

Pass the Trash

I'M A TERRIBLE POKER PLAYER, but I like to play, and one of my favorite variations is Anaconda, also called Pass the Trash. Every player is dealt seven cards. Then there's a round of betting. Then you start to pass the trash. First, three cards are passed to the player on your left, followed by another round of betting. Then two cards are passed in the same direction, with more betting. Then finally one card is passed in the same direction, with more betting.

After all the cards are passed, each player selects a best poker hand from the seven cards he or she ends up with. What happens after that does not concern us here, but it usually involves showing your five cards one at a time with a round of betting after each roll.

In this puzzle, each of the clues in the first round will yield a seven-letter answer. Then three letters (not cards) from each hand will be passed to the left (from Player 1 to Player 2 and all the way around the table with Player 7 passing to Player 1), with another seven-letter word formed from each hand in round two. Then two letters will be passed to the left and more seven-letter words formed in round three. Then one letter will be passed for the fourth round of seven-letter words. Finally, for the showdown round, two letters from each hand will be discarded and a round of five-letter words formed.

The discarded letters can be anagrammed into a 14-letter word that holds the secret to cryptic puzzles—and perhaps even life itself!

Every answer is playable in Scrabble. There is one British spelling, one proper noun (as clued here, though the word can also be a common noun), and one fairly unusual word (for Player 6 in Round 4). Ignore punctuation, which is designed to confuse.

Solutions may be emailed to thomas.toce@ey.com. In order to make the solver list, your solutions must be received by Jan. 31, 2015.

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

First Round (seven letters)

- PLAYER 1: Station picking up a New Zealand school of poetry
- PLAYER 2: Annoys siblings without a bit of regret
- PLAYER 3: Squares of lemons or oranges, King Crab legs, and butter graced people's dishes
- PLAYER 4: Pineapple-pomegranate syrup losing chic
- PLAYER 5: Designing stencil for customers
- PLAYER 6: Achieve true vision, you could say
- PLAYER 7: Idle college residence hall worker

Second Round (seven letters)

- PLAYER 1: Singable syllable within man's catchphrases
- PLAYER 2: British run questionable zones for Olympic medals
- PLAYER 3: Shooter ordered at tacky bar
- PLAYER 4: Beer parties with 50 for the Fourth for Rip Van Winkle and pals
- PLAYER 5: Treats butt and dies
- PLAYER 6: Conspicuous saltine crackers
- PLAYER 7: Cat suit for big cat taking territory while giving up power

Third Round (seven letters)

- PLAYER 1: Harry ran some charms
- PLAYER 2: Panama's mad at Boers
- PLAYER 3: One who drops off the chassis of snowplow/bulldozer
- PLAYER 4: Sergeant's superior found in utter repose
- PLAYER 5: British firing initial salvos at Charles and William, most likely
- PLAYER 6: Scheduled around noon to be biased
- PLAYER 7: Followed around, right? But lagged behind



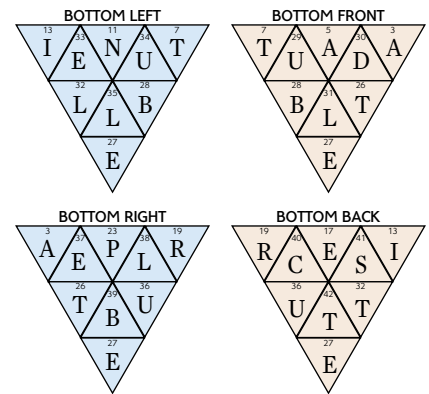
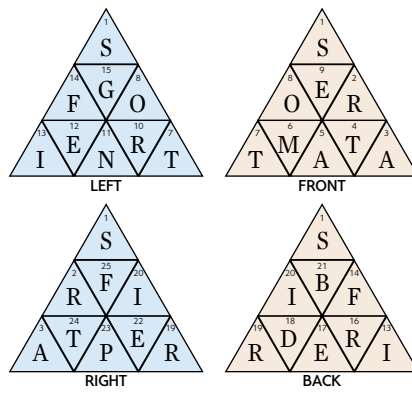
Fourth Round (seven letters)

- PLAYER 1: Same rot spewing from renowned composer
- PLAYER 2: Betrayal of country by sleazy Senator
- PLAYER 3: Drunks show disapproval with mostly no hint of sobriety
- PLAYER 4: Acquiesces regarding the weeks after Mardi Gras, this year and next
- PLAYER 5: Laugh at funny Louis in the middle of Pyongyang by circumventing security
- PLAYER 6: Sounds made with the tip of your tongue and, after the count of four, sharps and flats
- PLAYER 7: Throws cold water on drunk dialers

Showdown (five letters)

- PLAYER 1: Nicholas, for one, reflects around the first of October, producing a mocking tribute
- PLAYER 2: Neither partner goes into Southeast to saw logs
- PLAYER 3: Amazon man, with love for energy, goofs
- PLAYER 4: Dropping at Seattle: weird mixture of rain and snow
- PLAYER 5: Tinkle in cup hot ink
- PLAYER 6: Dealt badly with incremental change
- PLAYER 7: Silda randomly tunes in

T O M T O C E is a senior manager for actuarial services with Ernst & Young in New York and is a member of the Jeopardy Hall of Fame.



