

Compound Fractures

COMPOUND WORDS ARE FUNNY. Sometimes the two words mean more or less the same thing regardless of order, like bypass and pass by or input and put in. Other times the word order changes things quite a bit, like housework and workhouse.

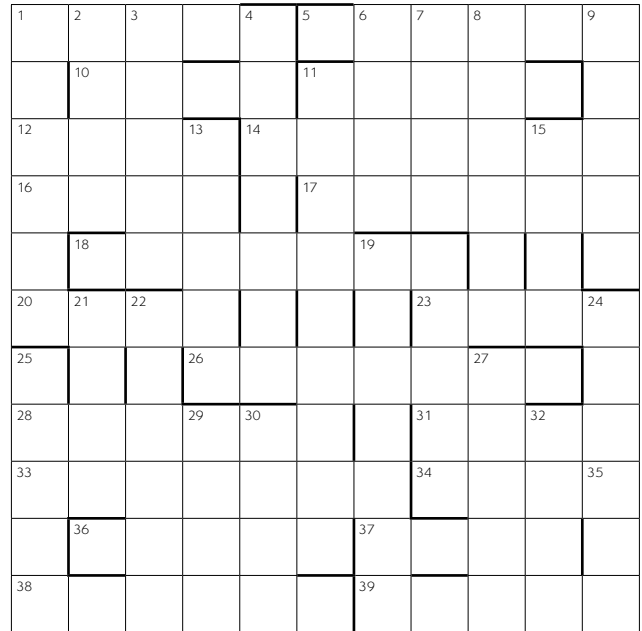
Six of the clues below pertain to compound word pairs of the latter variety. These clues will not be ordinary cryptic clues (one end wordplay, the other straight definition). Instead, each clue will be made up of two straight definitions: double definition clues, with one end clueing the two words one way and the other end clueing them the other way. Only one of the two words will be entered into the diagram, in a manner suggested by the non-entered word.

Note that in addition to these six special clues, there may be other compound-word answers, which will be clued and entered normally. As a guide, note that none of the six special clues is a prime or divisible by 6.

Four of the six clues lead to perfect compound-word pairs, like housework and workhouse. One of them produces an input/put in pair, where one way yields a compound word and the other way only a two-word phrase. The sixth clue leads to a compound word that requires a hyphen and a two-word phrase.

Though you might initially think otherwise, there are no mistakes in the numbering of the squares in the diagram. In squares #1 and #11, both an across entry and a down entry begin, and the solver will have to determine which is which.

As far as the words entered into the diagram, everything is playable in Scrabble except one proper noun, two common foreign words, and one hyphenated word. There's one unusual word, a back-formation that I'm almost ashamed to have used. ("Unusual" is a relative term, though, and there are another half-dozen or so words that wouldn't be in the average person's



vocabulary.) All 26 letters appear in the completed diagram. Ignore punctuation, which is designed to confuse.

The hints below tell you where the special clues are. Let me know whether you used the hints in solving.

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

- Heart-breaking humid stretch
Escape carrying bad Mexican peyote
- Religion without end may be key for Cubans
- Miniature dogs sound deeply worried at first leading the way
- Easy to group yet be aptly reassigned
- Got a bead on clumsy grunts
- Pulls guts out
- Throw a tantrum and concede after inaugural
- U-turn badly executed on the West Side is cheating
- Pose for the Speaker, gentlemen
- Win over in horrible ways

- Elizabeth's eyes bespoke bigger-than-average
Fashion designer and sometimes an actuary
- Thick slice of unfinished balsa turned over
- Before anything outwardly obscure
- Disagreeable procrastinating
- Reject recession
- Acre cultivated with conscientiousness
- Days of being in a rut covered by modest Rushdie
- Outfielder and fullback devour novel
- A one-act about dog meat?
- Scout's point of view

