

Idolaters

I HAD A REGULAR SUDOKU (employing the nine letters above rather than the usual numerals one through nine) set up for this issue's puzzle, but my neighbor's kid was over and started playing at my desk. Before I could stop her, she cut up the 9×9 solution into its component 3×3 squares. She wanted to paste the little squares onto a Rubik's Cube. Good thing I stopped her, because that diagram would have been really tough!

L	A	O
D	E	I
R	S	T

E	I	S
R	O	T
L	A	D

S	O	L
T	I	D
A	R	E

I	T	E
S	R	A
O	D	L

As it is, you have to put these little squares back into their original positions. There are 36 different ways to arrange them and still have a valid 9×9 Sudoku solution (i.e., no letter is repeated in any row or column), so you'll need some help. That's what the cryptic clues are for.

The 17 answers fit into the final diagram Boggle-style. That is, each word occurs over adjacent squares, moving up,

down, left, right, or diagonally. Note that there are 81 letters resulting from the 17 clues, and they go into the diagram in a one-to-one correspondence. This fact can help a lot in deciphering some of the clues: Each letter in the diagram is used only once.

The clues are ordered according to where the first letter falls, from left to right and then from top to bottom. The

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
a									
b									
c									
d									
e									
f									
g									
h									
i									

The Clues	# of letters	# of 3x3 squares
1. Editing rattles movie queen	7	2
2. The middle of <i>Troilus</i> , in essence	3	1
3. Flamboyant ties, dig?	4	1
4. This may be rendered on Los Angeles freeway	4	1
5. Aurora, a little bit later, is Galileo's--from 6 to 8	3	1
6. Roberts preaching aloud	4	1
7. Famous like a skyscraper	7	2
8. Went public with advertisement full of wrath	5	3
9. Note to the former president of Yugoslavia	4	3
10. Doctor Evil offering part of Sarah Palin's cant, er, chant	5	3
11. Promiscuous Lois, storage bin	4	1
12. Disregarding the odds, I'd card the old man	3	2
13. Priest's scarf is ripped off	5	2
14. What you might find on the fairway now, Pops	5	2
15. Mellifluous clarinet piece to play for the first time	4	2
16. A-Rod's earliest drug: hard rock	8	2
17. High price for repeated sexual conquest?	6	2

clue to an answer that starts in square b3 will appear before one whose answer starts in c2, for example.

Besides the number of letters in each answer, I have also thoughtfully provided the number of different 3×3 squares involved in each answer. This might make the whole thing too easy—I don't know. But once again, the lions among you might want to cover that information up and take a crack at the puzzle without that crutch. Gold stars next time if you do, honor system.

Some of the answers will be contained within the same 3×3 square; this is the case for six of the solutions. There are eight solutions whose answers will utilize two 3×3 squares, and three solutions will require three 3×3 squares.

The clues are cryptic clues. This means that one end is a fairly straightforward definition of the answer, while the other is an alternative, often mechanical, way of getting to the same word. In this puzzle, the mechanical means I use may include puns, homophones, anagrams, constructions, and double definitions. (For a further explanation of cryptic clues, e-mail me at Thomas.Toce@ey.com.) Ignore punctuation, which is intended to mislead.



R	D	T	O	S	R	D	L	I	A	R	D	E	T	A
S	L	A	D	A	I	T	E	R	L	E	O	O	L	S
I	O	E	E	T	L	A	S	O	T	I	S	I	D	R

Except for two proper nouns, every answer is a common word that can be played in Scrabble. Two more answers may be proper nouns. One arises from a double definition, in which one side is a proper noun and the other isn't. The other is a word that can go either way, although as I have clued it here, it would probably be considered a proper noun.

Please send me the 17 answers. No need to show me the correct diagram. You won't be able to boggle the answers without getting the diagram right.

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

Solutions may be e-mailed to Thomas.Toce@ey.com. In order to make the solver list, your solutions must be received by Sept. 30, 2010.

