

12534 or 15234

THIS PUZZLE GETS ITS NAME FROM THE TWO WORDS that can be formed from the letters you'll need to add to some of the four-letter answers in order to get the "five from fours" answers. Five of the four-letter words from the diagram will each take one extra letter. A four-letter word provides five positions where a letter can be added. Position 1 is before the first letter, position 2 is between the first and second letter, and so on. The "fives from fours" answers are formed using all five positions. The series 12534 and 15234 refer to the ordering of the five added letters and the new words that can be formed from these orderings.

For example, suppose the "fives from fours" were made by adding 1) a T at position 1 to a four-letter word, 2) an R at position 2 to another four-letter word, 3) an A at position 3 to another one, 4) an L at position 4, and 5) an E at position five. The added letters TRALE can make LATER if ordered 43152 and ALTER if ordered 34152.

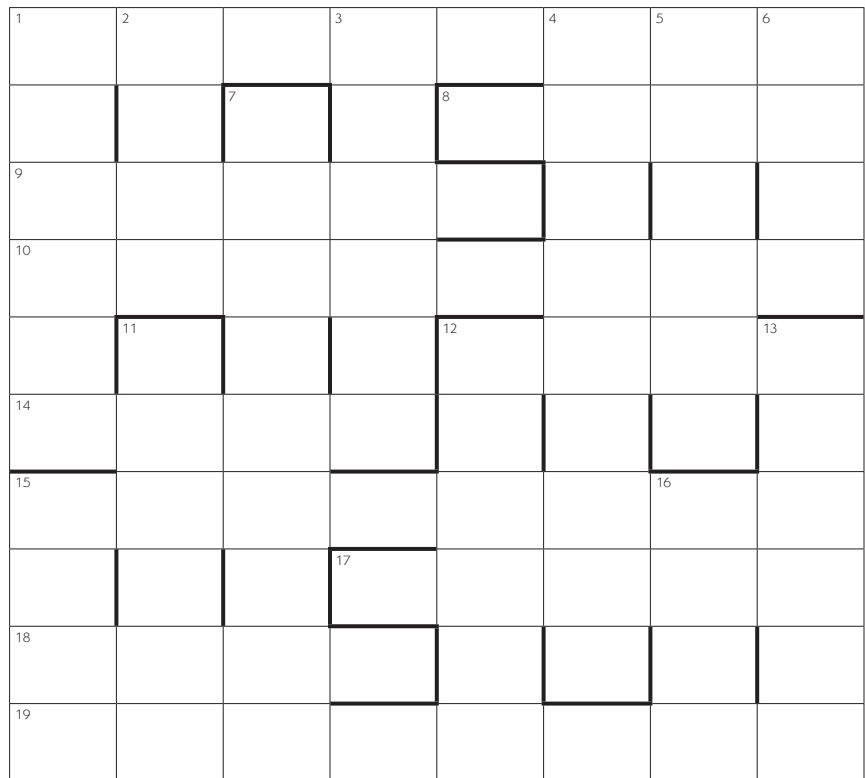
The "fives from fours" clues are given in no particular order. Also, there are eight four-letter words in the diagram, and only five are used for making the "fives from fours." The solver will also have to determine which four-letter words to use.

The diagram answers are straightforward. There are five proper nouns or adjectives among the diagram entries and one unusual word. One of the diagram entries is two words. There is another proper noun in the "fives from fours." Everything else is playable in Scrabble. Ignore punctuation, which is designed to confuse.

Thanks to Eric Klis, Bob Fink, and Jerry Miccolis for test-solving and editorial suggestions.

Across

1. Unusual tote held by some princesses in recession
8. Cut back by a couple, I'd say
9. Part of the small intestine found in crappy milieu, I must evacuate
10. Abba hit by iron! Nurse! Also head of orthopedics!
12. Little bird swallowing large rake
14. Effort's said to lead to affluence
15. Breaks in again to evaluate short-term rental units
17. Was Picasso serving savory jelly?
18. Addressing packages "Mr."
19. Fashion into Cree structure



