

BINOCULARS

THERE ARE TWO DIAGRAMS and, with a few exceptions, a pair of clues for each numbered entry. Solving with no guidance as to which clue in a pair pertains to which diagram will be challenging. The hints below provide such guidance. If you're not using the hints, then Diagrams A and B are interchangeable. I've labeled them A and B just to keep things straight in the hints.

For each diagram, an eight-letter answer, a seven-letter answer, a six-letter answer, a five-letter answer, and a four-letter answer have no clues associated with them. Solvers will have to determine the answers from the context. There is a relationship between each of the answers in these pairs.

There are five proper nouns, one acronym, and one common foreign word. These seven answers are not playable in Scrabble; everything else is. Several other answers are also proper nouns but don't have to be. One answer is either two words or a proper noun if all one word. One of the answers at 22A is unusual for American English. All 26 letters appear

Diagram A

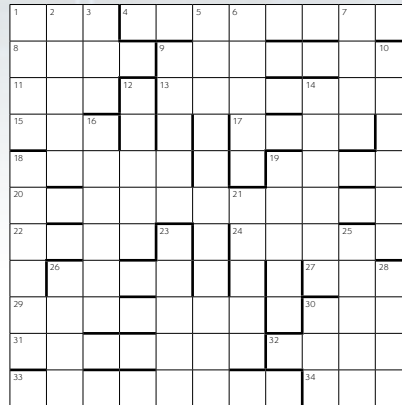
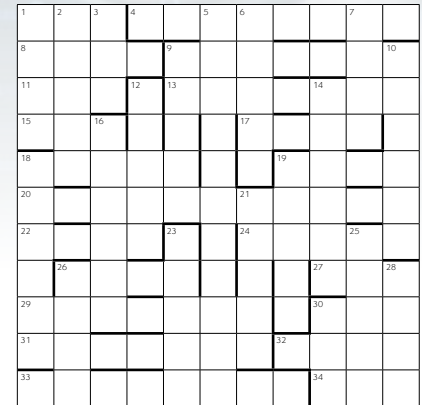


Diagram B



in the answers. 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. Crock rock
The deed's singularly theirs
4. Ted, I came with a new order to prescribe drugs
One's rant, questionable but sonorous
8. Rise up and become morally corrupt hugging me
Say sayonara to heartless model
9. See instructions
11. Needing no introduction—"low energy" troll
Overly sensitive approach spelled out
13. Doctor, do a cure—it's zero degrees here
Cooked meatier portion for potentate
15. On the way back, overtake Buddy
Drink slowly: well-known ratio's reversed
17. Climax came unexpectedly
Tender pork, sir?
18. Boa carried by snazzy bloke
Made lemonade extract for pop star
19. Prepared tape for anti-fur activists
Narrate a very old work

20. Retrain teen dubiously to be a performer
Mass produce Bounce, Zest, and Raid
22. Pass thrown to suckers
Scottish heifer queerly abandoning the last ones of the gentler passel
24. Helper beheaded pillager
Burdened by ad featuring electroluminescence
26. Molé prepared for a little monster
Run around wrongful act
27. Proverb caught on
Before being overrun by Herefords
29. I'd corrupt Lily and could from the get-go like Paradise
It could be a sonata producing sighs heard from the back, dim at first
30. Bully turned around by Tarzan's son
An attempt in the past
31. Niles takes General Green for trifles
Ed and I initially brought the French fare
32. In that case, the first of never
Become hard to understand deaf stranger

33. See instructions
34. Spreading tar is in the eye of the beholder?
Okay classic rock band

Down

1. Siri turns up a hit by the Goo Goo Dolls
Originally just dogs pee around army vehicle
2. IRS agent heading off downsizer
Adjust the lamp upward gingerly
3. Hush money is business as usual
Merrymaking without end in Ipanema and environs
5. One making things less religious with zeal
curries disorder
Exalts over my saint's exposés
6. Rudimentary seed formed by incomplete evolution through mutation
I laid out a long series of woe
7. Neonatal units well-lit but tawdry
Head of French state temporizes, essentially

Clues where Diagram A comes first: 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 12, 19, 25, and 30
Clues where Diagram B comes first: 2, 14, 16, 18, 21, 23, and 28
Hints—Down

Clues where Diagram A comes first: 1, 4, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 26, 27, 29, 31, 32, and 34
Clues where Diagram B comes first: 8, 11, 13, 22, 24, and 30
Hints—Across

- 9. See instructions
- 10. See instructions
- 12. Bakes on undulating links
They call Joe essential but inane
- 14. Morning ends with restitution
I.D. required in disreputable bar's branch
- 16. Just now a telly exploded
On-line grocery service that delivers to the home of two like-minded individuals?

- 18. See Quinn singing with flourish
Fancy that, jerk! You heard me
- 19. Goodbye to a degenerate university
An IPO possible for a grand
- 21. The Donald's impersonator's
obsolete herrings
Copiously collects licentious men
- 23. Tintinnabulation's taxes
Serviceable home for longhorns on French island

- 25. Rub out electrical engineer packing heat
Champing at the bit to agree indiscriminately
- 26. See instructions
- 28. Is not expected to practice
Leers from those approving by acclamation
- 30. Howl at Laurel with reddish-brown mouth
Sahara has contributed to awareness

Previous Issue's Puzzle—Compound Fractures

We'll take a liberal view of "no hints" this time. I needed ACTAEON, LASED (the back formation I was ashamed of), and maybe a few other words that are more the province of crossword puzzles than of cryptics. Several solvers said they used no hints, but did resort to Googling to check (or maybe to find in the first place) ACTAEON and some others. One person wrote, "Actaeon was the most difficult answer, requiring a word by word search of the dictionary's letter A." I'm not sure how to reconcile "used no hints" with conducted "a word by word search" of the dictionary. But for this puzzle, if you didn't use my hints, that's how I'm categorizing you. To quote JFK: "It's very hard . . . in personal life to assure complete equality. Life is unfair."

