

PUZZLEBOMB

PHRASETRACER:
conceived by @stecks,
set by @paultaylor.

PHRASETRACER

Each grid contains a phrase, given by the clue, which runs from square to square moving horizontally or vertically, starting and ending in the marked cells. Each row and column is labelled with the sum of the letters found in that row or column, adding letters by counting on, and looping round so that e.g. Y + D = C.

	H	A	Y	D	O	
						C
→						D
						W
						E
						R

Seasonal greeting relating to calendar reset (5,3,4)

	M	J	H	I	J	
						B
						B
						J
→						V
						N

First year with no repeated digits since 1987 (6,8)

		R	B	G	R		B	R	G		M			Y	B
--	--	---	---	---	---	--	---	---	---	--	---	--	--	---	---

SEQUENCE

SEQUENCE:
by @stecks.

Work out the rule which determines the sequence.
What colour are the next four squares?

APIS CLUES

Here are five cryptic crossword clues. You must solve the clues, then find the connection between the answers.

APIS CLUES: devised by @apisclues.

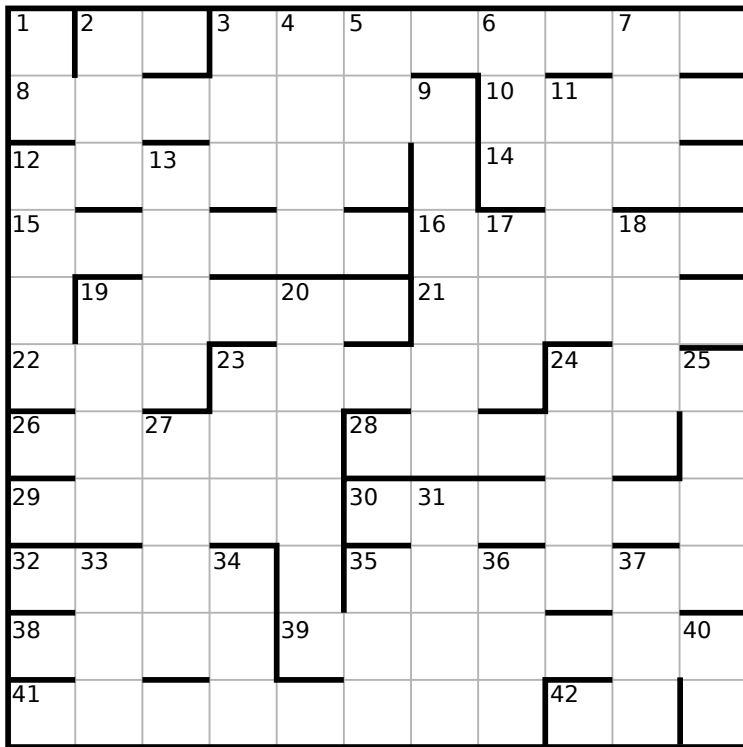
1. Ultimate brag enthusiast: one who covers hands? (6)
2. Twit in thong confused for Lord Mayor of London (11)
3. Jewel in crown has a third cut away, around the start of the working week (7)
4. Hedge bets at first, then press on pennilessy (4)
5. American shopping centre alien to first TV presenter (7)

PUZZLEBOMB

BRAIN OW

BRAIN OW: by @stecks and @apaultaylor.

Clues consist of a definition followed by a cryptic description of the letters in the word. After filling the grid, solvers must locate three cells of each of seven types, and join them with curved lines using appropriate stationery.



- 26* Tree branch; Male sheep and ewes? (5)
- 28* Pea crop; Obtain five to replace start of four (5)
- 29 Athlete Jesse; What EW do after an unlucky rubber? (5)
- 30 Not really; Elaborately dupes head of organisation (6)
- 32 Pull; Kanye endlessly confused (4)
- 35 Boggy; Politician holds influence? On the contrary! (6)
- 38 Adhesive; Luge disaster (4)
- 39* Valley bottom; Broken leg; what? (7)
- 41 Multi-atom molecule; Am not suffering mixed feelings (8)
- 42 Short girl; Half a dozen Romans (2)

Down

- 1 In the location of; Knock-off top hat (2)
- 2 Enthusiasm; Type of school - not right (3)
- 3 Apple; Came back without one (3)
- 4 Prayer ending; Confusing name (4)
- 5 Siegfried's partner; Groovy, even? (3)
- 6 View; Third letter read aloud (3)
- 7 Donkey; Tramp in America, in Britain, in America (3)
- 9* Nod involuntarily; Brazil consumed? (6)
- 11 Tibetan monk; Headless animal (4)
- 12 Beef fat; Contents of issue two (4)
- 13 Tennis player Arthur; A35? (4)
- 17 Beer; It could be pale, with a head? (3)
- 18* God of artisans; Head's first to follow school board (4)
- 19 Defrost; Norse god shouting (4)
- 20* French dramatist; Set and sum, back to back (6)
- 23 Tabloid; Monsters under containment (3)
- 24 Impurity; Heads of state can't understand maths (4)
- 25 Horse location; T5? (4)
- 27 Food list; Numerous, confused, not sour (4)
- 31 Bird; Sawn off (4)
- 33 Boxer; Liar: not right, messed up (3)
- 34 Parrot; I left furniture shop (3)
- 35 Her; Confused noises on returning (3)
- 36 Menu key; Regularly attending ballet (3)
- 37 Shar __; 2.72 into 3.14 (3)
- 40 Country code; Empty bag upended (2)