Player 1

Round 1: _____
 Round 2: _____
 Round 3: _____
 Round 4: _____
 Showdown: _____

Player 2

Round 1: _____
 Round 2: _____
 Round 3: _____
 Round 4: _____
 Showdown: _____

Player 3

Round 1: _____
 Round 2: _____
 Round 3: _____
 Round 4: _____
 Showdown: _____

Player 4

Round 1: _____
 Round 2: _____
 Round 3: _____
 Round 4: _____
 Showdown: _____

Player 5

Round 1: _____
 Round 2: _____
 Round 3: _____
 Round 4: _____
 Showdown: _____

Player 6

Round 1: _____
 Round 2: _____
 Round 3: _____
 Round 4: _____
 Showdown: _____

Player 7

Round 1: _____
 Round 2: _____
 Round 3: _____
 Round 4: _____
 Showdown: _____

Anagram from the discards yielding the secret to cryptic puzzles (if not life):

Previous Issue's Puzzles—Octahedron

Nine-letter words

- **FRONT:** AMARETTOS—AM (“The first person to be”) + ARETTOS (anagram of “toaster”)
- **LEFT TOP:** FOSTERING—A terrible pun on the songwriter Stephen Foster (“singing ‘Oh! Susanna’”)
- **RIGHT TOP:** FIRETRAPS—Anagram of “Ripe farts”
- **BACK TOP:** FIREBIRDS—Anagram of “Rid briefs”
- **BOTTOM:** TABULATED—TABU (“Forbidden”) + LATE (“at the end of the night”) + D (“day”)
- **BOTTOM LEFT:** EBULLIENT—E (“Easter”) + BULLIENT (anagram of “bulletin”)
- **BOTTOM RIGHT:** REPUTABLE—Anagram of “Pale tuber”
- **BOTTOM BACK:** CUTLERIES—Anagram of “Cruelties”

Four-letter words

- **LUTE—FLUTE** (“something like a recorder”) – F (“less loud”)
- **DATA**—Hidden in “consolidatable”
- **FIBS—FI** (“If from the right”) + BS
- **ROSE**—Homophone of ROWS (“lines”)
- **PIER**—Homophone of PEER (“nobleman”)
- **FIRS—FIRS(T)**—(“Foremost, for the most part”)
- **LIES**—Double definition
- **TARA—TAR** (“Desecrate”) + A
- **TUBE—TU** (“you in Punta del Este”) + BE (“remain unaffected”)
- **ATOM—AT + OM** (“the start of many Buddhist prayers”)
- **PEAT—P** (“Quietly,” as in a musical score) + EAT (“consume”)
- **FOGS—FROGS** (“Peepers”) – R (“conceding resistance”)
- **FINE—FIN** (“Five bucks”) + E (“Excellent”)
- **DIRE**—Homophone of DYER (“one who adds color”)

- **BUNT—BU(N)T** (“but inhaling not”)
- **BELL**—Homophone of BELLE (“the most beautiful girl at the ball”)
- **TORN—TO + RN** (“nurse”)
- **RAPT**—Anagram of “part”
- **BELT**—Outside of “BEL(FAS)T”
- **LINE**—Anagram of “lien”
- **PURL**—Homophone of PEARL (“a bit of wisdom”)
- **CURE**—Anagram of “ecru”
- **TUBA**—Anagram of “at BU”
- **RIFE—STRIFE** (“discord”) – ST (“Stateless”)

Per George S. Kaufman: “SATIRE is what closes on Saturday night.”

From *Hamlet*: How weary, stale, flat, and UNPROFITABLE seem to me all the uses of the world!”

Solvers

As I suspected, this proved to be a difficult puzzle, and the solver list is way down this time. Most solvers loved the challenge, though, and a number of you said this was your favorite of my puzzles. You can't please everyone! For those of you keeping records, Ken Kudrak solved both previous puzzles and should have had an asterisk by his name last time. I regret the error and have put one by his name this time.

Solvers who did not use the hints

The Accardo Family, Dean Apps, Lois Cappellano, Jonathan Carrier, Deb Edwards, Bob Fink, Phil Gollance, J&J Holloman, Ruth Johnson, Paul Kolell, Ken Kudrak, Adrienne Lewis, Tim Luker, Jerry Miccolis, Lee Michelson, Jim Muza, David & Corinne Promislow, Daniel Rhodes, Craig Schmid, Sally Jane Smith, Jon Turnes, Dave Wallman*

Solvers who did use the hints (or didn't specify)

Bob Campbell, Sami Casanova, Todd Dashoff, Mick and Kris Diede, Greg Dreher, Mathew Eberhardt, Tim Fitzgibbons, Pete Hepokoski, Eric Klis, Jon Michelson, Bill Scott, Doug Szper, Frederick Upton