- 1. MIDST—Hidden in "humid stretch"
- MESCAL—ESC ("Escape") inside MAL ("bad Mexican")
- 2. ISLA—ISLAM—M ("Religion without end")
- 3. DWARF—D + W ("deeply worried at first") + ARF ("Miniature dogs sound")
- 4. TYPABLE—Anagram of "be aptly"
- 5. STRUNG—Anagram of "grunts"
- 6. TUGS—Anagram of "guts"
- 7. RANT—(G)RANT—"concede after inaugural"
- 8. UNTRUE—UNTRU ("U-turn badly") + E ("executed on the West Side")
- 9. GUISE—Homophone of GUYS ("gentlemen")
- 10. SWAY—Anagram of "ways"
- 11. QUEEN-SIZE—Homophone of QUEEN'S EYES ("Elizabeth's eyes")
- QUANT—Double definition
- 12. SLAB—BALS(A) reversed
- 13. BEFOG—Outside of "Before anything"
- 14. OFFPUTTING ("Disagreeable") and PUTTING OFF ("procrastinating"), with PUTTING anagrammed for entry
- 15. TURN DOWN ("Reject") and DOWNTURN ("recession"), with TURN entered downwards
- 16. CARE—Anagram of "Acre"
- 17. ESTRUS—Hidden in "modest Rushdie"
- 18. OFFBEAT—OF ("Outfielder") + FB ("fullback") + EAT ("devour")
- 19. ACTAEON—Anagram of "A one-act"
- 20. LOOKOUT ("Scout") and OUTLOOK ("point of view"), with LOOK anagrammed for entry
- 21. KNIT—Homophone of NIT ("insignificant detail")
- 22. OTHERS—Anagram of "throes"
- 23. RENT—Outside of "redundant"
- 24. TROPIC—R ("Run") inside TOPIC ("material")
- 25. DJINS—DJS ("Pancake turners") around IN
- 26. GESTALT—Inside "Suggest alternatives"
- 27. LASED—Anagram of "deals"
- 28. JIHADI—JI ("First letters of Jordan and Iran") + HAD ("carried") + I ("one")
- 29. AMAT—A ("One") + MAT ("piece of yoga equipment")
- 30. DIVE—Double definition
- 31. TACO—TA ("graduate student") + CO (from company for "association")
- 32. CASA—Anagram of "ACAS"
- 33. ITEMIZE—Hidden in reverse in "Inez; I'm etiolated"
- 34. UPSTART ("Whippersnapper") and STARTUP ("new venture"), with START entered upwards
- 35. OVERPASS ("Bridge") and PASSOVER ("festival every spring"), with PASS entered in reverse
- 36. BRAVE—B ("second-rate") + RAVE ("party with electronic music")
- 37. OXES—(F)OXES ("Pretty women showing up a little late")
- 38. SYSTEM—Hidden in "Missy's tempura"
- 39. BREAKDANCE ("Hip-hop movement") and DANCE BREAK ("a Broadway musical interlude with no singing") and either answer literally in "Hip-hop movement in a Broadway musical interlude with no singing!" with DANCE anagrammed for entry

1	M	2	D	3	S	4	T	5	S	6	T	7	R	8	U	9	G				
	E	10	W		A	11	Y	12	Q		U		A		N	13	T	14	U		
15	S	16	L	17	A	18	B	19	P	20	U	21	G	22	N	23	T	24	I		
25	C	26	A	27	R	28	E	29	A	30	E	31	S	32	T	33	R	34	U	35	S
	A	36	O	37	F	38	F	39	B	40	E	41	A	42	T	43	U	44	R	45	E
46	L	47	K	48	O	49	O	50	L	51	N	52	C	53	R	54	E	55	N	56	T
57	D	58	N	59	T	60	G	61	E	62	S	63	T	64	A	65	L	66	T	67	R
68	J	69	I	70	H	71	A	72	D	73	I	74	A	75	T	76	A	77	C	78	O
79	I	80	T	81	E	82	M	83	I	84	Z	85	E	86	S	87	S	88	A	89	P
90	N	91	B	92	R	93	A	94	V	95	E	96	O	97	X	98	E	99	S	100	I
101	S	102	Y	103	S	104	T	105	E	106	M	107	N	108	E	109	D	110	A	111	C

Solvers at the Excruciating Level:

Michael Accardo, Steve Alpert, Dean Apps, Amjemisti Babobuszu, Jack Brauner, Bob Campbell, Lois Cappellano, Laura Cremerius, Todd Dashoff, Christopher Dickens, Deberius Edwards, Bob Fink, Phil Gollance, J & J Holloman, Ruth Howald, Ruth Johnson, Eric Klis, Paul Kolell, Dave McGarry, Jerry Miccolis, John Murray, Jim Muza, David & Corinne Promislow, Andrew Shewan, Jon Turnes, Jim Wickwire

Solvers using some hints (or not saying):

Byron Corner, Pete Hepokoski, Ken Kudrak, Jon Michelson, Bill Scott, Tyler & Evelyn Somer

TOM TOCE is a senior manager for actuarial services with Ernst & Young in New York and is a member of the Jeopardy Hall of Fame. Solutions may be emailed to thomas.toce@ey.com. In order to make the solver list, your solutions must be received by Jan. 31, 2017.