Across

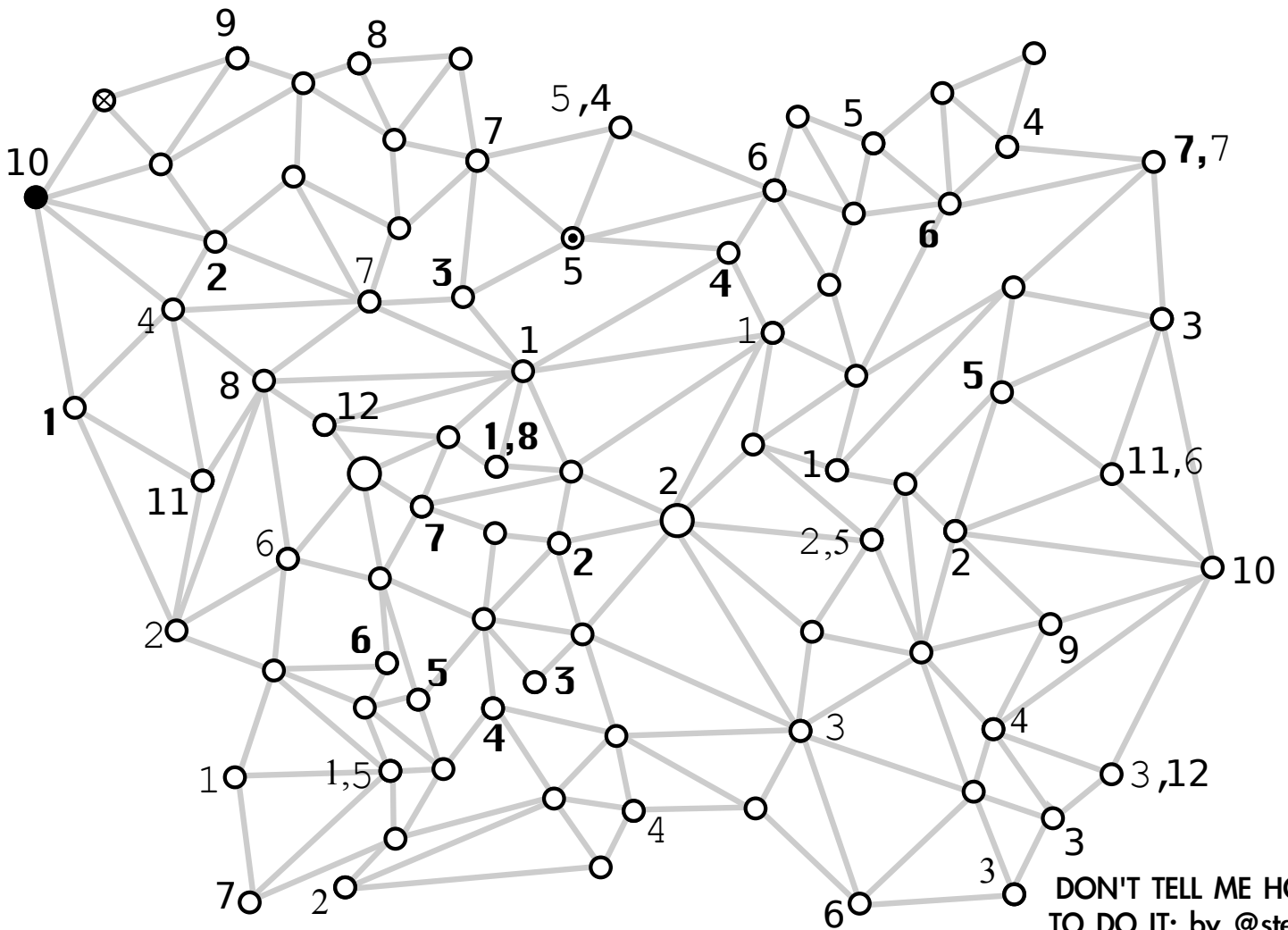
- 2 Sport class; Open centre (2)
- 3 Shooter; Tom Sawyer? (8)
- 8* Argonaut; Meal not chewed up (7)
- 10 Otherwise; Region of Chelsea (4)
- 12 Actor; Room where yelling starts (6)
- 14 Relaxedness; Sounds like drugs (4)
- 15 Not recognised; Animals returning to many countries (6)
- 16 City in FL; Part of stamp again (5)
- 19 Fifth finger; Smell bad in illness (5)
- 21* Winged; And the rest, back to end of era (5)
- 22 Article; Its hiding place is not here (3)
- 23 Sofa set; Tasty treat, I heard (5)
- 24 Weekend day (abbr.); Endless task, done backwards (3)

*: less common words, found at dictionary.com except 20dn, a name.

