

Penthouse

THE INSTRUCTIONS TO THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE couldn't be easier. Below are 40 clues, each leading to a five-letter word. Enter the answers into the five penthouse apartments shown at right. The apartments would be 4x4 word squares, but as befits a penthouse apartment, each one has 8 terraces. The clues are shown in random order, so it is left to the solver to determine where the answers go. All letters of the alphabet are used at least once.

There are four proper nouns. Everything else is playable in Scrabble, including a word that many dictionaries call slang or obsolete slang and another that I've encountered only as part of a legal phrase. All the other words are common, although there's one variant spelling. Ignore punctuation, which is designed to confuse.

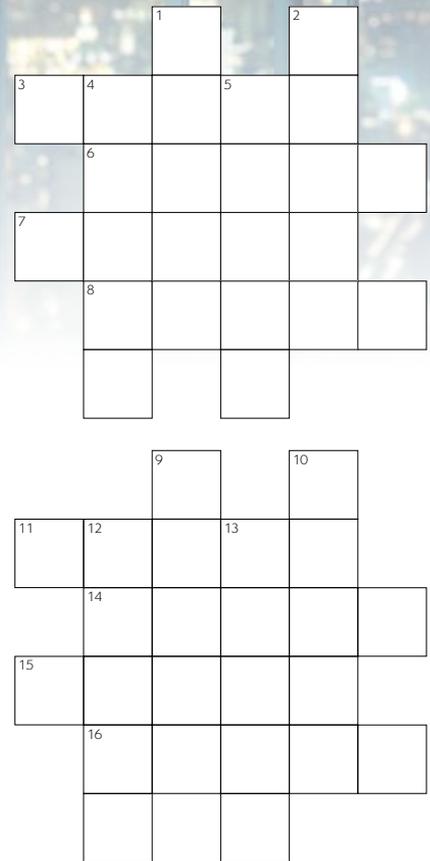
This puzzle may be hard to solve with no hints. The first level of hints groups the answer by penthouse. The second level of hints ties each answer to its position. Let me know whether you used any hints, so I can group you accordingly when the solvers list is published.

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

Clues

- a. Grain, bananas, and a Chardonnay, perhaps
- b. Stick a fork in poached pears
- c. Famed recluse appears in Dress Circle
- d. Flinging terns' crap
- e. Six take a seat and stay a while
- f. Football official in the pseudo-French undergarment
- g. Vicious iron, Ralph, but coming up short
- h. Soft rock peripheral to choirmaster's talk
- i. Clumsy avant-garde plays

- j. Shaken? Or the alternative?
- k. Shoddy adobe hut
- l. A show at the Met with some art from the Sixties' generation
- m. Limits on terms of power announced
- n. Penny, with effortlessness, they may be split
- o. Someone from Casablanca Flynn flipped over
- p. Chill at California airport following a drop of golden sun
- q. Question and answer about unsatisfactory Hebrew bible assignment
- r. Virginia, porn for the most part is hot air
- s. Tries to find Punjabis on the radio
- t. Little favorite with the computer department
- u. Ballet move originally rendered by Yankee great
- v. British grain travels by water
- w. Unfortunately, Eden's packed
- x. Police called to wooded area
- y. Little echidna harboring bloodsucker
- z. All is invariably unknown
- aa. Strenuously question Greek adversity
- bb. True things from false pretenses
- cc. Little House on the Prairie with toilet paper, I hear
- dd. Lee, I'd better cancel
- ee. Loud attire in what respect?
- ff. Detected an odor of small fish



- gg. Irish enduring a slaughter
- hh. Herb's on the border, by the way
- ii. Carrying too much for one delivering from San Francisco to Miami
- jj. Messing with young society woman, rather adroit at first
- kk. Harmful conglomerate offering a token
- ll. Blush at rogue treatment
- mm. Love an opportunity to be heard
- nn. Landing in the French Riviera at three

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.

