

# How Can You Myth?

**SIXTEEN OF THE ENTRIES DON'T FIT INTO THE DIAGRAM.** Some have a leading letter that won't fit in the grid, some have an ending letter that won't fit, and some have an extra interior letter. If you place the extra letters on the outside of the diagram, on the nearest edge corresponding to the direction of the entry, reading clockwise from the upper left you will derive a sixteen-letter message describing what you've had to resort to in order to complete the grid. With or without the extra letter, every answer is a valid entry. That is, (S)WORD or BEA(S)TS might be an answer resulting in an S taken out of the diagram, but PASTURE could not be.

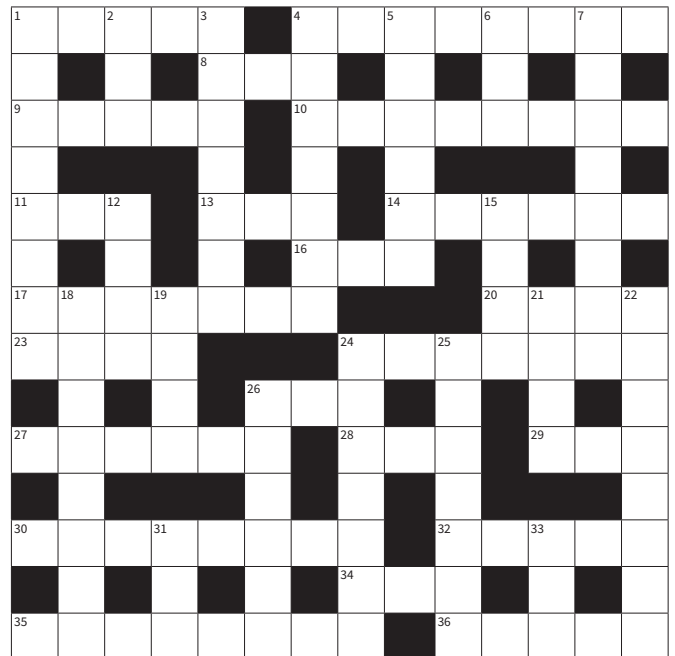
There are three proper nouns coming from the clues. There will be five in the completed grid. Two common nouns turn into proper nouns after removing the extra letters. Two other proper nouns turn into new proper nouns upon deletion. Everything else is playable in Scrabble, except for the two-word entries. Ignore punctuation, which is intended to deceive.

I was interviewed for an article in *Games* magazine by Hayley Gold, who is not an actuary but found the cryptic puzzles in *Contingencies* through her research and devotion to the history of crosswords and word puzzles. Hayley has written a book, a two-sided graphic novel called *Letters to Margaret*, with puzzles by *New Yorker* editor Andy Kravis, providing (according to Hayley) "dual perspectives into the war of the words happening in crosswords today, all packaged neatly into a romcom with wordplay hilarity." Find out more at <https://shop.loneshark-games.com/collections/letters-to-margaret>.

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

### Across clues

- 1. Vociferously broadcasting, then hemming
- 4. Any herb sounds dubious
- 8. Likely to be flat, Curt
- 9. Rings not usually as near
- 10. Alabama, California, and part of central Arizona appear in Birdman's setting
- 11. Helps initially anyone in dire straits
- 13. Sue breaks down at work
- 14. Directed at GE: our indignity
- 16. Drunk at the heart of Succession
- 17. Duck's out, as *pesce* is fresh
- 20. Explode a nuke, Neo



- 23. Translate things in Latin and in French
- 24. Give up and find a new tenant
- 26. Call Via; see ya
- 27. Sprout wings in apathy
- 28. Bessie is a little chicken
- 29. Art's mixed up with Peter quite often or, one time, Paul
- 30. Bothers with random testing only at first (*two words*)
- 32. Cheese dish as tavern counter trifle
- 34. I say pull for caviar
- 35. Desirable men having an obligation to be thoughtful
- 36. Fashionable young men from Turkey and Spain

### Down clues

- 1. SF newspaper: Guitar Backs Up One Who Digs
- 2. Diving maneuver for some fish
- 3. Fuel dispenser is OMG one you want to kill (*two words*)
- 4. Yes, Starr managed to be unfaithful

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

5. Wave of ominous cronyism to be cut short on the double
6. Sensitivity inherent in syntactics
7. Amyl gas I ordered for muscular pains
12. Listening to Madonna's book for a little bit
15. Hold off on teak restoration
18. Expression of ten times n, per the commutative property
19. Sitting with original poster
21. Banquet starting late, towards sunrise
22. Closer to Biloxi, in brief, it could have been much worse (two words)
24. Sources of power from controversial creators
25. Depressed but blossomed after a fashion
26. Spot on! Let's go, man
31. Down in the dumps as cruelty has no end
33. Wait, the president isn't finished

## Solution to Previous Issue's Puzzle—Hop, Skip, and a Jump

### Hop clues

- MOPPED—MOPED (“Scooter”) around P (“president”)
- INDOOR—Outside “Indonesian tremor”
- SAPS—Anagram of “pass out”
- DREK—Inside “Repeated rekindling”
- ONUS—BONUS (“Reward”) “after a bit”
- EMAIL—Outside “Emma's cocktail”
- BROOM—BOOM (“big-time”) around R (“a bit of return”)
- THREAT—Anagram of “Hatter”
- GUEST—VAGUEST (“most cryptic”)—VA (“Virginia”)
- NYLON—Anagram of “Lonny”
- SCEPTRE—SC (“South Carolina”) + “Peter” rearranged
- LAZY—LA (“Louisiana”) + first two letters of “Zydeco”

### Skip clues

- TENOR—TEN (“Hamilton”) + OR
- ZEAL—Outside “Zenith's spiral”
- ESPOUSE—Anagram of “Poe uses”
- ROGET—Anagram of “or get”
- TRAMP—TRAP (“Prank”) around M (“married”)
- YODEL—Outside “youthful zinfandel”

### Jump clues

- ORLY—Right side of “poorly”
- SUCTION—Outside of “successful consolidation”
- ABOUT—A + BOUT (“melee”)
- TEMPS—First letters of “tire easily; maybe pay sucks”



**Solvers**—Steve Alpert, Dean Apps, John Boorack and Jim Lamenzo, Bob Campbell, Lois Cappellano, Laura Cremerius, Jared Dashoff, Todd Dashoff, Mick Diede, Dave Dougherty, Bob Fink, Phil Gollance, Sandy Gruhlke, Jason Helbraun, Pete Hepokoski, Catharine Hornby, Max Jackson, Ruth Johnson, Eric Klis, Paul Kolell, Mike Kosciuk, Ken Kudrak, Ben Lynch, Mathew Marchione and Marika Brown, Dave McGarry, Jerry Miccolis, Jon Michelson, Jim Muza, David and Corinne Promislow, Alan Putney, Jay Ripps, Bill Scott, Andrew Shewan, Karen Skoglund, Zig Swistunowicz, T. O. C. E. (Josh DenHartog and Sean Donohoe), Betsy and James Uzzell