PUZZLEBOMB

The grey lines show how the dots are linked. Each dot must be coloured black, dotted or crossed, and two dots of the same colour can't be joined by a line. The black dots produce a secondary puzzle.

DON'T TELL ME HOW TO DO IT



DON'T TELL ME HOW TO DO IT: by @stecks

APIS CLUES

Here are five cryptic crossword clues. You must solve the clues, then find the connection between the answers.

APIS CLUES: devised by @apisclues.

1. Drill makes Queen recoil from stink of sweat (4)
2. Weep in front of heartless clergyman where you take your final rest (5)
3. Invasion to pilfer aid contents (4)
4. Born to follow king, as one once did before him? (4)
5. Semi-brazen kind of Buddhism (3)

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PHRASE TRACER

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Each grid contains a phrase, given by the clue, which runs from square to square moving horizontally or vertically, starting and ending in the marked cells. Each row and column is labelled with the sum of the letters found in that row or column, adding letters by counting on, and looping round so that e.g. Y + D = C.

	P	C	W	Y	H	B	
							R
							D
							N
							Q
							X

Boy wizard's pensive masonry quest goal (12,5)

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Complete the word ladder so that each rung contains a word different in one place from the word above it. The top and bottom words can be found by solving the other two puzzles in this Puzzlebomb.

Clues to other words:

1. They might be placed
2. They might be charged
3. One's hard to do

	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—
3	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—

THE METAPUZZLE: by @apaultaylor.

THE METAPUZZLE

ERDOS CLUES

Here are five cryptic crossword clues. You must solve the clues, then find the connection between the answers.

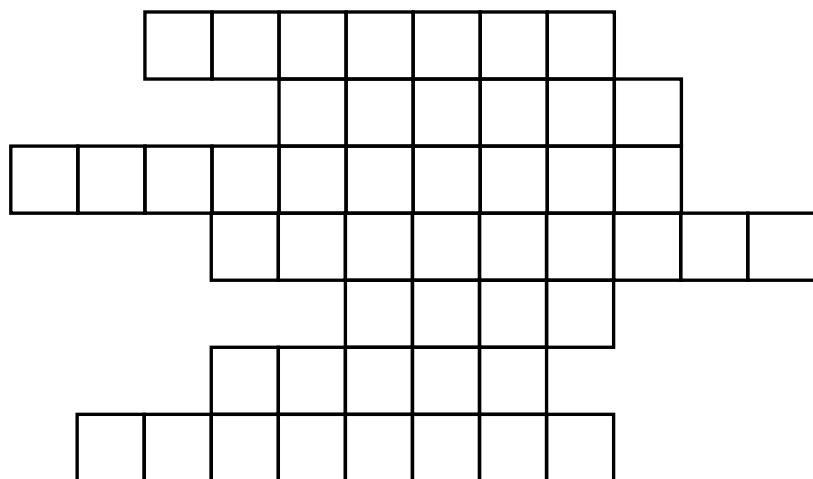
ERDOS CLUES: devised by @apaultaylor.

1. River for Italians, the French, or Eastern Europeans? (4)
2. Popular song penned by you and me for a musical sibling (5)
3. Not up for stuffing? (4)
4. Husband and wife trimmed bunions (5)
5. Several pound notes shuffled (5)

PUZZLEBOMB

Work out what you need to do for each puzzle, and do it. The puzzles will tell you when they're solved.

PICK&MIX: set by @stecks, with help from @apaultaylor & @gheizwinder



AACEKNP
 ABCDELMRS
 ABCNO
 AEMOOSTT
 ABHHNORSSW
 CEEFFO
 EGGS

PICK&MIX

Retro flooring

Cartoon pet

Il ____, popera group

Seedy bar

Doesn't dry your skin like soap can

After

Previous

Finally

Northerneress

Passes

1	2	3	
4		5	6
7	8	9	
10			

Across

- 1. 753×1223
- 4. 7 across + 101
- 5. Anagram of 4ac
- 7. $\lfloor 100\pi \rfloor$
- 9. 6 down + 100
- 10. 1850 days after Christmas 2013