- Weave in an insignificant detail through bombast
- Deplorable throes of unnamed people
- Marginally redundant hire
- Run into material that may be sultry
- Pancake turners taking in genies
- Suggest alternatives providing a unified whole
- Shed some light on dubious deals
- Leaders of Jordan and Iran carried one terrorist

The special clues are at 14, 15, 20, 34, 35, and 39

- 29. One piece of yoga equipment, from Rome, she loves
- 30. Cannonball found in sleazy bar?
- 31. Mexican food for graduate students' association
- 32. ACAS renovated a house

- 33. Give the particulars to Inez; I'm etiolated about cutting off the edges unevenly
- 34. Whippersnapper's new venture
- 35. Bridge festival every spring
- 36. Stout served at second-rate party with electronic music

- 37. Pretty women showing up a little late for doofuses
- 38. Technique evident in Missy's tempura
- 39. Hip-hop movement in a Broadway musical interlude with no singing!

Previous Issue's Puzzle—Queen's Gambit

There was an error in the diagram. The #2 should have been one square over to the left. I apologize for the error, which many of you caught. The directional answers were WEFT, SLOPE, DOWN, TILT, UPSIDE, ANGLE, DIAGONAL, and BACKWARD. The most unusual of these is WEFT, whose meaning is “the horizontal threads interlaced through the warp in a woven fabric.” Weft strongly suggests a horizontal direction, though, and that’s why I used it.

- 1. WEFT—LEFT (“progressive”) pronounced with “Elmer Fudd’s” speech impediment
- 2. FEW—FE (“iron”) + W (“work”)
- 3. OATS—OAS (“Organization of American States”) + T (“taking temperature”)
- 4. LOX—Homophone of LOCKS (“Hairs”)
- 5. SLOPE—Anagram of “poles”
- 6. FLAGON—FLAG (“Colors”) + ON (“affixed to”)
- 7. FRAU—FRAUD - D (“Duplicity cut short”)
- 8. IDIOT—ID (“Identify”) + I (“one”) + OT (from OVERTIME “extra pay”)



- 9. EVE—Double definition
- 10. DOWN - Double definition
- 11. SPANK—SPAN (“Spanish”) + K (“king”)
- 12. DEFT—Reversal of T(F)ED (“Ted’s getting a failing grade”)
- 13. AIRS—Homophone of HEIRS (“Chips off the old block”)
- 14. SHOAL - Double definition
- 15. TILT - Double definition
- 16. PROW—PROWESS—ESS (“Inadequate dexterity”)
- 17. SERB—“capitals of Slovenia, Estonia, Romania, and Bosnia”
- 18. UPSIDE—UPS (“Big Brown”) + ID + E (“expect in first place”)
- 19. ANGLE—Anagram of “Galen”
- 20. HEIST—(T)HEIST (“Churchgoer beheaded”)
- 21. RESTFUL—Anagram of “fluster”
- 22. DIAGONAL—Anagram of “aid along”
- 23. CHE—(A)CHE (“pain after inauguration”)
- 24. BACKWARD—BACK (“support”) + WARD (“protégé”)

Solvers

Solvers at the Excruciating Level:

Michael Accardo, Steve Alpert, Anthony Amodeo, Bates & Buckner, Mike Blakeney, Jack Brauner, Lois Cappellano, Todd Dashoff, Sean Donohoe and Josh DenHartog, dba T.O.C.E (The Thousand Oaks Cryptic Enthusiasts), Dave Dougherty, Greg Dreher, Deb Edwards, Bob Fink, Phil Gollance, Pete Hepokoski, Eric Klis, Paul Kolell, Ken Kudrak, Adrienne Lewis, Dave McGarry and John Murray, Jerry Miccolis, Jon Michelson, Jim Muza, David & Corinne Promislow, Bill Scott, Karen Skoglund, Jon Turnes

Solvers using some hints (or not saying):

Dean Apps, Glenn Bier, Mick and Kris Diede, David Lovit, Lee Michelson, Doug Spero, Frank Zaret

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 Nov. 30, 2016.