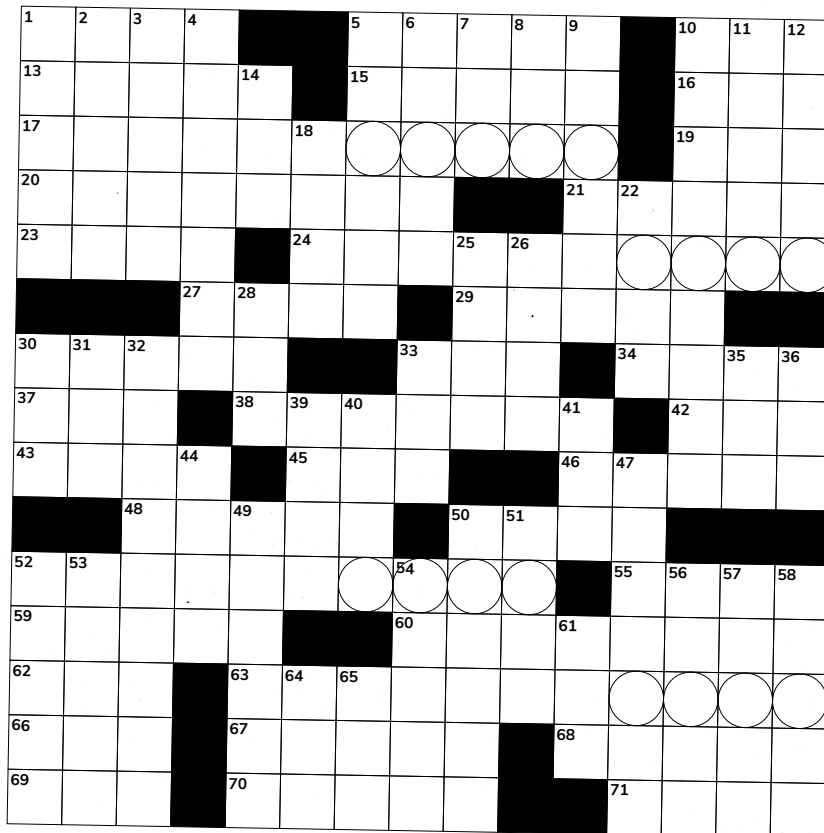
Across

- 1 Puerto ___
 5 Exams taken by some H.S. sophomores
 10 L.A. football player
 13 Haim bandmember and co-star of "Licorice Pizza"
 15 Pertaining to bees
 16 Former Giants QB Manning
 17 "No reason to apologize!"
 19 Huge amount
 20 "Oh, really?"
 21 Has the guts
 23 Native American people of the Midwest
 24 Proceed regardless of consequences
 27 Like canyons or thoughts, maybe
 29 Nest on a mountaintop
 30 In an unusual way
 33 Where you'll find Falcons and Hawks, but not Eagles
 34 Declare to be true
 37 Kitty's coat
 38 Ultimate purpose, metaphorically... and a hint to what's found, literally, in this puzzle's four longest answers
 42 Important period of time
 43 On-court violation
 45 Head of data for a big corp.
 46 Microsoft Windows precursor
 48 Flat buttes?
 50 Short comedic sketch
 52 Is totally befuddled
 55 Great ___ (large primates)
 59 Feeling some nervous energy
 60 "... as it turns out"
 62 Go downhill fast?
 63 "Let me experience everything!" attitude

- 66 "Waterfalls" trio
 67 Come together for a common goal
 68 Stiff and inflexible
 69 It rhymes with "squeak," appropriately
 70 More achy
 71 Hamiltons

Down

- 1 AM/FM device
 2 "My opponent won"
 3 Italian word for a poem division that's hidden in the phrase "American tour"
 4 Hush-hush, informally
 5 Skip
 6 One parent of a spork
 7 Breathe it in!
 8 Something that covers a lot of ground?
 9 "Wonder Woman" director Zack
 10 Fetched, like certain golden dog
 11 Succulent plants with burn-soothing properties
 12 Belarusian capital
 14 Professional org. for attorneys
 18 Raison d' ___ (reason for being, in French)
 22 Las Vegas hotel named for a type of opera song
 25 "Toodle-oo!"
 26 Ship's steering wheel
 28 Seer?
 30 "And they're ___!"
 31 Twosome
 32 Certain chicken piece, or an ice cream treat that's kinda shaped like one
 33 "A long time ___ in a galaxy far, far away..."

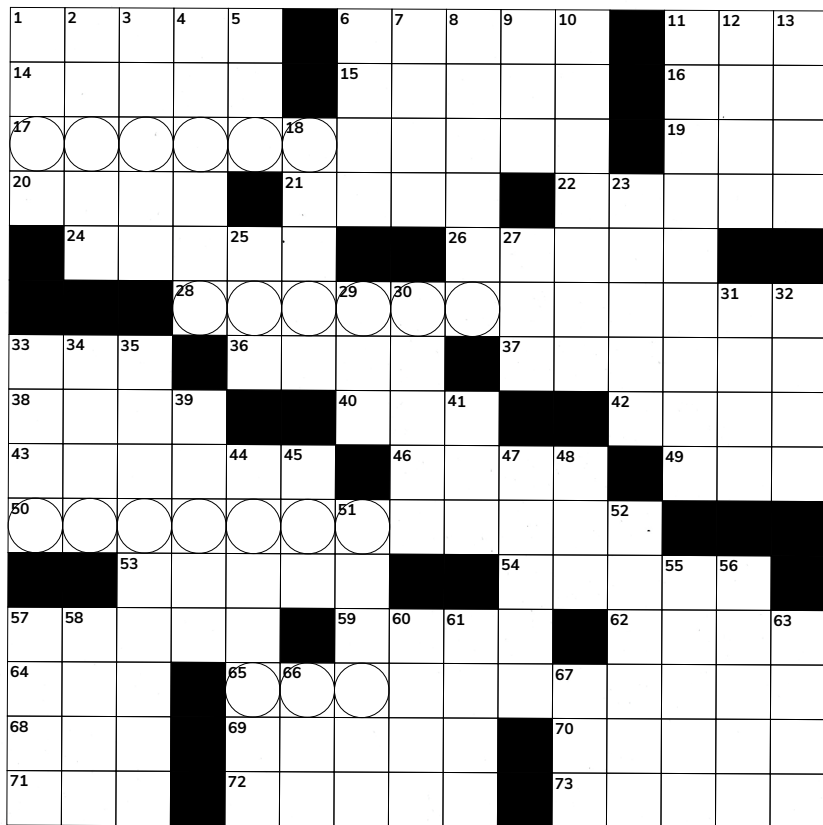


- 35 Gold, in Guadalajara
 36 Is in the past?
 39 Org. that governs March Madness
 40 The D of CD
 41 U.K. record label
 44 See-through part of glasses or a camera
 47 Illuminated by the night sky
 49 Tablet's "pen"
 50 Be in pain
 51 Low-carb fad diet
 52 Swiftiness or hurry
 53 Joint that's been rolled by Steph Curry on multiple occasions
 54 Milky espresso drink
 56 Baseball Hall of Famer, and oldest MLB player of all time, Satchel
 57 Little, like Keebler workers
 58 Things to ride down a snowy hillside
 61 Mess up
 64 ___, dos, tres, cuatro
 65 Polite form of address

16 Bundle Up

by Hoang-Kim Vu

Difficulty: medium



Across

- 1 Wood in a craft kit
 6 Following
 11 "Pass"
 14 "The Little Mermaid" mermaid
 15 Depart
 16 Logical beginning?
 17 Skiers' and skaters' Olympiad, informally
 19 Single-stranded genetic molecule
 20 Building block of childhood?
 21 Name at the O.K. Corral
 22 ___ finger
 24 Their cushions might have coins and crumbs under them
 26 "It's an ___ but a goodie"
 28 Siberian landscape that Lambeau Field is often described as
 33 Generator of hydroelectric power
 36 Object of worship
 37 Overhaul, as a machine
 38 Long-term savings accounts: Abbr.
 40 Some reproductive cells
 42 Dance whose modern form is called ___ 'auana