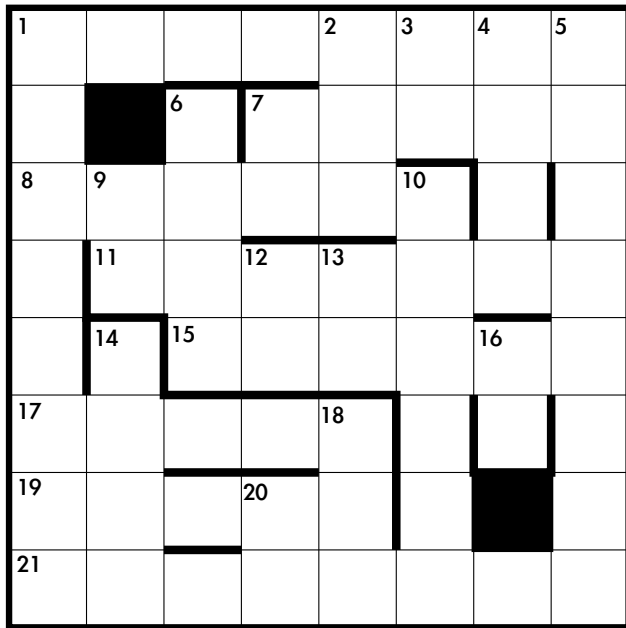
Down

- 2. Orson Welles = 100
- 3. 7 across + 600
- 4. Prime number
- 6. 111010_2
- 8. Palindrome
- 9. MDXX

PUZZLEBOMB

MATHEMATICIANS CROSSWORD:
set by @stecks and @apaultaylor
with help from @gheizhwinder

MATHEMATICIANS CROSSWORD



Both mathematicians and fans of wordplay will enjoy the across clues. In down clues the letters represent numbers, and then the numbers represent letters.

Across

1. Acorn pie ruined; everything's balls (8)
7. Difficult game: key to incompleteness (5)
8. Went on about calculus (6)
11. He drew the hypothetical line at man wearing nothing French (7)
15. Starting to go off heartless machine that can do anything (6)

17. Drug czar gets beheaded - he is the master of us all (5)

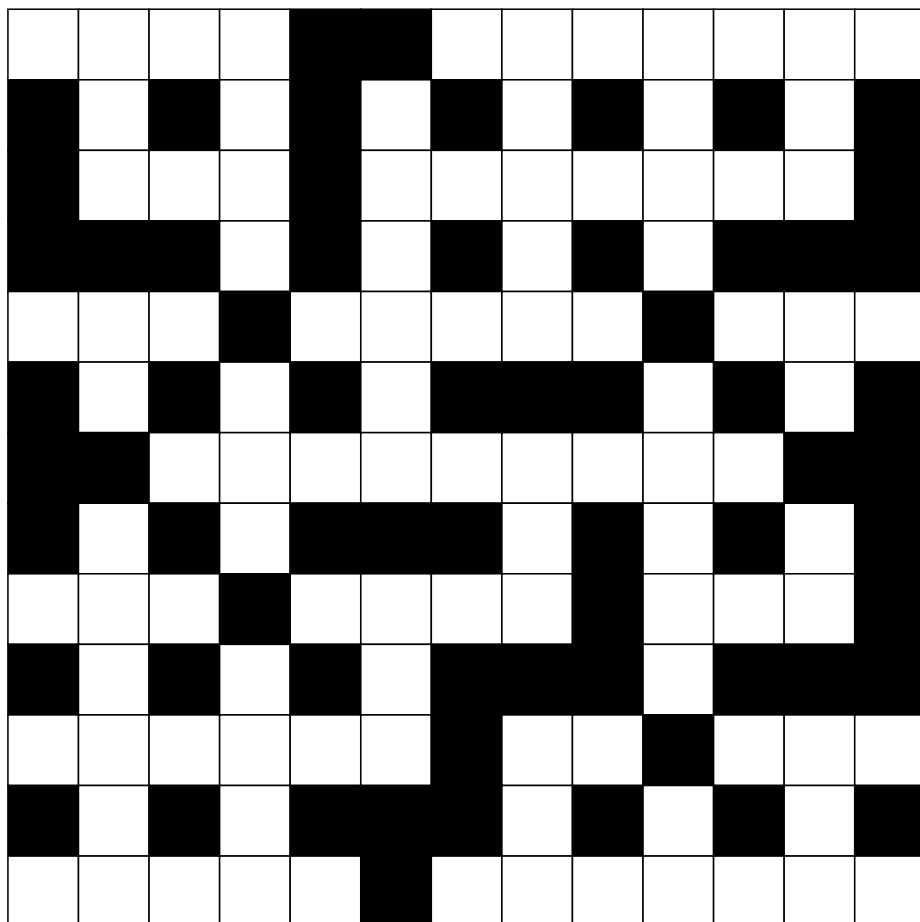
19. Degree of collaborativeness from parties expressing hesitation at first (5)