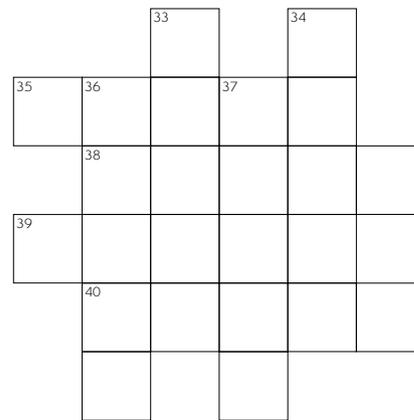
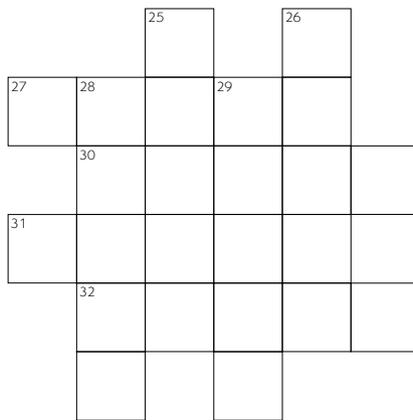
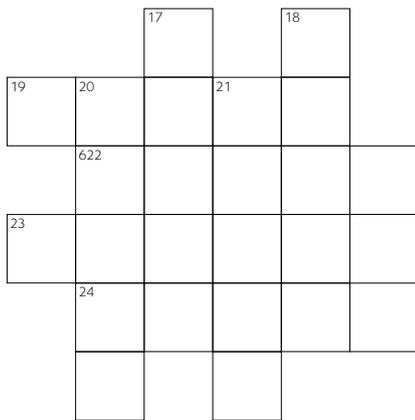
Solutions may be emailed to thomas.toce@ey.com. In order to make the solver list, your solutions must be received by March 31, 2016.

40. w	35. f	30. cc	25. b	20. ll	15. ff	10. d	5. c
39. e	34. bb	29. i	24. aa	19. a	14. z	9. nn	4. k
38. y	33. h	28. j	23. q	18. g	13. p	8. jj	3. kk
37. m	32. gg	27. x	22. l	17. r	12. hh	7. o	2. n
36. dd	31. h	26. s	21. t	16. n	11. ee	6. v	1. mm

Second level hints

Penthouse 33-40: e, f, m, w, y, bb, dd, ii
Penthouse 25-32: b, h, i, j, s, x, cc, gg
Penthouse 17-24: a, g, l, q, r, t, aa, ll
Penthouse 9-16: d, n, p, z, ee, ff, hh, nn
Penthouse 1-8: c, k, o, u, v, jj, kk, mm

First level hints



Previous Issue's Puzzle—Patchwork

“Patch” Clues

- CONSTERNATE: Anagram of “entrances to”
- PAYLOAD: Homophone of “pale” (“colorless”) + “ode” (“ballad”)
- DESTINIES: Anagram of “densities”
- EXOTIC: Reversal of “cite” (“quote”) surrounding X (“hug”) and O (“kiss”)
- DISCOLORED: DISCO (“dance club”) + LORE (“legend”) + D (“Donna’s crown”)
- GATHERS: Hidden in “ginseng at her store”
- REBOUNDED: Anagram of “nude bored”
- LEADER: Hidden in “style a derby”
- DESERTION: Anagram of “resident” surrounding O (“hole”)
- STONEWALLED: STALLED surrounding ONE + W (“week”)
- DEFILED: DEED surrounding FIL (part of Chick-fil-A)
- ACQUIT: ACT surrounding QUI (Roman “who”)
- AGGRESSIVE: Anagram of “sarges give”
- JAILED: J (center of “perjury”) + AILED (“felt bad”)
- NOISEMAKER: Anagram of “senor Mike” with A added inside (“given”)
- OVERSTAFFED: Double definition
- EQUALIZES: Anagram of “quiz Leesa”