Down

1. The man in Havana works up gag
2. In need of a job, heartthrob auditioned
3. Large numbers of fish in motion bearing roe on the way up to Sound in Seattle
4. Unconventionally appealing with a little something extra
5. A purge left Nancy ultimately with a very dry delivery
6. Start all over again or Ed goes schizo
7. Drunk superb ale and ready for examination
11. Buggy carrying huge amount overturned as he says, "Et tu?"
12. Siren blast at the conclusion of service
13. True, we objectively can like Chianti

15. Playing "More" all around the Trevi Fountain
16. Antitoxin's saving Yugoslavian hero

Fives from fours

- Ladies' man starts to reminisce over many erotic opportunities
- Renovated décor as a concept
- Fresh pears cut up
- You can tap this tree shading Dad on the way back
- Drummer as egomaniac rendering "Wipe Out"

Two words that can be formed from the five added letters

_____ and _____

Previous Issue's Puzzle—Snowflakes

There were a lot of words in this puzzle, and because I needed to use common letters over and over, there often were anagrams of the answers that might have been plausible. I don't really know how you would get ARTISAN from "Tsarina upset with The Voice," but I accepted it. I intended the answer to be "Sinatra," whose nickname was "The Voice," especially early in his career (before he became "Chairman of the Board" or "Ol' Blue Eyes.") Some of the other answers might surprise you, too, especially among the seven letter words, whose order couldn't be set definitely given the nature of the puzzle.

Exterior Clues

- i. REBUTS—Anagram of "brute's"
- ii. RESIST—REST ("Holiday") around IS
- iii. POSTER—Anagram of "Presto"
- iv. ASSERT—Homophone of "a Cert" ("a breath mint—or a candy mint")
- v. STRAIN—Anagram of "Art's in"
- vi. TITANS—TITIANS - I
- vii. RUSTED—RUED ("Felt sorry") around ST ("state")
- viii. GIANTS—GI ("soldier") + ANTS ("workers")
- ix. SENDER—Anagram of "Denser"

Interior Clues (six letters)

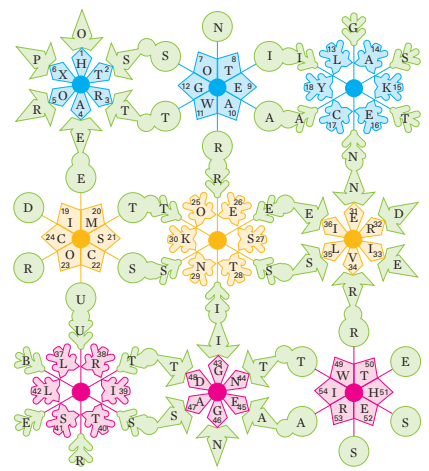
- a. COSMIC—Anagram of "Comic's"
- b. THORAX—THOR ("In Scandinavia, God") + AX ("can")
- c. GOATEE—G ("Gee") + (T)O A TEE ("nearly perfect")
- d. TOKENS—TO + KENS ("guys from Mattel")
- e. NAGGED—Anagram of "Ed gang"
- f. WITHER—Anagram of "withe"
- g. LACKEY—LACK ("Need") + reversal of YE ("the old-style")
- h. VIRILE—V ("five") + I + RILE ("exasperate")
- i. TRILLS—THRILLS ("Highs")—H ("without heroin")

Seven-Letter Words

1. BLUSTER—Pun in that "someone with a second-rate sex drive" might be a B-LUSTER
2. RENDERS—Double definition
3. BURSTER—STE ("It may be Joan," as in Saint Joan) inside BURR ("a big role in Hamilton")
4. ATTAINS—AT + TA ("this way and that way at") + INS ("elected officials")