21. Fall behind oven, summarising the dynamics of the system (8)

Down

1. $20+3$; 2×4 ; 3×3 ; 9×2 ; 3×4 ; $10-\delta$; $3+4$; $8+1$; $2+5$
2. $1+3$; 3×5 ; 11×2 ; $2+3$; $\gamma-6$; 2×7 ; $20-5$; 3×3 ; $20-1$; $4+1$
3. 2×8 ; $2 \times \alpha$; 3×5 ; $10+3$; $10+5$; $10+10$; 3×3 ; $7+\beta$; $6+8$
4. $4+4$; 3×5 ; $10+8$; $18+1$; 1×5 ; $\epsilon-4$; 2×10 ; $4-3$
5. $6+6$; $6-\delta$; $9+5$; $14-7$; $19+1$; $9-\delta$; $7-2$; 7×2
6. $4+5$; $\alpha-5$; $6+3$; $9+\gamma$; 4×5
7. $3+4$; 2×9 ; $5-4$; $16-2$; $3-3$; 1×20 ; $20+1$; $20-2$; $11-2$; $17+2$; $10+3$; $17-2\delta$
9. $4-3$; $6-\gamma$; $2-\delta$; $15-1$; $2+2$; $2-2\delta$; $2+3$; $8-\beta$; 3×7 ; $20-\delta$; $\alpha-8$
10. $6-5$; 4×5 ; 2×10 ; $7-\gamma$; $\epsilon-1$; 2×4
12. $1+4$; 3×7 ; 6×3 ; $10+5$; 4×4 ; $7-2$
13. $8+5$; 3×3 ; $10+9$; $5 \times \epsilon$; $9-\epsilon$; 3×6
14. $5+3$; $2+3$; $3-\delta$; $20-2$; $20-11$; $11-7$; $11-\gamma$; $2+3$
16. 2×7 ; $10 \div 2$; $14 \div 2$; $2 \div 2$; $19+1$; $10-\delta$; 11×2 ; $\beta-3$
18. $14-9$; $9+5$; $2+1$; $9+\alpha$; 5×5 ; 4×4 ; 4×5 ; 3×3 ; $16-1$; $16-2$
20. 2×2 ; 3×3 ; $15+4$; 2×5 ; 7×3 ; $18-\epsilon$; $7-\epsilon$; $18+2$; $13-\epsilon$; $16-\delta$; $15-1$

PUZZLEBOMB



Across

Leguminous pulse; Owl noise
 Novel; Department dealing with computers (abbr.); Scaleless fish with long body

Erasing

Artificial enthusiasm; step on a ladder; zero in tennis
 Connecting together; type of paints
 Holding on to; speed
 Precious stone/dark yellow; of urine

Down

Woman warrior
 Baked (Italian); Elle Macpherson's nickname (The ____)
 Unit of music; Greek letter\density; 'for example' (abbr.); not off
 Greek temple with divine proportions; child safety mark (abbr.)
 Arc of a spectrum; Israeli airline
 Moroccan dish; One speaking an indo-european language such as Russian, Polish or Serbian

The rows and columns containing words have been clued with the incorrect spacing, and in the wrong order. Solve the clues, respace to form real words/phrases (two of which are French) and fit in the grid.

DOUBLE-CROSS:

by @stecks

DOUBLE-CROSS

APIS CLUES

Here are five cryptic crossword clues. You must solve the clues, then find the connection between the answers.

