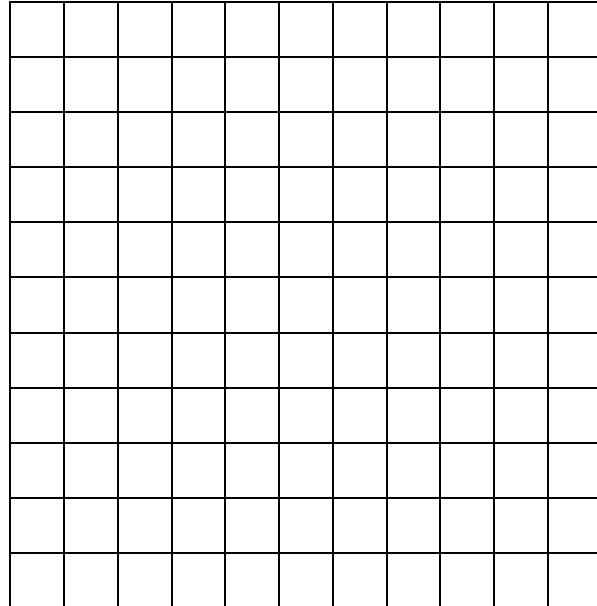


## Puzzle #152 — January 2014 "Proof"

**Instructions:** Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (answers vary in length from four to eight letters, and five are capitalized) then enter them in the grid one after another in the same order as their clues, starting in the upper left corner. Across words that don't end at the right continue on the next row, and down words that don't end at the bottom continue in the next column. Nine across words and nine down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is omitted. Those eighteen letters, taken in order as they occur in across and down words spell a three-word phrase related to the mystery entries. Thanks to Kevin Wald for test-solving and editing this puzzle.



### Across

1. *Mystery entry*
2. "Wicked fun" is mangled Latin
3. Former gladiator's head in carved ebony
4. Talk English or burn
5. Financier's minute instrument
6. Zesty insect turned back before day's end
7. Poise of bachelor making a clean break
8. Orderly retained about 1000
9. Burden is our treat
10. Pain of one about to leave
11. A porter arranged to divide things proportionally
12. Ended with a dish of spaghetti, maybe
13. Hang around end of rigging in ship
14. A true shelter for a community in Virginia
15. Small slab or step
16. Salt is processed in these French chateaus
17. Party skinflint gets ten for a shilling
18. Formerly in concert
19. One in playful sport has energy for a quick counterthrust
20. Commencement features leading tenor
21. Take refuge in someone's tent
22. Bobbin's coils spun around
23. Scantier trade after time runs out
24. *Mystery entry*

### Down

1. Saul to be made perfect
2. Brilliant onyx covers Cleopatra's lover
3. Secretion begins in great upset stomach
4. Some cartons and loaded drums started to burn
5. Joke about new group
6. Father's head beginning to roll
7. Wild-born Colorado pony, perhaps
8. Dealer tries to keep attentive
9. Let run
10. Tango dancing seen as high-strung
11. Strength of blended wines
12. Chaise carrying king is unreliable
13. Ancient emperor's composure
14. River fish
15. Father and uncle in Spanish courtyard
16. Talk about women in jazz
17. Wordy ace beginning to lecture before 9
18. Son trying absurdly to become wiry
19. John's fuel in the new year
20. Turn of legislative leader in court
21. Stupid Ben has gold carried
22. Stagger around end of ramp and push off
23. Guy has time to run
24. Speaks lovingly about southern male system that's harmonious and orderly