- 43 Dog treats, sometimes
 46 They're often cracked in the morning
 49 Half a score... or a perfect score
 50 Dishes to slurp in the summertime
 53 "Swell!"
 54 Break-fast meal?
 57 ___ to ___ (baseline to baseline, in basketball)
 59 Signatures on street art
 62 General location
 64 Go (for)
 65 Activities for a group of people who don't know one another
 68 Last name shared by directors Ang and Spike
 69 ___ Wafers
 70 Important choice when planning a wedding
 71 Popular role-playing game, for short
 72 Mythological human-like creature made from clay
 73 Yoga pose
 11 Got super excited about the tiny details, in a saying
 12 Skin breakout
 13 Bit of trickery
 18 Improve on-the-ground coverage, say
 23 Bottom of the ___ (crunch time)
 25 Grammy nominee Lennox
 27 Paper size smaller than LGL
 29 Animal house
 30 North Pole workforce
 31 Part of a play?
 32 Actor Alda, Cumming, or Rickman
 33 One of 23 in the human spine
 34 Ornamental gateway
 35 Prepared meat for grilling, perhaps
 39 Department of commerce?
 41 Ages ___ (ancient history)
 44 Chef's final staging of a dish
 45 Word between ready and go
 47 Under the ___ of (using as a pretense)
 48 Moisturizer rating, in brief
 51 "I need to hear this!"
 52 Low ones mean not risking much
 55 Stadium
 56 You may have seen it before
 57 With 58-Down, feature of many procedural TV episodes... or what each of 17-, 28-, 50- and 65-Across is an example of, in a way
 58 See 57-Down
 60 Competent
 61 Metric measure
 63 Out on the ocean
 66 Exec in charge of data
 67 DuVernay who directed "When They See Us"

Down

- 1 Cry heavily
 2 First sign of the zodiac
 3 Learn the ___ (get familiar with specialized terms)
 4 Detonate
 5 The "A" of I.P.A.
 6 Pond organism seen in natural gas?
 7 "We have nothing to ___ except ___ itself."
 8 Pad or cup alternative
 9 First lady?
 10 Remaining substance

17 Groupthink

by Rose Sloan

Difficulty: medium

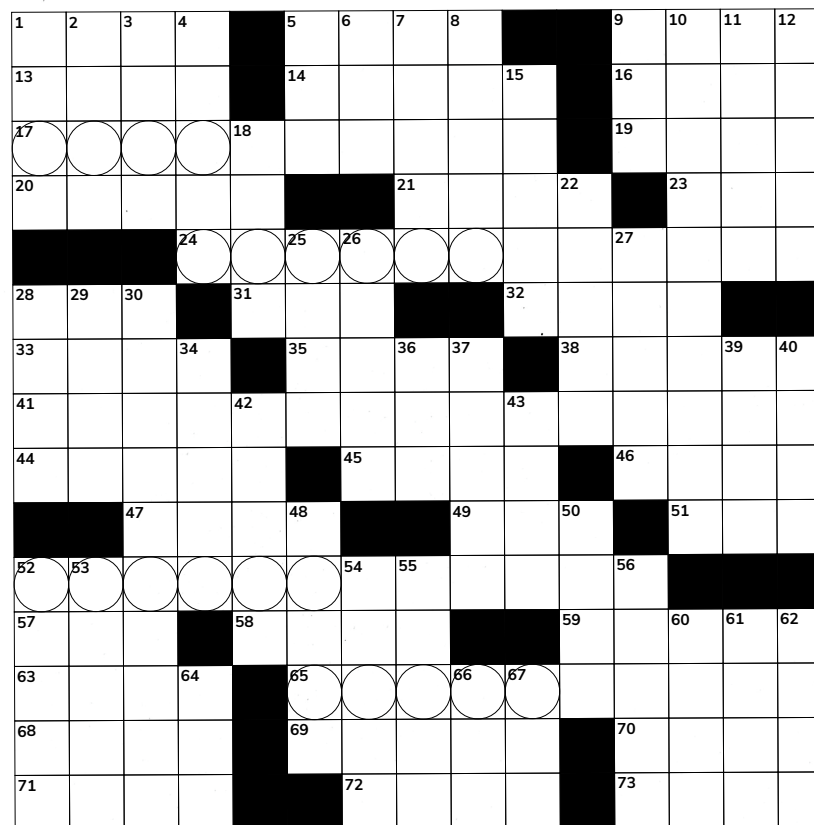
Across

- 1 One of many on a bus route
 5 Inquires
 9 Former Iranian ruler
 13 "Dang it!"
 14 Brownstone entrance
 16 Tiniest bit
 17 Have some oomph
 19 December holiday, briefly
 20 Scornful smile
 21 Platform for an honoree
 23 Obama ___ (2009-2016)
 24 What's rallied at a pep rally
 28 Cat's foot
 31 Chick's mother
 32 Duck behind the couch, perhaps
 33 Substance that isn't basic
 35 Chancy choice
 38 Shepherd's youngest charges
 41 "That place is mobbed!"... or what someone might say when seeing the starts of 17-, 24-, 52- and 65-Across
 44 Deceive
 45 "It's a ___" ("Call it off")
 46 Father of Thor
 47 Cost of a piece of candy, decades ago
 49 Pointy-eared character in "The Lord of the Rings" or a Keebler cookie commercial
 51 As of now
 52 Type of traditional folk song with a macabre subject
 57 "Take On Me" band
 58 Uttered
 59 Yellow ___ (flowers worn by suffragettes)
 63 Formal agreement
 65 Annual LGBT celebration

- 68 Leia's brother
 69 Cook like shu mai or some dumplings
 70 Type of soup served with sushi
 71 "Do it... or ___!"
 72 Netflix competitor
 73 Using expired mascara might cause one

Down

- 1 ___ up (dips bread into, maybe)
 2 "Now more ___ ever"
 3 A single time
 4 Gets the attention of, in an obnoxious way
 5 Viper along the Nile
 6 Apt name for someone who loves gumbo and goulash
 7 "The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up" author Marie
 8 LA's region, informally
 9 Musical about (and number of) the wives of Henry VIII
 10 Hiccup cure, say, or other treatment made from stuff found around the house
 11 Classic video game company
 12 ___ it (makes an attempt)
 15 Obtain sensitive data by getting someone to click on a link to a fake website
 18 Prefix for nemesis
 22 Like the milk in a fumbled glass
 25 Person who shows great bravery
 26 Vegetable with layers
 27 State famous for its potatoes
 28 What a kid might use to shape a sandcastle
 29 First segment of a play



- 30 Quips
 34 Like the terms "phat" or "far-out"
 36 Phillipa of "Hamilton" and "Dopesick"
 37 Jewish potato or noodle casserole
 39 Soft French cheese
 40 In the mail
 42 Regions
 43 Fee collected in a booth
 48 Snares
 50 Producer of produce
 52 Type of syrup
 53 Moving rental, maybe
 54 Origin
 55 "Farewell"
 56 Condemns to a terrible fate
 60 Tizzy
 61 Website offering goods made by individual craftspeople
 62 Clog or pump
 64 Basic top
 66 Lentil dish
 67 Large Australian bird

18 We're All Mad Here

by Will Eisenberg

Difficulty: medium

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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47	48							49					
50						51	52						
53				54	55					56	57	58	59
60				61						62			
63				64						65			

Across

- 1 Sends by post
- 6 Supply for making mugs or donuts
- 11 Species of rodent portrayed as villainous in the "Redwall" series
- 14 Color similar to lavender
- 15 Dozen in a bouquet, say
- 16 Soccer stadium cheer
- 17 The whole starship crew was steaming mad! The mechanic ___ ...
- 19 ___ Easley ("wretched hive of scum and villainy," in "Star Wars")
- 20 Goes wild (about)
- 21 It might come after U, in the moving business
- 22 Breakfast links, e.g.
- 26 Country encircled by South Sudan, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, and the Congo
- 28 ... the rocket scientist ___ ...
- 31 Ocean predators
- 32 "Guest Searches Hand Towel For Low-Traffic ___" (headline in "The Onion")

Down

- 1 Org. with a 2021 controversy over pitchers using sticky substances on balls
- 2 Feel very blah
- 3 French word for island
- 4 Public defender's field
- 5 Beetles that are sometimes brightly colored
- 6 Stuff on some unpaved roads
- 7 Take the L
- 8 Doesn't assume
- 9 Zombie head?
- 10 NYC clock setting
- 11 Firework that, despite its name, originated in China
- 12 How bedtime stories are usually read to kids
- 13 Popular make of electric car
- 18 Pop star Lady ___
- 21 Yes, in Japanese
- 22 Shield accompaniment
- 23 American Eagle sister brand
- 24 Like many early news reports
- 25 Bit of data on a score sheet
- 26 Word before name or manual
- 27 Best-selling game franchise set in fictionalized places such as Vice City, for short
- 29 Fried potato pancake
- 30 Wrath
- 34 Slug with a cute house, basically
- 35 Flocks
- 37 Erase, as a hard drive
- 38 European mountain such as the Matterhorn
- 39 Letters that may indicate mature content?
- 41 Took the bait
- 42 Feels regret over wrongdoing
- 44 Like a glowing candle or a good party
- 45 Words to a dog with a mouthful
- 46 Comedian and writer Kondabolu
- 47 "Git!"
- 48 First nation in the world to be established by a successful rebellion of enslaved people
- 51 Continent of Iran, Japan, and Kazakhstan
- 52 Word for "wins" that comes from the first letter of "wins"
- 54 "One ___ Out" (song with a famous version by the Allman Brothers Band)
- 55 Tavern order
- 56 Type of tuna
- 57 On the ___ (often)
- 58 Sound of someone enjoying their meal
- 59 Type of lion or horse