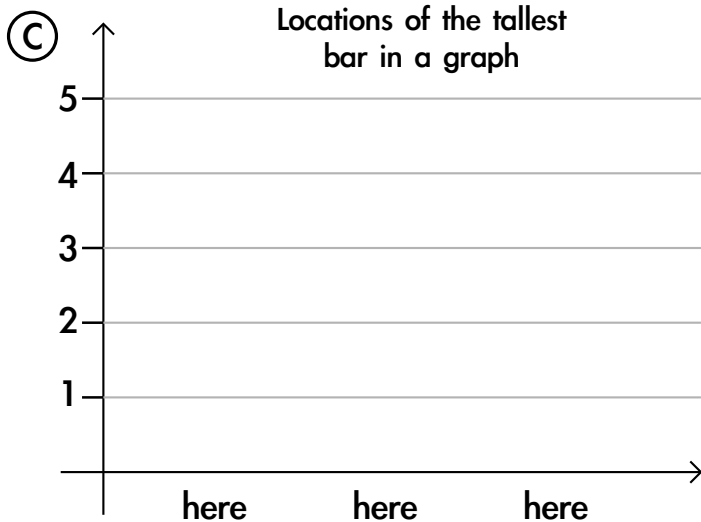
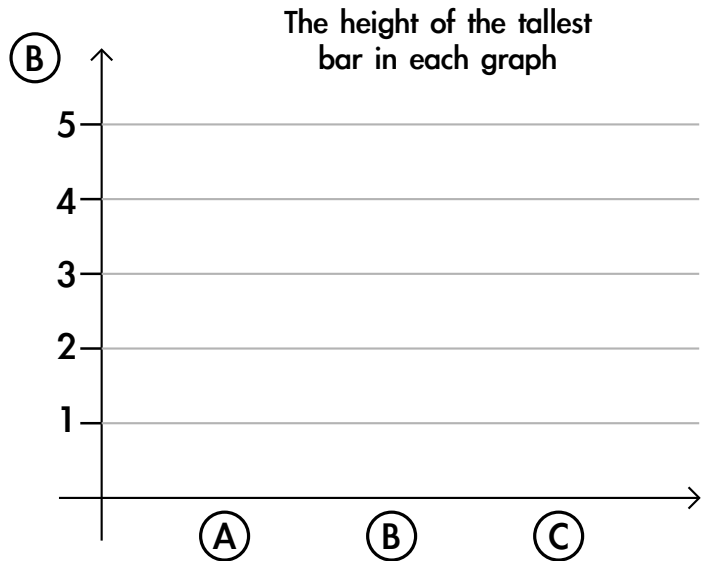
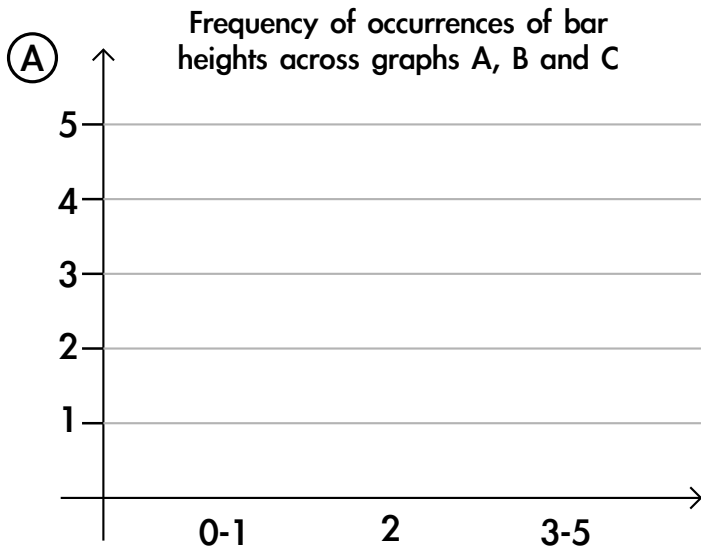
1. Show your bottom for about four weeks (4)
2. First affair overcomes heart of our Geordie horseman (3)
3. "Endlessly twist Dominic" suggests Norman (6)
4. Times dismisses the Queen, creating rumble (7)
5. Horrendous trifle. Half vomity. Manure might improve this. (9)

APIS CLUES: devised by @apisclues.



PUZZLEBOMB

CRYPTO-GRAPHS



Additional information:

In graph A, the heights of the bars are all different.

In graph B, the sum of all the bar heights is 11.

In graph C, the bar heights increase from left to right.

Complete all the bar charts.

CRYPTO-GRAPHS: by @stecks and @apaultaylor.

APIS CLUES

Here are five cryptic crossword clues. You must solve the clues, then find the connection between the answers.

APIS CLUES: devised by @apisclues.

1. Peer right into headless fool (4)
2. Laugh inappropriately when dogger's bottom is seen in trees (6)
3. Priest's cry when mangled with mangled mangle (9)
4. Office worker transforming yesterday's good young man into king (5)
5. Disordered, bland histories about a Middle Eastern fellow who was carried away by a giant bird (6,3,6)

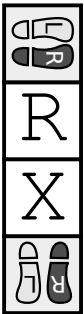
PUZZLEBOMB

CEILIDH TABLE

CEILIDH TABLE: by @stecks & @opaultaylor,
based on an idea by @christianp.

				R		

e.g.



Write in L, R or X for turning and crossing feet to make each row and column of dance moves result in the foot positions shown (working downwards & to the right.)
No two consecutive moves are the same.

WORD ADDER

WORD ADDER:
by @stecks &
@opaultaylor.

Each clue leads to a pair of four-letter words, the letters of the second of which are found by advancing three of the letters of the first word by one in the alphabet. The unchanged letter in each pair of words spells a word.

Nicholas II's taxi firm

Rough description of an igloo

Veal recipe

Celebrities on the bench

Don't trust Loki. Use Mjollnir to fight the Frost Giants. Join the Avengers.

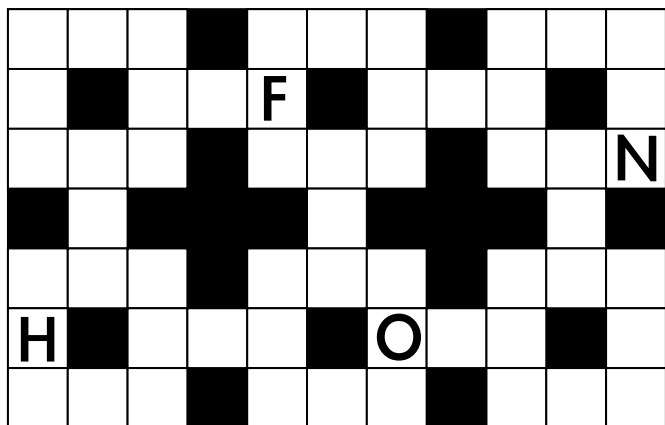
APIS CLUES

Here are five cryptic crossword clues. You must solve the clues, then find the connection between the answers.