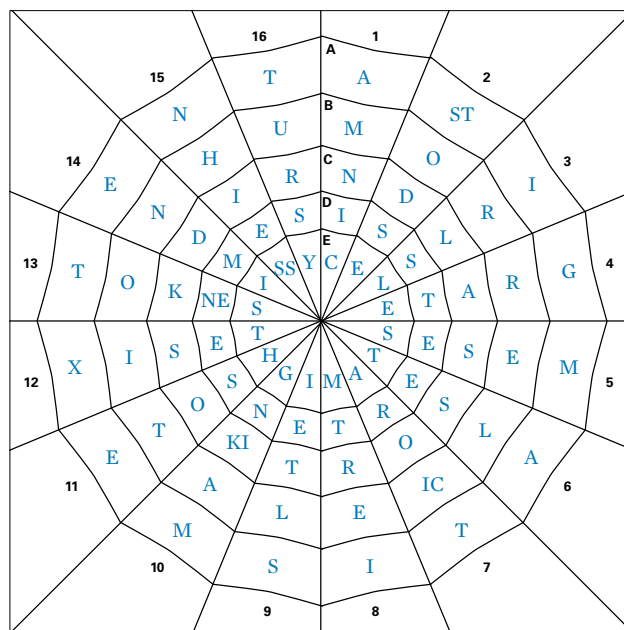
Previous Issue's Puzzle—Spider's Web

Radial Clues

1. MANIC—MAN (“guy”) + IC (“I see texting”)
2. TOSSED—TO + SS (“Himmler’s gang”) + ED (“editor”)
3. RILLS—R (“Roman”) + ILLS (“maladies”)
4. GREAT—Homophone of “grate” (“irritate”)
5. SEEMS—SEE (“to lay eyes on”) + MS (manuscript”)
6. TESLA—Anagram of “tales”
7. AORTIC—A (“one”) + O (“Ohio”) + RT (“route”) + I (“Interstate”) + C (“100”)
8. TIMER—Reversal of “remit” (“pay”)
9. ISLET—Homophone of “I let” (“I rent out”)
10. MAKING—MA (“mother”) + KING (“the creator of misery,” i.e., Stephen King)
11. THOSE—T (first letter of “they”) + HOSE (“wash down”)
12. EXIST—Anagram of “exits”
13. TOKENS—TO + KENS (“Salazar and Burns”)
14. DENIM—Anagram of “mined” (in fact a reversal, but it was clued as an anagram)
15. SHINES—contained in “fetiSH IN ESpaña”
16. RUSTY—TRUSTY beginning late (“loyal after a fashion”)

Ring Clues

- A1 ASTIGMATISM—ASTI (“sparkling wine”) + GMAT (“B-school test”) + IS + M (“Mae’s earliest”)
- A2 EXTENT—Pun on “ex-tent” (“former shelter”)
- B1 RELIC—ELI inside RC (“Roman Catholic”)
- B2 ELATION—RELATION beginning late (“connection running late”)



B3 HUMOR—HUM (“audio distortion”) + OR

C1 ASSORT—Anagram of “Sarto’s”

C2 KIOSK—Anagram of “OK, ski”

C3 DIRNDL—Every other letter in “do I iron, Adolf”

D1 STEER—Anagram of “reset”

D2 TENSE—Anagram of “teens”

D3 NEMESIS—Reversal of SI (“yes, Spanish”) + SEMEN

E1 CELESTA—Anagram of “select a”

E2 MIGHT—Homophone of “mite” (“little bug”)

E3 SISSY—SS (“shortstop”) between SI (“Staten Island”) and Y (“club”)

10-letter word from the two-letter spaces:

STICKINESS

Solvers who did not use the starting square hints

Steve Alpert, Dean Apps, Damian Birnstihl, Andrew Buckley, Bob Campbell, Ruth Johnson, Eric Klis, Andrew Martin, David and Corinne Promislow, Debbie Rosenberg, Andrew Shewan, Betsy and Jim Uzzell

Solvers who did (or didn't make it clear they didn't) use the starting square hints

Bob Camp, Lois Cappellano, Todd Dashoff, Mick Diede, Gregory Dreher, Deb Edwards, Robert Fink, Tim Fitzgibbons, Nick Franceschine, Bruce Fuller, Elliott Goldstick, George Green, Paul Haley, Rich Harder, Jason Helbraun, Pete Hepokoski, Ruth Howald, Brian Klimek, Paul Kolell, Louis Lana, Dan Lowen, Lee Michelson, Brett Miller, Rebecca Moody, Jim Muza, Anil Narale, Chris Norman, Steve Ruiter, Lou Scarim, Craig Schmid, Bill Scott, Bob Share, Sally Jane Smith, Tony Torelli, Wayne Worley, Frank Zaret

T O M T O C E is a senior manager for actuarial services with Ernst & Young in New York and is a member of the Jeopardy! Hall of Fame.