19 What's Your Type?

by Rachel Fabi

Difficulty: medium

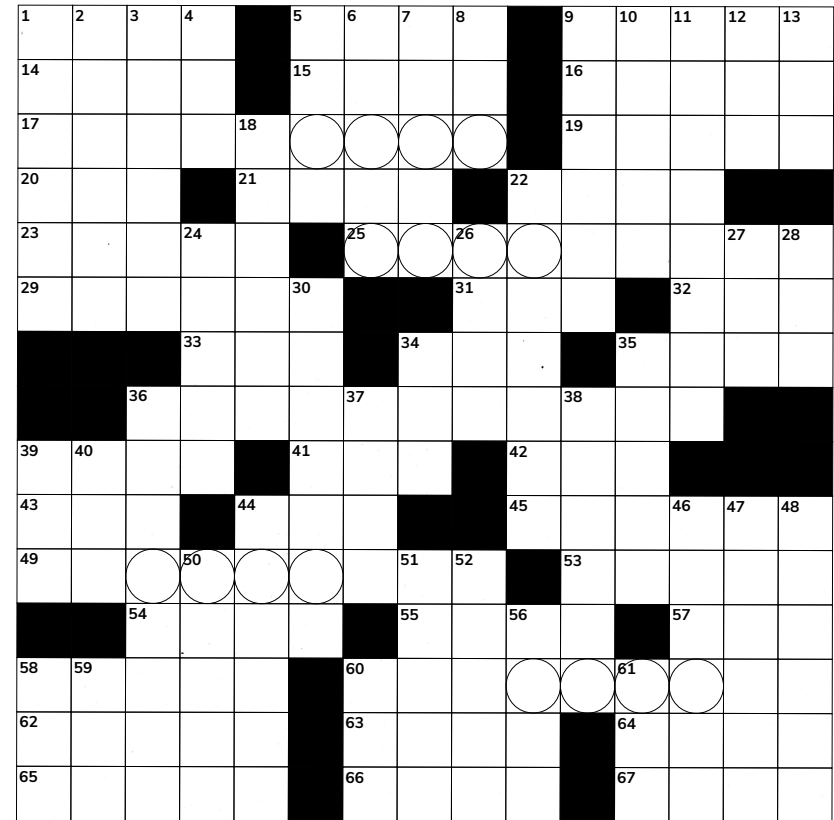
Across

- 1 Larger-than-life tale or fail
 5 Talks terrier
 9 Word which means the same thing, only quieter, when an "M" is added to the front
 14 Tag (along)
 15 ___ Jean (main character in "To All the Boys I've Loved Before")
 16 Stage of development
 17 Wish fervently
 19 Cranky
 20 Hockey great Bobby
 21 Pay attention to
 22 Form of inflammatory arthritis suffered by Queen Anne
 23 Express feeling
 25 Many rescuers
 29 Evil beings
 31 Decorative container for ashes
 32 Info below a profile pic
 33 Yukon or Acadia, e.g.
 34 Concept in Confucianism and Buddhism
 35 They're flapped by the talkative
 36 Moral alignment of a benevolent but unpredictable character in Dungeons & Dragons... or something found in 17-, 25-, 49-, and 60-Across, in a way
 39 Wide neckline style
 41 Abu Dhabi's country: Abbr.
 42 Subj. of Area 51 conspiracy theories
 43 Telltale sign of a shark
 44 Blunder
 45 Clear away
 49 Last defense against an outpouring

- 53 Religion of roughly 25% of the global population
 54 Award for Off-Broadway plays
 55 Destroy
 57 Baby raccoon or panda
 58 Furious with
 60 Start of a chase?
 62 "Superwoman Pt. II" artist
 63 Name that anagrams to "bale"
 64 State with emphasis
 65 ___ campaign (dirty tactics)
 66 Roberts's co-star in "Pretty Woman"
 67 Canvas shoe brand

Down

- 1 Repeated
 2 Exclamation of self-pity
 3 Type of comedy that requires quick thinking
 4 Start to cry?
 5 Natural sunburn remedy
 6 Partied hard
 7 Carrier of the ring, in "The Lord of the Rings"
 8 Down in the mouth
 9 Towards the higher-numbered streets, in Manhattan
 10 Org. that most countries belong to
 11 It's on the tip of my tongue!
 12 Approx.
 13 Luke's trainee in "The Last Jedi"
 18 "___ and Louise" (Geena Davis and Susan Sarandon film)
 22 Fail to keep to the plan, maybe
 24 Like too-small clothing

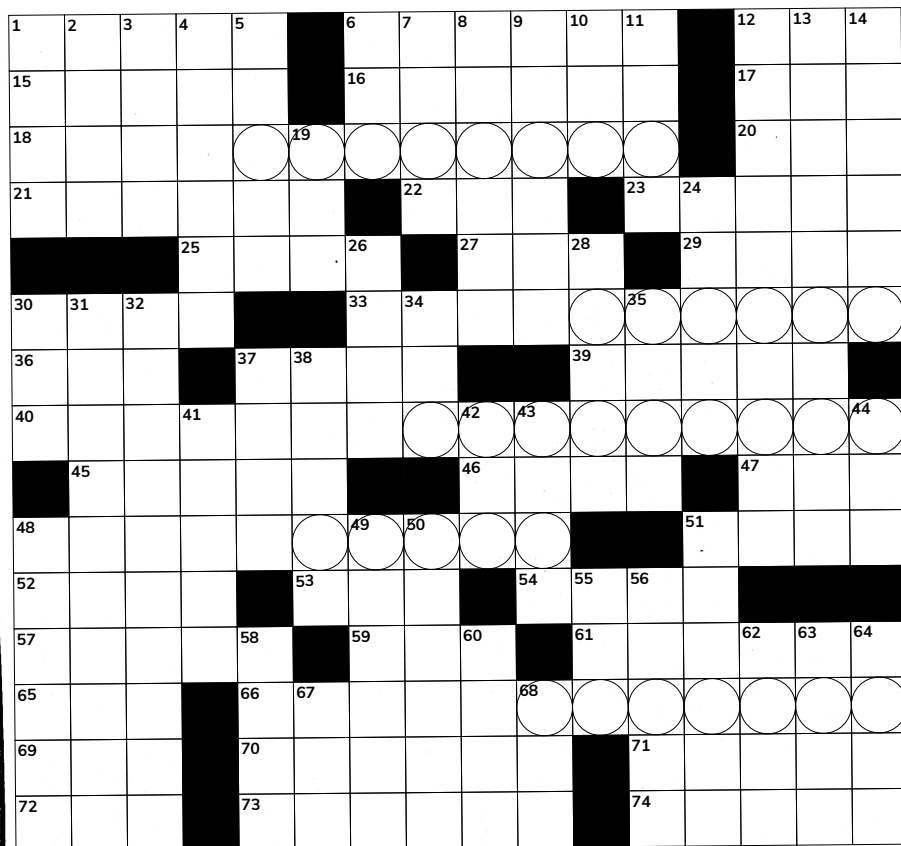


- 26 Dip made from avocados, for short
 27 Lip of a canyon, e.g.
 28 Rihanna hit with the lyrics "someone help me"
 30 Plague
 34 Situation that necessitates overtime
 35 Blunders
 36 Get all lovey-dovey
 37 Skater Lipinski, whose name rhymes with 15-Across
 38 In the ___ (imminent)
 39 Closest pal, slangily
 40 It might cause zits
 44 Person reviewing and revising an author's manuscript
 46 Nook
 47 Precipitated
 48 Glowing coals
 50 #44
 51 Nation
 52 "Letters to a German Princess" author and mathematician
 56 Sit in neutral
 58 Rapids and Timbers assn.
 59 Asset for an archer
 60 Show approval, as a tail
 61 Barrel material

20 Pure Imagination

by Steve Mossberg

Difficulty: medium



Across

- 1 Desert plant that resembles a big pineapple
 6 Look up to
 12 Lo-___ (lite)
 15 Highway lodging
 16 Band's pre-gig duty
 17 Some suds
 18 Effect that makes a crescent or gibbous seem extra big
 20 Partner of "thx"
 21 Stand against
 22 Cleaning cloth
 23 Little clashes
 25 "I love you" or "I despise you" or "I literally had no idea you existed," in cat
 27 Mad exciting
 29 Instrument that kinda sorta looks like a clarinet
 30 More than one 45-Across, in English
 33 Beams-from-the-eyes superpower
 36 Neither / ___
 37 A third of accuracy?
 39 Gets dirty