“Thread 1” (Outer) Clues

- QUERIES: Anagram of “esquire”
- DEMOS: Hidden in “seaside mosque”
- TOXIC: TIC (“spasm”) surrounding OX (“beast of burden”)
- TASSEL: Anagram of “steals”
- TOWERED: Every other letter of “Otto’s wee friends”
- JARGON: JAR (“jerk”) + GONE (“departed”) – E (“empty”)
- CANTINAS: Remove “edges” (“mendi” and “erape”) from “mendicant in a serape”

“Thread 2” Clues

- LAGER: Reversal of “regal” (“splendid”)
- QUICKEN: QUEEN – E (“heartless”) surrounding ICK (“last third of drumstick”)
- IDOLIZE: Homophone of “idle” (“lazy”) + “eyes” (“lookers”)
- RoaSIDE STREET: Anagram of “trees” surrounding ID EST (“that is”)
- LISTENS: GLISTENS (“sparkles”) – G (“after commencement”)

“Thread 3” Clues

- FEARED: Initial letters of “Friendly effervescent and really engaging David”
- COLE: Homonym of “coal” (“pitch”)
- STAPLES: Double definition
- HANDED: Hidden in “epitaph and editorialized”
- AGILE: FRAGILE – FR (“finer edges”)

“Thread 4” Clues

- LAYOFF: Change P (“profit”) into L (“loss”) in PAYOFF (“compensation”)
- STEADIED: Initial letters of “she took Excedrin after drug interaction episode Darvocet”
- DEVOID: DEVO (“punk rock band”) + ID (“undisciplined force”)

“Thread 5” Clues

- ENDEAR: END (“final”) + EAR (“musical ability”)
- DEVOUR: Reversal of ROVED surrounding U (“university”)

“Thread 6” (Inner) Clue

- BORE: Double definition

Solvers

Solvers at the Excruciating Level:

Michael and Jina Accardo, Steve Alpert, Stephen Bates and Tim Buckner, Braze,

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	U	Q	S	A	N	I	T	N	A	C	N	O
2	E	Z	E	S	I	D	E	S	T	R	E	G
3	R	I	L	E	S	T	A	P	L	E	E	R
4	I	L	O	S	F	F	O	Y	A	S	T	A
5	E	O	C	T	O	V	E	D	L	H	L	J
6	S	D	D	E	U	R	E	R	D	A	I	D
7	D	I	E	A	R	O	B	A	I	N	S	E
8	E	N	R	D	E	N	D	E	O	D	T	R
9	M	E	A	I	E	D	D	E	V	E	E	E
10	O	K	E	F	E	L	I	G	A	D	N	W
11	S	C	I	U	Q	R	E	G	A	L	S	O
12	T	O	X	I	C	T	A	S	S	E	L	T

Bob Campbell, Lois Cappellano, Laura Cremerius, Jonathan Currier, Todd Dashoff, Mick Diede, Sean Donohoe and Josh DenHartog, dba T.O.C.E (The Thousand Oaks Cryptic Enthusiasts), Greg Dreher, Deb Edwards, Phil Gollance, Pete Hepokoski, John Herder, J & J Holloman, Ruth Howald, Paul Ivanovskis, Ruth Johnson, Paul Kolell, Ken Kudrak, Tim Luker, Dave McGarry, Lee Michelson, Jim Muza, David & Corinne Promislow, Danny Rhodes, Bill Scott, Andrew Shewan, Jon Shiley, Tyler & Evelyn Somer, Tom Toce, Jon Turnes, Dave Wallman

Solvers using some hints (or not saying):

Arlan Aakre, Dean Apps, Karl Baker, Bob Buck, Mathew Eberhardt, Bruce Fuller, Jason Head, Wade Hess, Brian Klimek, James Lamenza, David Lovit, Jeff McLane, Jon Michelson, Stephen Pearce, Karen Skoglund, Doug Szper, Art Zaremba, Frank Zaret