APIS CLUES: devised by @apisclues.

1. Humanitarians found on English field, perhaps? (3,5)
2. No false suitor, fearless and confused, will produce what you're looking for (9)
3. Ten fish making waves (1-4)
4. Hesitate twice after second-to-last request for some of your blood (5)
5. Stick nose in, then stick toe in (wiggle it a bit) - it's done in lines, with rhythm (6)

PUZZLEBOMB



TLA XWD: by @stecks & @apaultaylor
with some clues by @andrew_taylor

TLA XWD

WORD ADDER

WORD ADDER: by @stecks and @apaultaylor.

Each clue consists of, in some order, a definition and three words which contain the answer, when the same letter is taken from each word.

ACROSS

- Adolescent dolphin crossing channel
- Angry maniac displays death wish
- Auntie Bessie's beef casserole
- Clustered unique table, in this?
- Dispatcher stops everything it broadcasts
- Drink in perfect atmosphere
- Every ache troubles old player
- Homicidal pair attack military group
- I'll return as soon as I can reimburse Peter's plumber
- Liberal partner requests sordid horseplay
- Mulder's employer obfuscates wibbly aliens
- Part of military training happened afterwards
- Representative temperature credentials unpublished
- Shooter advocates injuring adulterers critically
- Take half remittance - a way to go Dutch?
- That's incredible, shouted Simon Pegg

DOWN

- Can John assist hospitality manager?
- Chips go well with this sloppy delicious redness
- Cornflakes' riboflavin acids unbelievable
- Drunkard voluntarily adjudicates alternative to AA
- Ectoplasm aids hallowe'en spooks
- Film crossover starring David Rappaport
- Khrushchev's government body? Not quite!
- Movie buffs oblige affectionate directors
- Opinion poll objectively verified
- Requirement: hop through the hoops
- Scan campsite for friend
- Smith and Jones: comedy pair? Debatable.
- Speaking apparently demonstrates degree of authority
- Twitter's servers fall offline
- Where Jaguars take on Panthers, lions prefer stalking

Each clue leads to a pair of four-letter words, the letters of the second of which are found by advancing three of the letters of the first word by one in the alphabet. The unchanged letter in each pair of words spells a word.

Czech town's harvest

Sean Sandler's counterpart

Fur not feathers on wading bird

Defeats enemies

Do you believe in life after this?

APIS CLUES

Here are five cryptic crossword clues. You must solve the clues, then find the connection between the answers.

APIS CLUES: devised by @apisclues.

1. Ring musicians (4)
2. Sing through bill without a hitch (5)
3. BA Baracus first to give pain - God gets ass kicked (8)
4. Crown brass player with circlet after exclamation of amazement (7)
5. Jim, Kenny and Albert of Port Vale cut short buzzing game? (7)

PUZZLEBOMB

20				
				1

32 31 42 57 48
 sums

products

4480
 4896
 1710
 92664
 700

KNIGHT RIDER



Construct a failed knight's tour in the grid, starting and ending where shown, so that if you write the number of the move into the square it lands on, the product of the numbers in each row is as shown, as is the sum of the numbers in each column.

KNIGHT RIDER: by @apaultaylor.

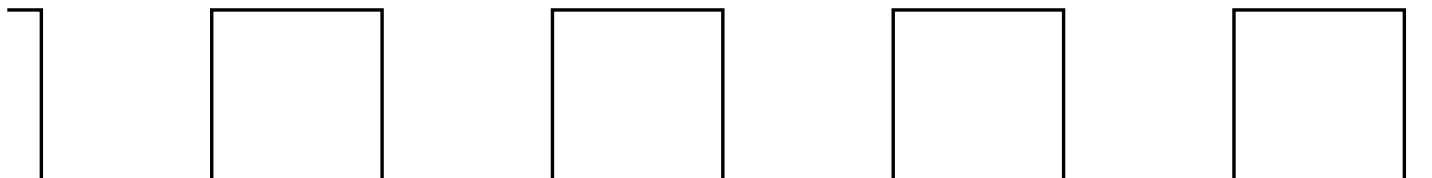


FORTITUDE

FORTITUDE: by @stecks and @apaultaylor.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Find one of the possible ways to place all but one of the numbers 1-9 in the gaps in the castle wall, so that each adjacent pair of numbers sums to a prime number, and the total of the numbers above and below the line is the same. Don't forget, the tower wraps around so the end two must also sum to a prime number!



OEIS CLUES

Here are five cryptic number clues. You must solve the clues, then find the connection between the answers.

OEIS CLUES: devised by @stecks & @apaultaylor.