- 40 Piano piece in which one hand imitates the other
 45 One in a dozen 30-Across, in Spanish
 46 Hits with a paw
 47 Slinky, e.g.
 48 Jazz standard named for its writer Thelonious
 51 Match sound to video, e.g.
 52 Shoe brand that shares its name with a 30-year chairman of Gucci
 53 Big flappy part of an elephant
 54 Mini golf stroke
 57 Composer Max whose name is spelled the same forward and backward
 59 Org. that takes a cut
 61 Make watertight
 65 "Busted!"
 66 Role-playing video game series (with film and TV spinoffs)... and something found in 18-, 33-, 40-, and 48-Across
 69 NoNameBooks. ___ (website with a "Prison Chapters" page)
 70 Response to "Who wants ice cream?," after 67-Down
 71 Person exploring a reef
 72 Personal number?
 73 Give for good
 74 Close shave
 6 100%
 7 Sour-faced
 8 Spice blend in Indian cooking
 9 "Ooh, that's pretty sweet"
 10 Home of Copacabana beach and Carnaval, for short
 11 Austrian town that sounds like the last letters of "Austrian" and "town"
 12 Potential to get it done
 13 When a good time ends
 14 Dial down
 19 Meghan Markle or Jennifer Lopez, astrologically
 24 Suggest, as a theory
 26 ___ your appetite
 28 Watch it!
 30 Doctor who treats vocal nodes: Abbr.
 31 Leave it all on the field
 32 Prowess in a grassroots political campaign
 34 "Washington Black" author Edugyan
 35 Charged particles
 37 Cleveland squad
 38 Get worn down over time
 41 Orange ___ tea
 42 Org. for 37-Down
 43 Improvise to fill dead air, maybe
 44 The Big Apple
 48 Rattle-like percussion instrument
 49 Ruin, as a parade
 50 Mistakes, more formally
 51 Radio interference
 55 Chant at an international soccer match
 56 Takes care of
 58 Chip in a credit card: Abbr.
 60 Opening for an arcade token
 62 Molten rock
 63 Manipulative person
 64 Structure for a ceremonial fire
 67 Response to "Who wants ice cream?"
 68 Friend's opposite

Down

- 1 Meatballs, in a food fight
 2 Slime, e.g.
 3 Sitting on
 4 "Five Deadly ___," martial arts film whose fighters are named for poisonous creatures
 5 Actress Renee ___ Goldsberry

21 Dyeing Day

by Will Nediger

Difficulty: HARD

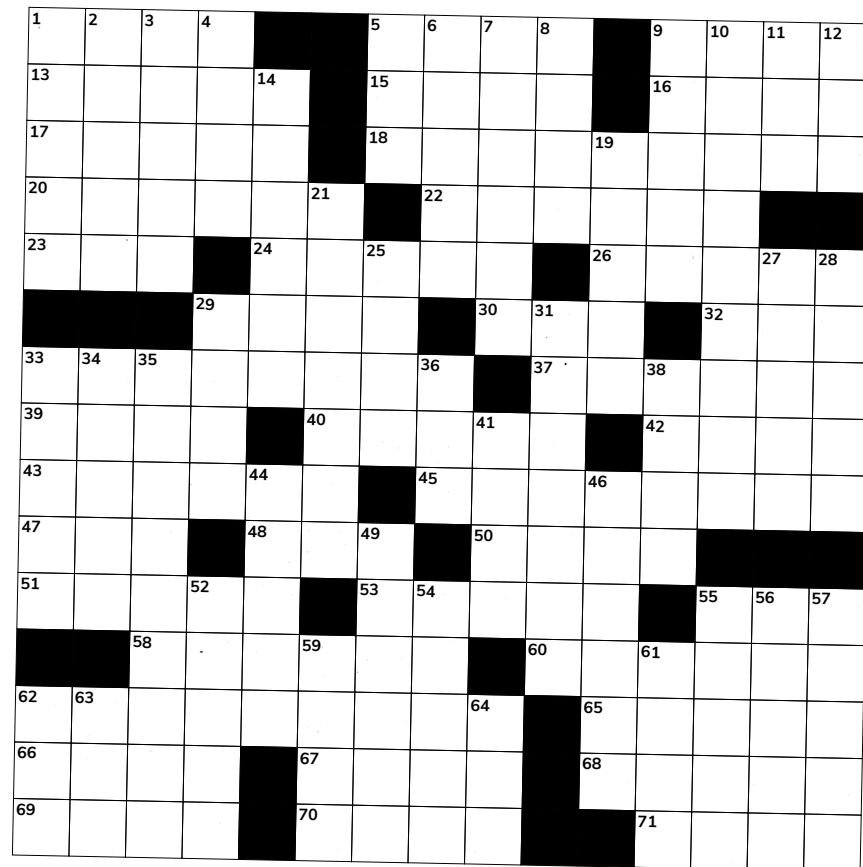
Across

- 1 Pond film
 5 Makes hip-hop music
 9 Not terrible
 13 Like a certain tapered three-dimensional shape, geometrically speaking
 15 Polynesian dance with chants
 16 Paper plane?
 17 Teresa of ___ (Spanish saint)
 18 * Colorful name for members of an anti-Catholic order
 20 Improve one's behavior
 22 Wool for a soft sweater
 23 Not use enough sunscreen, maybe
 24 Book with two testaments
 26 Things to do
 29 "That doesn't ___ well..."
 30 Tyke
 32 Game similar to Crazy Eights
 33 * Colorful name for the band with the song "Holiday"
 37 Little member of a litter
 39 Little member of a litter
 40 Famous plumber's sidekick
 42 Home country of artist Shirin Neshat
 43 If
 45 * Colorful name for an alcoholic drink whose hue comes from grenadine
 47 "Obv"
 48 Chromebooks, e.g.
 50 Chipmunk feature
 51 Nutmeg or clove
 53 Big shrimp
 55 GPS display
 58 Area

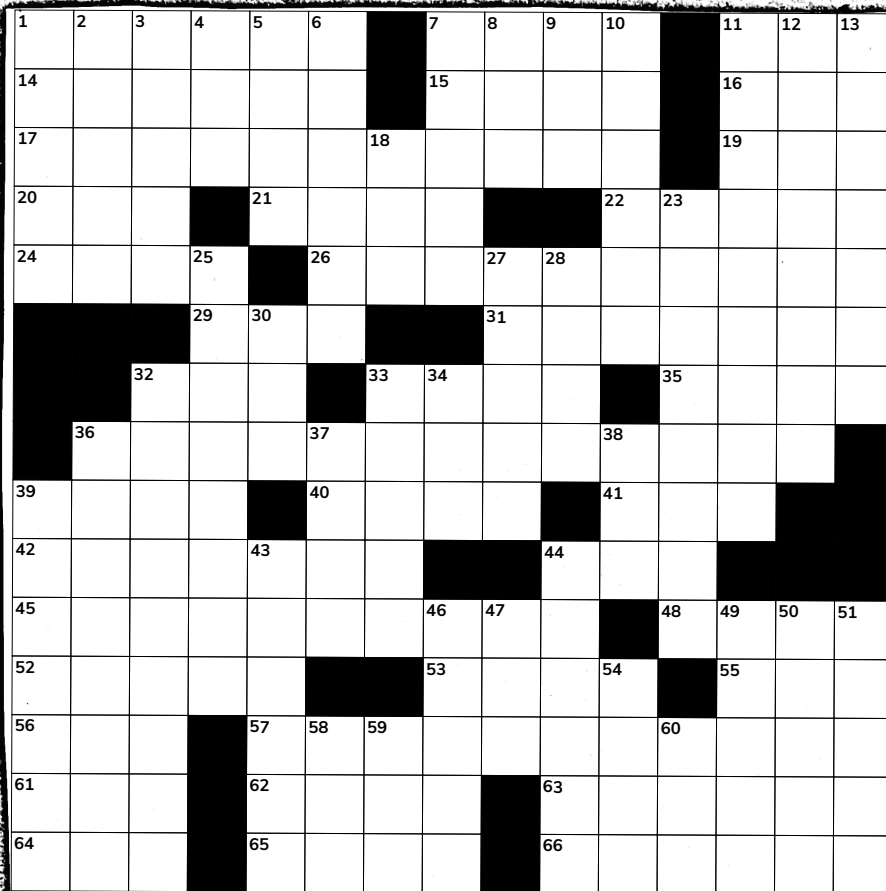
- 60 Online program that makes pop-ups pop up
 62 * Colorful name for the humor said to cause melancholia (substance said to cause depression, in ancient-times lingo)
 65 Allowed
 66 Name that's an anagram of "load"
 67 Juul, e.g.
 68 Old anesthetic
 69 Final Four org.
 70 Art ___ (Empire State Building aesthetic)
 71 Festival of colors, whose name is appropriately hidden in each of the starred clues

