

Love Triangles

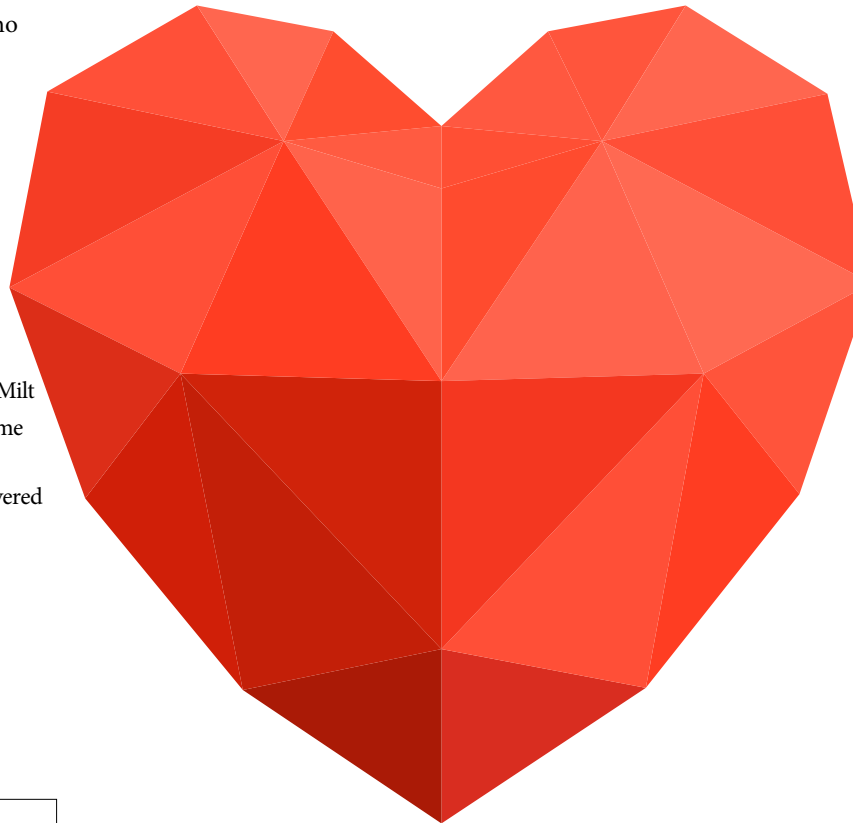
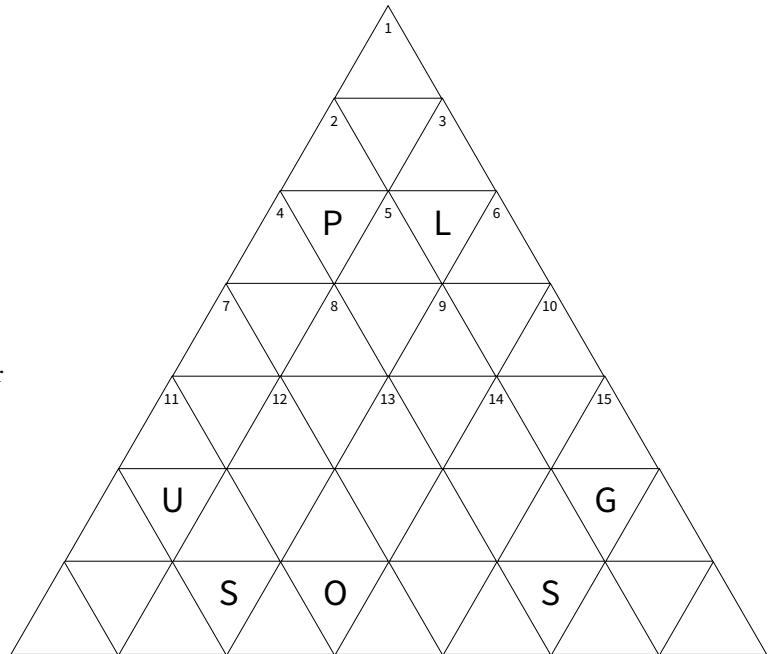
I'M A CASUALTY ACTUARY; I love triangles. The diagram has 49 small triangles. The clues lead to nine-letter answers, which (scrambled) will fit into the larger 1-3-5 triangles with apexes 1 through 15. Several of the small triangles will be used in multiple answers, some will be used in just two answers, and six will be used just once. The letters in these six small triangles, read from top to bottom, left to right, will spell out a pertinent characteristic. (The six letters are really three pairs and each pair can go two ways, but of the eight possibilities, only one spells a real word.)

As a solving aid, and a means to ensure that the grid can be filled in only one way, I have provided these starting letters: PLUG SOS.

All the entries are playable in Scrabble. Clue six involves an alternate spelling. Ignore punctuation, which is intended to deceive.

Thanks to Bob Fink and Jerry Miccolis for test-solving and editorial suggestions. And a final thank you to Eric Klis, who provided valuable advice for many years.

1. Novice ruthlessly outplans to a T
2. Turncoat's at the center of crapola situations
3. Metals provide all that's needed for an impasse
4. Indiscriminately faithless and most vulgar
5. Foolhardy attempt taken by Eilish after I left show
6. The first person to be pleasant in Paris turned dry in French milieus
7. Total disasters at fulsome preparations
8. Someone who can open doors may come as a terrible shock, Milt
9. Hydrophobia draws an injection by a marvelous doctor in some nursery rhymes
10. Single examples of nonagon bisectors and congruence are covered by Euclid or Pythagoras
11. Uneasy as some Anabaptists follow grotesque faction
12. Despicable as hate looms all over
13. Whatchamacallit tuxedo accessory receives an expression of amazement
14. Boy, Drake's otherworldly on piano and synthesizers
15. Releases captivating work unit for Bears



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. In order to make the solver list, you should send him your solutions by April 1, 2024.