

Actuarial Transformations

EACH ENTRY HAS TO UNDERGO A TRANSFORMATION in order to fit into the diagram. The transformations you need will make you crazy until you figure things out. They made me crazy as I constructed the diagram, and I knew what was happening. A hint for everyone: The transformations do not involve dropping or adding letters. You can trust that a clue that looks like it needs a five-letter answer is genuinely a five-letter answer. There are two more levels of hints below. The daring among you will want to try to solve this one with no hints—and good luck!

All 26 letters appear among the answers, and this will be true in the completed diagram, too. There are two proper nouns. Everything else is playable in Scrabble. There aren't any particularly unusual or obscure words. Ignore punctuation, which is designed to confuse. Let me know if you used the hints in solving.

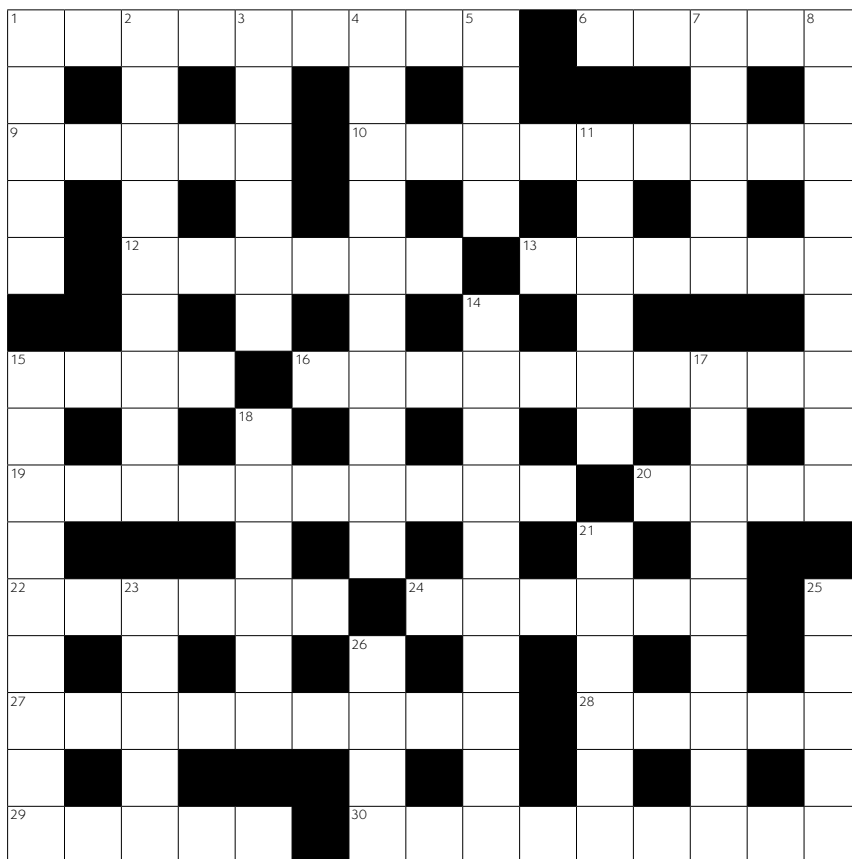
Thanks to Eric Klis, Bob Fink, and Jerry Miccolis for test-solving and editorial suggestions.

Across

1. Traveling to the workplace with shortening
6. Japanese poetry made up of shrill, amorous talk, I'm sorry to say
9. At first, Roger and Jezebel addressed Hizzoner as "Indian Chief"
10. Wee column treated like the plague
12. Told a tale of any red revolutionary
13. Gangster Walt turned after our run unloaded
15. Amoral man preaching in the main part of a church
16. Rubbish burns as Ed's all over the place
19. Carrying schedule with no extension and stopping after three
20. Somewhat open and a jerk
22. Waken from within after deep sleep at Scarface or Casino Royale
24. Gloria's sister's lending a hand
27. Smooth fabric made by a racketeer's family
28. Electronically delivers mixes with fourth instead of third note
29. Gantry supporting multilevel mercado
30. Cannons to loose in parallel

Down

1. Cheat with a close relative, in a manner of speaking
2. Plenty of cash, tidily arranged around one question



3. Flip-flop from transgression with no contradictions at first
4. Farmer gone seedy is one who causes concern
5. Die in entry-level office space
7. She objectively is receiving infrared to get firm
8. Bring soda, crackers, and Bill
11. Two letters read aloud to a doll
14. Cards swish playfully suggesting leafy green vegetable (two words)
15. Wiseass little yellow wusses from the West End interrupting needs of honeymooners
17. Eternal torment for land created by levees?
18. Try Newt about four—but no texting, you
21. Climate change unknown for true error is ne plus ultra
23. Blurry lines in mortgages
25. Maiden voyage carrying ambassador
26. Play eighteen up at club

Hint No. 1: There is a different transformation (different in degree, not in kind) for each clue.
Hint No. 2: The number of each clue tells you how much to shift every letter by. The #1 clues are entered normally; A = A, B = B, C = C, etc. For clue #2, A in the answer appears as B in the diagram, B appears as C, C appears as D, and so on. For clue #3, A appears as C, B as D, etc. This continues until clue #26, for which A appears as Z, B as A, C as B, and so on. Then it starts all over with clue #27, which is entered normally.