Down

- 1 Neck warmer
 2 Aretha Franklin's version of "Respect" or Mariah Carey's version of "Open Arms"
 3 Bring together
 4 Venus de ___
 5 Greek letter that sounds like what to do with a boat paddle
 6 Oral equivalent of "oral"
 7 Mars, but not Milky Way
 8 Performed an aria in "Carmen," for example
 9 "Carmen," for example
 10 Book for lovers
 11 "___ is just a number"
 12 Currency in Kyoto
 14 ___ footprint (environmental impact)
 19 Mafia biopic with 0% on Rotten Tomatoes



- 21 Key in the center of the piano
 25 French "boyfriend"
 27 Do some massaging
 28 Heavyweight champ Liston
 29 Alpha, ___, gamma
 31 Prefecture where Mr. Miyagi was from, in "The Karate Kid"
 33 Arrangements of streets or crosswords
 34 Accumulate, as bills
 35 Whole food?
 36 Puppy's bark
 38 Where bills accumulate
 41 "Bhagavad ___" (sacred scripture)
 44 Dot
 46 E-reader option
 49 Edit together, as in genetics
 52 Chocolatey drink
 54 Thing of the past
 55 Like a stereotypical gaucho
 56 Main character in "The Little Mermaid"
 57 ___ dish
 59 Under the covers, poetically
 61 Accompanying
 62 Disallow
 63 Letters at the end of a business name
 64 ___ mania



Across

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Transport option named for how you might look when you arrive | 22 | Local slang |
| 7 | Plié or squat, e.g. | 24 | Scott who sued for his freedom |
| 11 | "___ doesn't even go here!" (line from "Mean Girls") | 26 | Bond film with a scheme to raid Fort Knox |
| 14 | Backpack patch type | 29 | Big name in supermarket ice cream |
| 15 | Wise man, in much of Asia | 31 | Blackboard clearers |
| 16 | Ballpoint or felt-tip, e.g. | 32 | Prefix meaning "three" |
| 17 | Game between bitter rivals | 33 | Latin American greeting |
| 19 | Strange | 35 | Skinny woodwind instrument |
| 20 | Apple phone's "brain" | 36 | Feature attributed to a happily-expectant mother |
| 21 | Central Asian sea that was the fourth-largest lake in the world 50 years ago, but is now almost entirely dry | 39 | Look furtively |
| | | 40 | "Twist, Lick, Dunk" cookie |

Difficulty: hard

22 Keep On Keepin' On

by Chandi Deitmer

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 41 | Shortest month, for short | 12 | Shrubby property marker |
| 42 | Country whose folklore includes banshees | 13 | Back, as a political candidate |
| 44 | Federal ID # | 18 | Communist leader with an eponymous suit |
| 45 | Board-breaking martial arts move | 23 | Disrespectful |
| 48 | Bits of advice | 25 | Chinese American designer of the 10 Crosby line |
| 52 | "The soul," in Latin, and the root of a word meaning "to fill with life" | 27 | Former auto-battery brand whose name was short for "Dayton Engineering Laboratories Company" |
| 53 | Mined metals | 28 | Make some jeans look vintage, maybe |
| 55 | Hospital scan: Abbr. | 30 | Archaeological site |
| 56 | Longtime news channel | 32 | Signs of aging, in some cases |
| 57 | "Don't give up!" ... or what can be put on the ends of 17-, 26-, 36- and 45-Across? | 33 | Sound at the start of class? |
| 61 | "___ it out" (make up, in a way) | 34 | Ace value, sometimes |
| 62 | Strategy, as for solving a problem | 36 | Each year, when discussing interest rates |
| 63 | Beethoven symphony named for its "heroic" themes | 37 | ___ the wiser |
| 64 | Sounds of hesitation | 38 | Some baes |
| 65 | People you'd rather not hear from, maybe | 39 | Pokémon with a thunderbolt-shaped tail |
| 66 | Ladle, in a soup or the sky | 43 | Just ___ (tiny bit) |
| | | 44 | Spouted like a volcano |
| | | 46 | Ham parts often cooked with collards |
| | | 47 | Mork from ___ (character with a rhyming name played by Robin Williams) |
| | | 49 | Assertion of cool from someone completely uncool |
| | | 50 | Something paid for admission or fame |
| | | 51 | Instrument accompanied by a tabla, often |
| | | 54 | Assistant for an Apple picker? |
| | | 58 | Receipt line item |
| | | 59 | 10% (and falling) of the Earth's surface |
| | | 60 | Word before dog or secret |

Down

- | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Stiff as a board |
| 2 | Screw-up |
| 3 | Plunge into water |
| 4 | Word after split or deep |
| 5 | Practice that might end with a mantra |
| 6 | Solar output |
| 7 | Court sport, for short |
| 8 | Put away |
| 9 | SNL airer |
| 10 | National flower of Mexico |
| 11 | Fry cook at the Krusty Krab |

Difficulty: hard

23 On the Road

by Will Eisenberg

Across

- 1 It's rigged!
- 5 Prince's was the subject of some legal controversy
- 11 Word before apple or hair day
- 14 Type of saxophone or flute
- 15 Close friend of Sophie in the "Game of Thrones" cast
- 16 Younger Manning brother
- 17 Congestion reliever?
- 19 Hurly-burly
- 20 Leaves out
- 21 Last word in an ultimatum
- 22 Digitize
- 23 Emphatic offer turn-down (to Howie, maybe)
- 25 Planet destroyed by a Vagon Constructor Fleet in "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy"
- 27 Inability to get started, perhaps
- 32 Hereditary title that was DMX's first name
- 33 Message penned without ink
- 34 Shove
- 38 Like the days that always got Karen Carpenter down
- 41 Get ready, casually
- 42 Available for pouring
- 44 Whiz (by)
- 46 Good method for getting a ticket on Broadway?
- 51 Frisbees, e.g.
- 52 Lure, illegally
- 55 Trio in a yard
- 57 ___ Lamarr (Old Hollywood actress)
- 60 "Cool beans!"
- 61 Book it
- 62 Traffic light alternative
- 64 Found ___ (Marcel Duchamp's "Fountain," for example)
- 65 Lessen
- 66 Fork part

- 67 INTs, etc.
- 68 Line on an atmospheric pressure map
- 69 "Bill Laimbeer's Combat Basketball" console

Down

- 1 Georgia city, or the "Song of Solomon" protagonist who shares its name
- 2 Historical site near San Antonio's Riverwalk
- 3 Pacer's step
- 4 Nightly SportsCenter highlight reel
- 5 Genre for Jimmy Eat World
- 6 Price reduction
- 7 Cashier's drawer
- 8 How cookware or speakers are sometimes sold
- 9 Tone deafness, metaphorically
- 10 Wide shoe size
- 11 Spot to enjoy a drink with a little umbrella while standing under a big umbrella
- 12 Hawkeye Pierce portrayer Alan
- 13 Celine on the "Titanic" soundtrack
- 18 Inedible type of orange
- 22 Leave baffled
- 24 One committing perjury
- 26 Sushi topper
- 28 Grp. protested by March for Our Lives
- 29 One of the Schuyler sisters, in "Hamilton"
- 30 Stretch out horizontally
- 31 English prog-rock supergroup who adapted "Pictures at an Exhibition," for short
- 34 Swimming team?
- 35 Numero antes de dos
- 36 Learners
- 37 Daily routine, e.g.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
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17				18								19		
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23					24			25		26				
		27				28	29						30	31
				32						33				
34	35	36	37		38			39	40		41			
42				43			44			45				
46					47	48					49	50		
		51								52			53	54
55	56				57		58	59		60				
61				62					63					
64				65							66			
67				68								69		

- 39 Neither / ___
- 40 Plow attachment
- 43 Partner of "thx"
- 45 Nickname for a Midwestern state that's often derided by locals
- 47 Bounces off the walls?
- 48 Prefix meaning "fake"
- 49 Demonstrations by a country developing the bomb, for short
- 50 Potatoes au ___ (creamy, cheesy side dish)
- 53 Make up (for)
- 54 Important Catholic figures known for their hats and for being driven around in special cars
- 55 Group of college bros
- 56 Currency used by 20 countries
- 58 Defeat soundly
- 59 Community center that might offer classes for girls
- 62 Day for H.S. football games
- 63 ___ Lingus (Irish flight operator)

A Note on Solving Hard Puzzles

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

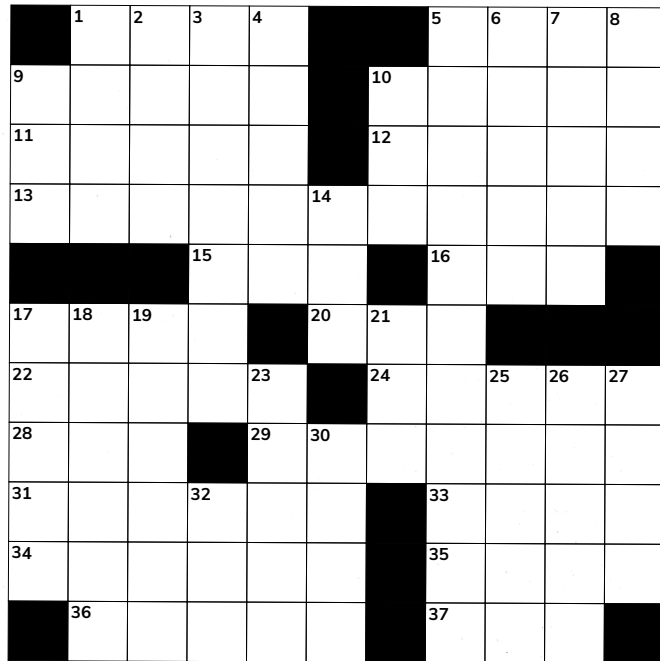
Normally, "just between us" would mean "no one should know besides you and me." In this case, though, it's saying that the situation between us should be just (as in justice).

