

Hop, Skip, and a Jump

The hop entries go around the circle sequentially, starting in circle 1. The skip entries also start at 1, but use only the odd-numbered circles. The jump entries start at 1 and use every third circle. Circle 1 is used six times, as the first letter of the three starting words and as the last letter of the three ending words. Word lengths are provided, but the order is left for the solver. (There are hints for those who need them.)

There are two proper nouns. Everything else is playable in Scrabble, including one British spelling and an alternate spelling of a word from Yiddish. Ignore punctuation, which is intended to deceive.

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Hop clues

- Scooter picked up president and did some housecleaning (6)
- Stay at home considering the extremes of Indonesian tremor (6)
- Pigeons pass out (4)
- Repeated rekindling produces nothing to speak of (4)
- Reward may be burden after a bit (4)
- A lot of recent discussion around Emma's cocktail (5)
- Clean up big-time, taking a bit of return (5)
- Mad Hatter offers word to the wise (6)
- Company Buzz appraised (5)
- Lonny knitted with synthetic fabric (5)
- Staff in South Carolina Peter sacked (7)
- Idle Louisiana Zydeco duo (4)



Skip clues

- Hamilton or King George in *Hamilton*, for example (5)
- Excitement over Zenith's spiral (4)
- Poe uses upheaval to embrace a cause (7)
- Turn back or get some kind of reference (5)
- Prank involving married lady's partner (5)
- Sing like Jewel after draining youthful zinfandel (5)

Jump clues

- De Gaulle's predecessor poorly considered by the right (4)
- Aspiration for successful consolidation, at least outwardly (7)
- Close to a melee (5)
- Some workers starting to tire easily; maybe pay sucks? (5)

HINTS

Order of hop clues: 2, 6, 3, 8, 4, 10, 11, 1, 12, 7, 5, 9
 Order of skip clues: 3, 5, 2, 6, 1, 4
 Order of jump clues: 3, 2, 4, 1

TOM TOCE is an FCAS and once again a senior manager at EY. He is a member of the Jeopardy Hall of Fame. Solutions may be emailed to ttoce@nyc.rr.com. In order to make the solver list, you should send him your solutions by June 1, 2022.