1. Consolidated to five weeks a year (4)
2. Legal to drink, a crowd wonders? (4)
3. Armed bandit on aeroplane (4)
4. Winner of the best Olympic rowing event - sounds like a 'no' from Germany (4)
5. Jamie Oliver's restaurant recommended fruit daily consumed, or so I heard (4)

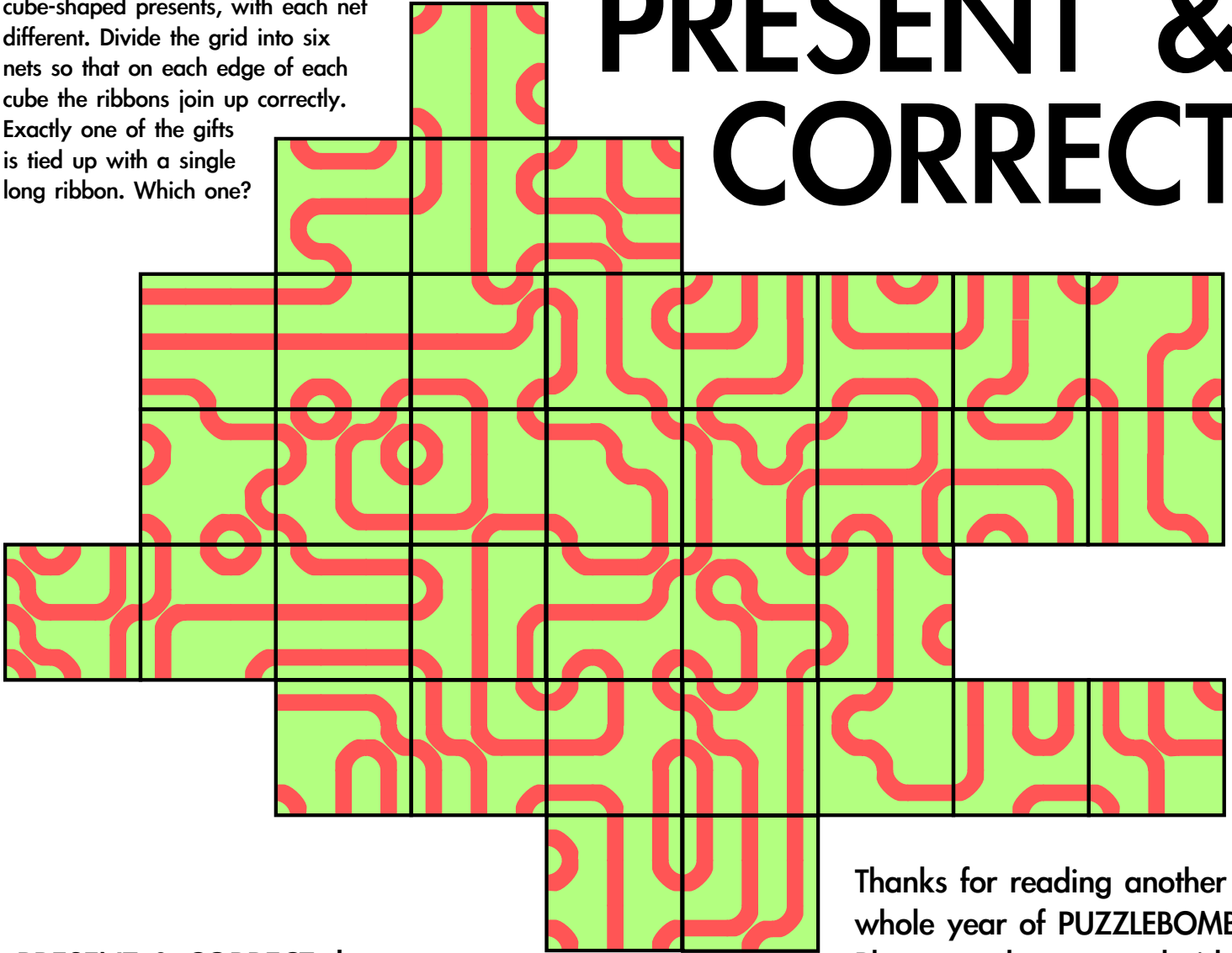


PUZZLEBOMB



This grid consists of the nets of six cube-shaped presents, with each net different. Divide the grid into six nets so that on each edge of each cube the ribbons join up correctly. Exactly one of the gifts is tied up with a single long ribbon. Which one?

PRESENT & CORRECT



PRESENT & CORRECT: by @stecks and @andrew_taylor.

Thanks for reading another whole year of PUZZLEBOMB! Please send your puzzle ideas and comments to @stecks.

SANTA CLUES: devised by @andrew_taylor.

SANTA CLUES

Here are eight cryptic clues. You must solve the clues, then find the connection between the answers.

1. Bolt, or one who might? (6)
2. Foxy lady Hart, Internet mathematician, multiplied by constant number (5)
3. Income tax constrains electronics store (5)
4. Policeman laid back in rough regularly before the communist informant revealed closing theme song (7, 3, 3-5, 8)
5. Skipper's reply on the radio after press release (7)
6. Spirit of love found in police cover-up (5)
7. Type of performer that can become stars with a key change (6)
8. Stormy weather in German river (6, 3, 7)