[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)



NOTE: A complete list of the poems and poets featured in this puzzle can be found with the solution.

Across

- 1 "my whole life smells like you. / this / will ___ time." (waheed, "the work")
- 5 Green citrus fruit
- 9 Tubular pasta
- 10 Sweetener made by bees
- 11 Person working on a TV show
- 12 Lorde who wrote, "may I never lose / that terror / which keeps me brave" ("Solstice")
- 13 Flower from whose perspective 5-Down wrote, "Hear me out: that which you call death / I remember."
- 15 Hawaiian garland
- 16 Used a waiting room chair
- 17 Unit of farmland
- 20 Deploy
- 22 "___ two cities, lovely ones. And, vaster, / some realms I owned ..." (Bishop, "One Art")
- 24 Like a lit candle, poetically
- 28 Rodent in the Chinese zodiac
- 29 Perfect copy
- 31 Name with the same letters as Amilie
- 33 Prefix meaning "extremely," from German
- 34 Former Seattle NBA team, familiarly
- 35 Study in a rush
- 36 "She followed slowly, taking a long time, / as though there were some obstacle in the way; / and yet: as though, once it was overcome, / she would be beyond all walking, and would fly" (Rainer Maria ___, "Die Erblindende")
- 37 Barbie's boyfriend

24 Voices: A Crossword Full of Poems

by Brooke Husic

Difficulty: hard

Down

- 1 Field for programmers and app designers
- 2 Prefix that means "before"
- 3 Beyonce who showcased the Shire lines, "If we're gonna heal, let it be glorious. 1,000 girls raise their arms. Do you remember being born? Are you thankful for the hips that cracked?" ("Forgiveness," featured in "Lemonade")
- 4 Unnerving
- 5 2020 Nobel laureate who wrote, "Yet / There is still something you need, / Your body so soft, so alive, among the stone animals. // Admit that it is terrible to be like them, / Beyond harm."
- 6 King of the Hindu gods
- 7 Deserve
- 8 "It's the fire in my ___, / And the flash of my teeth, / The swing in my waist, / And the joy in my feet." (Angelou, "Phenomenal Woman")
- 9 Touch on the back, as in congratulations
- 10 "There. Then. Years after. Uncertain if / the rain the speaking remembered how it ___ been / as it ___ been if it ___ been." (Cha, "Dictee")
- 14 Xia who wrote, "A new myth, maybe / was forming there / but the sun was so bright / I couldn't see it." ("June 2nd, 1989")
- 17 Buenos ___, Argentina
- 18 Loud background noise
- 19 Spirally pasta
- 21 "To look would be to drop- / To dream- to ___ the Prop / That holds my chances up." (Dickinson, Poem 1712, "A Pit-but Heaven over it-")
- 23 Part of a Hearts, Spades or Bridge game
- 25 Cuba ___ (cocktail whose name means "free Cuba")
- 26 Vuong who wrote, "remember, / loneliness is still time spent / with the world" ("Someday I'll Love ...")
- 27 "Across a city from you, I'm with you / just as an August night / moony, inlet-___, seabathed ..." (Rich, "Twenty-One Love Poems")
- 30 Lack of difficulty
- 32 "If Eve ain't in your garden, you know that you can call me" (___ Nas X, "Montero")

Across

- 1 Former Poet Laureate Joy Harjo's nation
- 9 Large white radish
- 15 Pain-relieving option during childbirth
- 16 Orange County city that neighbors Santa Ana
- 17 Place to buy paints and brushes
- 18 "Pineapple" in Spanish, French, German, Arabic, Hebrew, Russian, and many other languages
- 19 ___ Valley (San Francisco neighborhood)
- 20 Green juice sources?
- 22 Pet food brand with a paw logo
- 24 Pioneering drag performer Mario
- 25 ___ chi
- 26 Backs into a corner
- 28 Afrikaans word for "farmer"
- 29 Swampy area
- 30 Like forks, compared with 23-Down
- 32 Rock-type Pokemon gym leader whose name rhymes with "rock"
- 34 Clumsy people, rudely
- 35 Supervillain's hideout
- 36 Puny, like the smallest kitten in a litter
- 38 Lady with a Labrador, say
- 40 Surfboard parts often arranged in a "thruster" formation
- 41 Word on one side of a shop window sign
- 43 Sounds of affirmation at a poetry slam
- 46 "... sorta"
- 47 Spice closely related to mace
- 49 Concept
- 50 Words of faux-sympathy
- 53 Member of a North Pole workers' union, maybe

- 54 App used to track runs or bike rides
- 55 Rapid descent
- 57 "That was the last straw"
- 58 "That's in the past now"
- 59 Name that comes from the French word for Christmas
- 60 Nun's habit?

Down

- 1 Speak sincerely
- 2 Public outcry
- 3 Chart that shows a hierarchy of webpages
- 4 LPs outsold them in 2020 for the first time since the '80s
- 5 Potential escape paths
- 6 Guy who might pick a best man
- 7 Body parts that are often pierced
- 8 First name of the longest-serving First Lady
- 9 Carrier that might come with stroller straps
- 10 "I Love Lucy" actor Desi
- 11 ___ the Terrible (16th century tsar)
- 12 Type of energy possessed by objects in motion
- 13 Just for fun
- 14 Certain lake-dwelling monster, cutely
- 21 GPS proposal
- 23 Utensils provided with bowls of soup
- 27 Three-player card game
- 29 Angel whose name is hidden in "oxymoronic"
- 31 Phrase that might follow "Enter" on a haunted house sign
- 33 They might spin, on a tricked-out car
- 35 All by your ___ (isolated)

Difficulty: hard

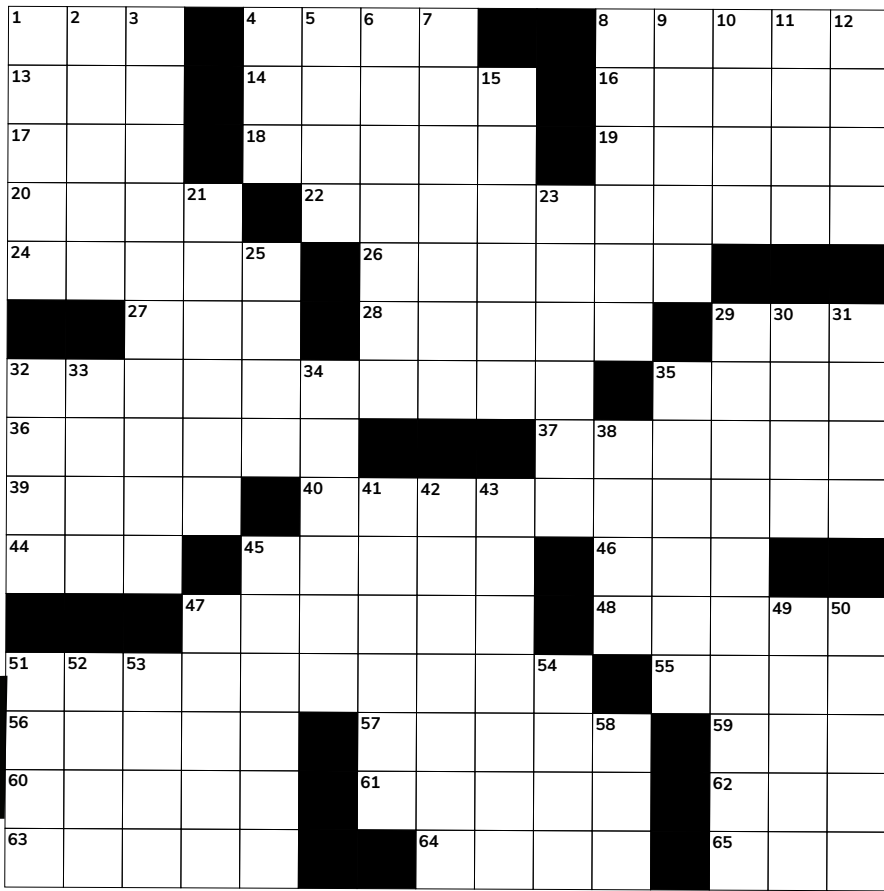
25 Last Straw

This puzzle has no theme

by Mollie Cowger

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	14
15									16					
17									18					
19				20					21					
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		30				31				32	33			
			34						35					
	36	37						38					39	
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50			51								52		53	
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57								58						
59								60						

- 36 Rice dish that requires constant stirring
- 44 ___ floor (muscle group targeted by kegels)
- 37 Defeat in a jousting match, say
- 45 "___ first" (statement of risk-minimization)
- 38 ___ possession (horror movie trope)
- 47 ___ forces (maritime fleet)
- 39 Portuguese fortified wine
- 48 Six-time NBA All-Star Pau
- 40 Gets along well with the group
- 51 Weep
- 42 Baseball runs, basically: Abbr.
- 52 Kamala ___ Harris
- 53 They might spin, on a tricked-out car
- 54 App used to track runs or bike rides
- 55 Rapid descent
- 56 Haaland who currently serves as Secretary of the Interior



This puzzle has no theme. It is written in an experimental, conversational style.