Previous Issue's Puzzle—Binoculars

Across

- JAR—double definition
ITS—double definition
- MEDICATE—anagram of “Ted, I came”
RESONANT—anagram of “One’s rant”
- RIOT—ROT “morally corrupt” around I (“me”)
EXIT—EXHIBIT (“model”)—HIB (“heartless”)
- DELIVER/REVELED (each unclued entry is a palindromic pair)
- IMP—WIMP (“low energy”) – W
EMO—EM + O from MO or modus operandi (“approach”) “spelled out”
- ECUADOR—anagram of “do a cure”
EMIRATE—anagram of “meatier”
- PAL—reversal of LAP (“overtake”)
SIP—reversal of PPS (“well-known ratio’s”)
- ACME—anagram of “came”
LOIN—triple definition and a kind of pun (“Tender pork, sir”)
- SNAKE—outside of “snazzy bloke”
ADELE—inside of “Made lemonade”
- PETA—anagram of “tape”
AVOW—A+V+O+W (“a very old work”)
- ENTERTAINER—anagram of “Retrain teen”
STANDARDIZE—anagram of “Zest, and Raid”
- SAPS—anagram of “Pass”
QUEY—QUEERLY—E R L (“the last ones of the gentler passel”)
- AIDER—RAIDER (“pillager”)—R
LADED—AD inside LED (“electroluminescence”)
- ELMO—anagram of “Molé”
TORT—reversal of TROT (“Run”)
- SAW—double definition
ERE—inside “Herefords”
- IDYLLIC—ID + “Lily” anagrammed
MIDSIZE—MID (“from the back, dim at first”) + homophone of “sighs”
- BOY—reversal of YOB (“Bully”)
AGO—double definition
- NIGGLES—NILES taking in GG (“General Green”)
EDIBLES—ED + I + B (“initially brought”) + LES (“the French”)
- THEN—THE + N (“first of never”)
FADE—anagram of “deaf”
- STRESSED/DESSERTS
- ART—anagram of “tar”
YES—double definition

Down

- IRIS—reversal of “Siri”
JEEP—reversal of PEE + J (“Originally just”)

Diagram A

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

- AXMAN—TAXMAN (“IRS agent”) – T
TIMID— reversal of DIM IT (“Adjust the lamp”)
- SOP—double definition (“business as usual” = SOP for “standard operating procedure”)
RIO—RIOT—T (“Merrymaking without end”)
- SECULARIZER—anagram of “zeal curries”
DEMYSTIFIES—DEIFIES (“Exalts”) around MY + ST (“saint”)
- OVULE—anagram of the first part of “evolution”
iliad—anagram of “I laid out” (iliad is playable in Scrabble)
- NEON—First part of “Neonatal”
TETE—contained in “state temporizes”
- DEFER/REFED
- REWARD/DRAWER
- KILNS—anagram of “links”
JOKEY—Homophone of JOE KEY (“They call Joe essential”)
- AMENDS—AM (“Morning”) +ENDS
DIVIDE—ID inside DIVE (“disreputable bar”)
- LATELY—anagram of “a telly”
PEAPOD—punning double definition (“On-line grocery service” and “home of two like-minded individuals”)
- SEQUIN—homophone of “See Quinn”
ASSUME—ASS (“jerk”) + U (“You heard”) + ME
- ADIEU—A + DIE (“degenerate”) + U (“university”)
PIANO—anagram of “An IPO”
- ALECS—double definition (Alec Baldwin as Donald Trump, and an obsolete word for “herrings”)
RAKES—double definition

Diagram B

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

- TOLLS—double definition
UTILE—UT from University of Texas (“home for longhorns”) + ILE “French island”
- ERODE—EE (“electrical engineer”) taking in ROD (“packing heat”)
EAGER—anagram of “agree”
- EDIT/TIDE
- WONT—double definition
EYES—homophone of AYES (“those approving”)
- BAY—quadruple definition (“Howl,” “Laurel,” “reddish-brown,” and “mouth”)
AHA—inside “Sahara”

Solvers at the Excruciating Level

Jina and Michael Accardo, Steve Alpert, Dean Apps, Jack Brauner, Buckner & Schultheis & Zurhellen, Bob Campbell, Lois Cappellano, Laura Cremerius, Christopher Dickens, Mick & Kris Diede, Dave Dougherty, Deb Edwards, Bob Fink, Phil Gollance, Jason Helbraun, Pete Hepokoski, J & J Holloman, Paul Ivanovskis, Ruth Johnson, Eric Klis, Paul Kolell, Mike Kosciuk, Ken Kudrak, Ken Levin, Adrienne Lewis, Dave McGarry, Jerry Miccolis, Jim Muza, Stephen Pearce, David & Corinne Promislow, Bill Scott, Andrew Shewan, and Jon Turnes.

Solvers using some hints (or not saying)

Anthony Amodeo, Steve Berman, Todd Dashoff, Sean Donohoe and Josh DenHartog, dba T.O.C.E (The Thousand Oaks Cryptic Enthusiasts), James Lamenzo, Jon Michelson, Jay Ripps, and Doug Szper.

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