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5. STOOPER—Anagram of "poorest"
6. INSERTS—INS ("limited insurance") + ER ("emergency room") + TS ("coverage of tracheotomies")
7. TASTING—T ("True") + ASTI ("sparkling wine") + NG ("no good")
8. SEAPORT—Anagram of "esparto")
9. EXPORTS - EXPert retORTS
10. SORTIES—Anagram of "stories"
11. SITTERS—First letters of "Leaders of Institute to Terminate Euthanasia" inside SRS ("seniors")
12. STATING—STATIN ("an inhibitor") + G ("good")
13. NEREIDS—Anagram of "Reed's in"
14. BUSTERS—BUSS ("kiss") around TER ("three times, per doctors' orders")
15. DUSTIER—D ("down") + US ("our side") + TIER ("position")
16. DETOURS—Pun in that "Cancels the excursion" might be DE-TOURS
17. RATIONS—(O)RATIONS ("following commencement addresses")
18. SIRENED—Anagram of "deniers"
19. BUTLERS—Anagram of "Let's rub"
20. TRANSIT—Anagram of "Art Isn't"
21. SATIRES—SA ("South America") + TIRES ("wearies")
22. TEASERS—Anagram of "Tessera"
23. SLENDER—S ("snake") + LENDER ("like Shylock")
24. STAYING—STAG ("Male-only party") around YIN ("female element")
25. PROTEST—PRO ("golf instructor") + TEST ("Exam")
26. SINATRA—Anagram of "Tsarina"
27. STROPHE—CATASTROPHE—CAT ("if you can, Tom) and A ("strike the first of August")
28. STRIKES—S ("small") + TRIKES ("children's vehicles")
29. STARING—Hidden in "Lonestar ingrates"
30. BUSTIER—Anagram of "But sire"
31. RESITES—Homophone of RECITES ("explains")
32. INSTANT—INT ("interest") around "Stan"
33. RASHEST—Pun in that "the worst case of poison ivy" might be RASHEST
34. NASTIER—Anagram of "Retsina"
35. SNEERED—Outside of "snowflake volunteered"
36. BUTTERS—Double definition (i.e. "Kids" are goats and goats butt and Butters is a character on South Park)
37. DISTANT—DINT ("Force") around STA ("station")
38. PORTERS—(RE)PORTERS ("Journalists after a couple")
39. SISTERS—Anagram of "I stress"
40. CRUSTED—Outside of "Crullers tasted"
41. ARRESTS—Outside of "arrowroot harvests"
42. DRUM SET—Hidden in reverse in "Nate's murderer"
43. CASTING—CA ("California") + STING ("trap")



44. VENDERS—Outside of "Venice potholders"
45. INSTATE—Double definition
46. RETAINS—REINS ("leashes") around TA (for teaching assistant from "classroom monitor")
47. CRUDEST—Anagram of "Red cuts"
48. LASTING—LAG ("Delay") around "isn't" scrambled
49. AGAINST—Anagram of "anti-gas"
50. TRUSSED—Homophone of TRUST ("a kind of inheritance")
51. WASTERS—"Waters" around S ("society")
52. TASTERS—E ("energy") inside "starts" scrambled
53. STAKING—Homophone of sorts of "Don't move, Rex"
54. TESING—Anagram of "seating"

Acrostic Clues

EYELASHES—EYE ("center of a storm") + LASHES ("fulminates"), with reference to "Do, Re, Mi" ("Where snowflakes stay")

DISCONTENT—DISC ("CD") + ON ("playing") + TEN + T ("tunes endlessly")

AXIOM—"hidden in surtax I omitted"

TRIVIAL—TRIAL around I ("one") + V ("volume")

GORGE—Anagram of "egg? Or"

TWITCH—Inside "nitwit chiropractor"

ROCK—(F)ROCK ("muumuu after a fashion")

GEL—Anagram of "leg"

LAKER—LA ("Los Angeles") + KER ("Kerry's missing half of it"), with reference to Magic Johnson ("What magic is")

Solvers

Very few solvers used the hints this time, so I'm not differentiating. You're all expert solvers in my book!

Jina and Michael Accardo, Steve Alpert, Dean Apps, Bob Campbell, Lois Cappellano, Laura Cremerius, Mick & Kris Diede, Sean Donohoe and Josh DenHartog, dba T.O.C.E (The Thousand Oaks Cryptic Enthusiasts), Mathew Eberhardt, Deb Edwards, Bob Fink, Bruce Fuller, Phil Gollance, Pete Hepokoski, John Herder, Ruth Johnson, Eric Klis, Paul Kolell, Mike Kosciuk, Ken Kudrak, Adrienne Lewis, Tim Luker, Dave McGarry, Jerry Miccolis, Jon Michelson, Jim Muza, David & Corinne Promislow, Bill Scott, Doug Szper, Zig Swistunowicz, Jon Turnes