Across

- 1 Blocking stat?
- 4 Tigress sound
- 8 Pares (down)
- 13 Split ingredient in a soup
- 14 "Eating the ___ : Desire and Resistance" (essay by bell hooks)
- 16 Mabel "___" Earlene Simmons née Baker/Murphy (movie character whose Wikipedia page names 52 relatives)
- 17 Creature in "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" who says, "Looks like 11-Down is back on the menu, boys!"
- 18 The gastrointestinal tract, for example
- 19 Shaquille who once tweeted at 29-Down, "can u do this I can. How many of u can levitate" and attached a photo of himself jumping
- 20 Greenlit
- 22 That time when I matched with a dude because we had a mutual interest in professional wrestling and for the first 10 minutes after us meeting he showed me a video of him rolling around on the floor in a diaper for some comedy sketch where he was a wrestler baby and now I refuse to talk to comedians (yes this is a true story), for example
- 24 Song passage
- 26 Curry and alfredo, for two
- 27 Actress Green or Mendes
- 28 People whose name means "ruler" in Quechua
- 29 Word said twice before "Slide," in a DJ Casper title
- 32 "Dear crossword maker, you are so0o0o beautiful and perfect and I would like to marry you because I am rich and hot and I will take care of you forever so you can read your silly little books," e.g.

Difficulty: hard

26 Playing with Matches

by meatdaddy69420

- 35 "Dang"
- 36 French word for a quip
- 37 Chip for gaming, maybe?
- 39 Drinks that come at a steep price?
- 40 Uploads a thirst trap to Twitter AND Instagram at the same time for maximum efficiency
- 44 Abbr. for a late night show whose only redeeming cast member (in my opinion) is Sarah Squirm, Long Island Weirdo royalty
- 45 Not sugar-coated
- 46 How-___(instructional guides)
- 47 Layer of makeup (or paint) before the actual makeup (or paint)
- 48 Disaster
- 51 Series of small hits
- 55 Scissoring sound
- 56 Sneezing sound
- 57 Quinceaneras and bat mitzvahs, e.g.
- 59 "IF THE ZOO BANS ME FOR HOLLERING AT THE ANIMALS I WILL FACE ___ AND WALK BACKWARDS INTO HELL" -@dril
- 60 Noise of a cartoon animal snatching something right out of another cartoon animal's hands
- 61 Religious divisions
- 62 Brian who composed the Windows 95 startup sound using a Mac
- 63 Before, in Spanish
- 64 Place for a guard, for a soccer player
- 65 Trail behind
- 9 Comes down to earth
- 10 Spark in the ol'noodle
- 11 What vegans eat none of, and keto people eat a frankly unnerving amount of
- 12 When a store changes the price to something I might actually be able to afford
- 15 ___, Reuse, Recycle
- 21 Under water explorers
- 23 Inbox greetings with things like the Cookie Monster wishing me happy birthday or a group of animated polar bears singing "Ice Ice Baby" for no apparent reason
- 25 Advanced math subj.
- 29 Person who is NOT the Mediterranean magician representation I hope to see in the world (but is also apparently Long Island weirdo royalty)
- 30 Pizza the ___, "Star Wars" restaurant that doesn't exist but should
- 31 Kerfuffles
- 32 Muscles strengthened with some pull-downs, for short
- 33 Not closed
- 34 Ancient Greek author of "The Elements" who basically invented geometry
- 35 Sings like Frank Sinatra
- 38 Goes (for)
- 41 Grapevine contents
- 42 Many baby outfits
- 43 "Biiiiiiiiig ___!"(mandatory comment when you see an animal splaying itself out)
- 45 Small streams
- 47 Accident-___ (klutzy)
- 49 Shrek's wife
- 50 "It smells like ___ in here"
- 51 Poet Angelou who wrote, "You may write me down in history / With your bitter, twisted lies, / You may trod me in the very dirt / But still, like dust, I'll rise"
- 52 Revered person or thing
- 53 ___-chat
- 54 Org. that looks for aliens in outer space
- 58 ID with two dashes

Down

- 1 Thread holder
- 2 So cheerful it's annoying
- 3 Turning point for an anonymous streamer or a DJ who always performs in a mask, e.g.
- 4 Thief
- 5 Going ___ (fighting)
- 6 Question I ask when the doorbell rings and I realize I might have to show my face to someone I don't know
- 7 Leftover piece
- 8 Ooey-goey, super-sticky, super-sweet campfire treats

Bridges

Hard Crosswords

27 Mixed Messages

by Paolo Pasco

Difficulty: hard

Across

- 1 Individual parts on some athletic shoes
- 5 Mark on an action hero, often
- 9 KFC piece
- 14 "Stop!" at a Renaissance fair
- 15 "___ with a 'Z'" (concert film for Minnelli)
- 16 Island setting for part of "Hobbs and Shaw"
- 17 Outburst from a plot spoiler?
- 19 One whose city has a towering reputation?
- 20 Catchphrase for Austin Powers
- 22 "ur cracking me up"
- 23 ESL's "E," for short
- 24 "Ugh, this is not my ___"
- 26 James Bond, for one
- 28 Congresswoman Maxine
- 31 Actor ___ Lee Browne
- 33 Hospitable phrase
- 35 Bridge players opposite wests
- 36 Chief Mouser to the Cabinet Office (post in the UK prime minister's residence), for example
- 37 Pastries similar to galettes
- 38 Inhospitable phrase
- 41 Peninsula where Catalonia is located
- 42 Spot for some wrecks
- 43 Portrayer of Sam, on "Cheers"
- 44 Robinson of "I Think You Should Leave"
- 46 Degree alternative found backwards in this clue
- 47 Stroke
- 49 Accommodators of changing needs
- 55 Fuzzy birds (or fuzzy fruit)
- 57 Flags at work, maybe
- 58 Ab-strengthening exercise
- 59 Apartment listing spec
- 60 "Over here!"

- 61 Song that asks "What's cooler than being cool?"
- 62 Surprise, figuratively
- 63 "I ___ You Were Trouble" (Taylor Swift song)

Down

- 1 "100% agreed," online
- 2 Swear by it!
- 3 "Frozen" character who rides on an icy horse
- 4 One speaking on a platform?
- 5 Hard-hitters
- 6 Shout out, in a way
- 7 Verde menos amarillo
- 8 BART part
- 9 Cinnamon amt., maybe
- 10 Hard precipitation
- 11 Sarcastic response to a threat
- 12 "Moved" targets in a metaphor
- 13 ___ characters (Chinese writing elements)
- 18 Certain seasonal worker's getup
- 21 Train set?
- 25 Ones who may have vlogging as their claim to fame
- 27 Words said in passing?
- 28 Made disappear by force of will, figuratively
- 29 "So You Want to Talk About ___" (Ijeoma Oluo book)
- 30 Meeting places, in garment construction
- 32 Dialed down
- 33 Place for applications between acceptance and rejection
- 34 Sight on sore eyes
- 35 Issue (or, backwards, a company that produces issues)
- 39 Was like

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17				18						19				
20									21		22			
			23				24		25		26		27	
		28				29	30		31		32			
	33							34						
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	47		48		49		50	51				52	53	54
55				56		57								
58							59				60			
61							62				63			

This puzzle has no theme.

- 40 Unloaded on, say
- 45 "Wiki ___" (punnily-named fansite for rapper Nicki)
- 48 Lil
- 50 Start of some carrier names
- 51 Spa treatment
- 52 Unnamed commenter, informally
- 53 Down for whatever
- 54 Produce, as vitriol
- 55 European traveler's abbrev.
- 56 Music genre for Millie Small

3 Sports Scramble

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

Crossword 7

A C A I 1
 N O R M S 2
 N O K I A 3
 I M A G E 4
 R E G A L 5
 D R A M 6
 A C O R N 7
 S L A V H 8
 P I E 9
 C U T I S T 10
 L A U D 11
 N I G H T 12
 T I M E 13
 P A D T H A I 14
 D A M 15
 C L E 16
 S I R 17
 E E K 18
 S L Y 19

Crossword 8

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

2. Crossed Countries

U O T U P 1
 O R B N I 2
 S A U G A R A C I N A E 3
 K M C O D N D E R A D V W J M R D A V S G S O 4
 R A E A I A P R A T C I B I O Y G N O R D L A 5
 A A B H A M A O Z S E E L I T R A U A N A E U 6
 I A M U R R T P I I C T M I U Z T N A L G F S 7
 N B D R C E B A L K S N I O A H E L M A O J T 8
 E R A O I G E G A A B A A E A R A A P R 9
 N I S V E A L N J I P D M M F E P A L M R R A 10
 T P Y G E Z I I S J E A R A Z A H T A K S L 11
 L P S L H S Z S I X S I M W H A I U H N S I 12
 A S E E P O D E B U E C E E R G A C Y L V E D A 13
 I I N A O H O L F A N I R A B I E A A A 14
 W E N P I T E A E O S A M O A I A L N H U 15
 P A P I R N A E C A I P P A G P I A L N H U O 16
 A I I A C A Z D H T I S Z O D S A R E O R C 17
 I N T E L I G I O B S N O Y I D N G S B X I 18
 P D I N T R M A M T E O E A D Z A I N H E X 19
 O G H A H R B S I L N I N E M E H O E 20
 I D P M C I U N E V A A I C O S T A R I C A M 21
 H V E N E Z U E L A M B R M A D A G A S C A R 22
 E A D A N A C A A N N A C E A A N I A R U I P 23

1. Monster Mash

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

Crossword 1

A C H O O 1
 C H A R M 2
 M A I N E 3
 E L T O N 4
 K I T 5

Crossword 2

L O V E 1
 M A R I A 2
 U N D E R 3
 S K E W 4
 T A R 5

Crossword 3

P E G S 1
 A C R O S 2
 C H A N C E 3
 T O N R C A 4
 E D W A R D 5
 S E E P E D 6
 B E T S 7

Crossword 4

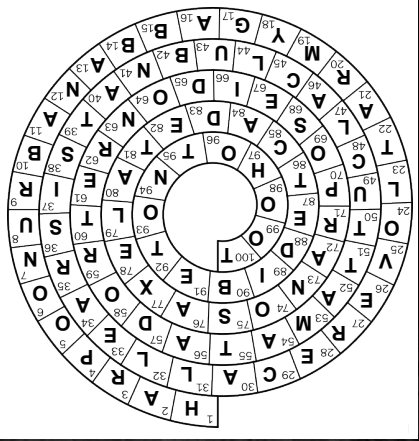
C A F 1
 I C A L L B S 2
 P O S T U R E 3
 A M T G U N 4
 D E L T A C O 5
 S T E A M E R 6

Crossword 5

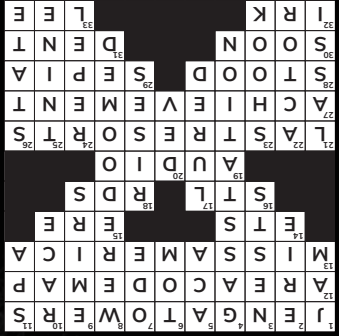
G Y M 1
 R I B 2
 A T L 3
 G R A S 4
 S U C H I S L I F E 5
 S T U D 6
 S U C K I N T O N E 7
 S T A R S Y S T E M 8
 H O L A 9
 T E A 10

Crossword 6

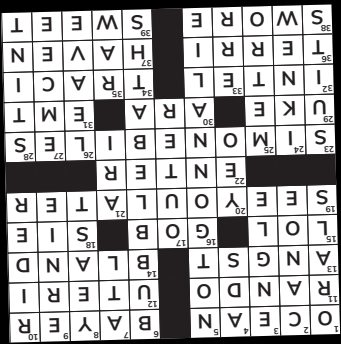
S W A P 1
 A C T 2
 P A L O 3
 G R I P 4
 T O W 5
 F L O 6
 S L I C K 7
 R E S H E N E R 8
 F R E S E T L E 9
 M A K E S R O M 10
 S A N S 11
 F A C T S 12
 C H U G 13
 D O V E 14
 S E E R 15
 M D S 16



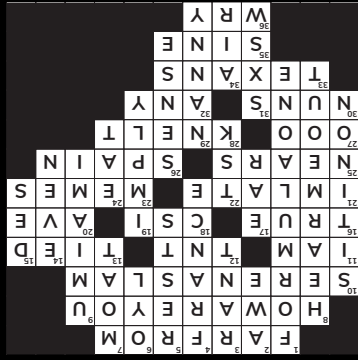
Crossword 12



Crossword 11



Crossword 10



Crossword 9



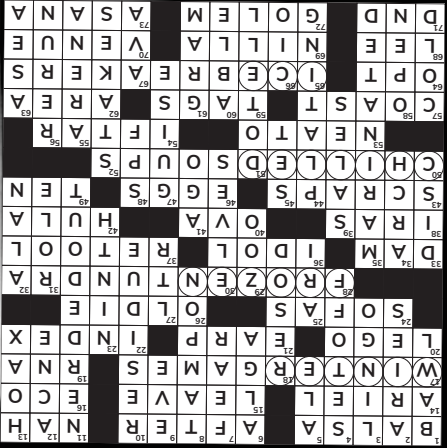
14 Cloudy Days

The explanation: the letters R-A-I-N appear to drop within four entries



15 Playtime

The explanation: a board game appears at the end of four entries



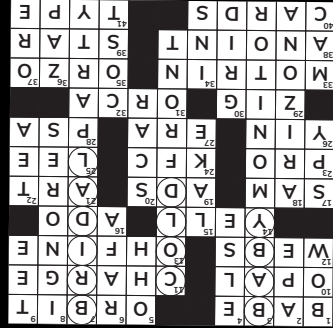
16 Bundle Up

The explanation: something cold appears at the open of four entries



17 Groupthink

The explanation: words that go with SHOWER are at the tops (caps) of three vertical entries.



13 Showercaps

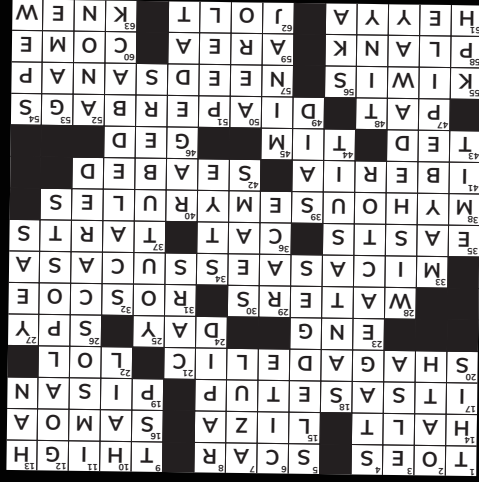
The explanation: Four entries start with a collective noun for a group of animals. (Pack of wolves, PRIDE of lions) creating a zoo.



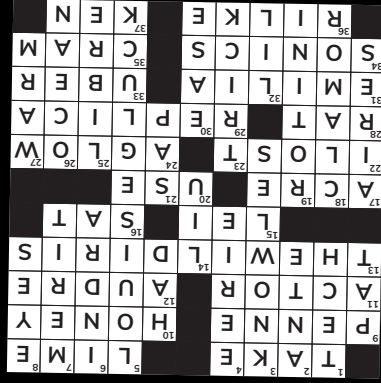
25 Last Straw



27 Mixed Messages



24 Voices: A Crossword Full of Poems



Poems and Poets featured in
 Crossword 24, "Voices"

Nayirah Wahed, "the work," from
 the poetry collection *salt*.

Audre Lordé, "Solstice," from *The
 Black Unicorn: Poems*

Louise Glück, *The Wild Iris*

Elizabeth Bishop, "One Art," from
The Complete Poems 1926-1979

Rainer Maria Rilke, "Die
 Erblindende" ("Growing Blind"),
 from *Poems* (1918)

Warsan Shire, "Forgiveness"
 (featured on *Lemonade*, the visual
 album by Beyoncé Knowles)

Louise Glück, "The Garden," from
 the poetry collection *The Garden*

Emily Dickinson, Poem 1712, "A
 Pit-but Heaven over It-," from
*The Complete Poems of Emily
 Dickinson*

Ocean Vuong, "Someday I'll Love
 Ocean Vuong," from *Night Sky
 with Exit Wounds*

Adrienne Rich, Poem xvi in
Twenty-One Love Poems

Lil Nas X, "MONTERO (Call Me
 By Your Name)," from the album
MONTERO

26 Playing with Matches



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