



Duplicity

THE THEME CLUES ALL HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON. These duplicitous clues are presented in a random order. They are not cryptic clues.

There are 13 proper nouns among the regular entries. Everything else is playable in Scrabble, except the two-word entry. And, to quote Stephen Sondheim, who brought cryptic puzzles to the U.S. in the 1960s, “Ignore punctuation, which is designed to confuse.”

Thanks to Jerry Miccolis for test-solving and editorial suggestions.

Across

- 1. *See instructions*
- 9. Mixologist cut off the Dread Pirate Roberts
- 11. Biblical king in the audience for comic Mort
- 13. Making a pitch to do lawn care for well-known tavern owner
- 15. *See instructions*
- 16. Broadcast remained boring
- 17. Froot Loops, not so oddly, contain candy
- 18. *See instructions*
- 19. Part-time plant worker
- 20. Send weapons but harm no humans at first
- 22. Flock of birds finally get interested
- 24. Grub served in spectacular variety
- 27. Native American tribe proposes to bring litigation
- 29. Al, I met a famous boxer
- 32. *See instructions*
- 34. Bringing back AJ as Jake’s third wheel, man
- 37. People speaking with airs
- 38. *See instructions*
- 40. Tuna caught right in the middle of Bahia
- 41. Gaelic poem that needs no introduction
- 42. Stone and iron, for example, experience shortages in the Far East
- 43. *See instructions*

Down

- 1. Baby’s male features not much to write home about
- 2. Weaving material from Democrat tantrums
- 3. Rated not so good for remaining rubber
- 4. Family member in crisis after missing a few beats
- 5. Too much ratatatat at a plantation Sherman is said to have destroyed
- 6. Fundamental solutions provided as well
- 7. Mailed slips to Ferdinand’s wife
- 8. Notice we’re talking pennies
- 10. Riots controlled by the police and Charlie’s Angels

1	2	2		4		5		6	7		8
9			10		11		12		13	14	
	15										
16						17					
	18										
19				20		21	22				23
24		25		26	27			28	29	30	
31	32									33	
34			35		36		37				
	38						39				
40			41					42			
43											

- 11. Disassociates from nonsense verses
- 12. Rosemary and Mary Jane encounter that woman’s drivell
- 14. Let’s consider the odds on those people from the Midwest
- 21. Clearly is mold, but ephemeral at first (*two words*)
- 23. Misestimated as characters keep reemerging from the Persian Gulf
- 25. Sign up again in reply
- 26. One who questions certain elements of Maradona’s kerfuffle
- 28. Aural loops getting wilder
- 30. Contract for practice in elocution
- 31. Doctor mails in submission, literally
- 32. LA’s hot wind
- 33. Lord, Ellie gets unwound
- 35. Help with one risky thing
- 36. “Rear end” is coarse; company may bugger off
- 39. A little late for lox and eggs

Theme clues

- a. Again
- b. Condition of the piece of day-old bread I’m going for
- c. Home of the Pueblos
- d. “If I knew I was going to live this long, I would have taken better care of myself”
- e. They may be on the wagon, but do they have to go on and on about it?
- f. For Dali, flamboyant clothing and a long-waxed mustache

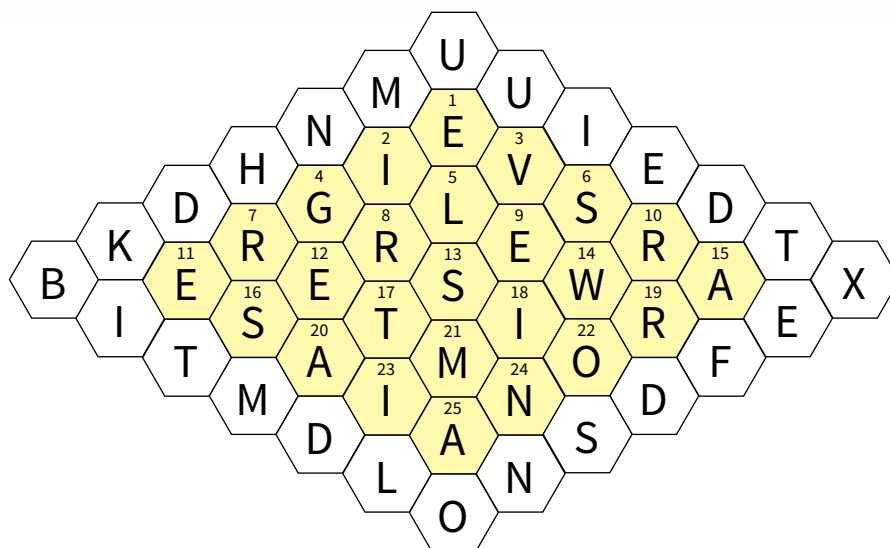


Solution to Previous Issue's Puzzle—Honeycombs

Apologies to Corinne and David Promislow for omitting them from the list of solvers last time.

Apologies to everyone for an imperfect clue below, #1. The logic of the wordplay implies that the word “mule” will carry some letters from “Peruvians,” namely UVI, and then the whole thing will be turned around to yield ELUVIUM. The problem is that UVI appears in that order, not reversed. The logic should really tell the mule to turn around and then carry some Peruvians to mineral deposits. Which is funnier anyway!

1. ELUVIUM—“Mule” reversed over UVI (“some Peruvians”)
2. GREMLIN—Anagram of “Mingler”
3. ELUSIVE—Anagram of “EU evils”
4. HERRING—Pun on HER RING (“That lady’s band”)
5. SERVILE—An even worse pun on SIR VILE (“Despicable one knighted”)
6. REVIEWS—Homophone of REVUES (“plotless musicals”)
7. HEDGERS—Scramble “greed” and insert into HS (“high school”)
8. GRISTLE—GR (“Greece”) + IS + last letters in “nonbelligerent until peacetime”
9. SWIVELS—SW (“two directions”) and scramble “lives”
10. REWARDS—Anagram of “drawers”
11. SKIRTED—Outside of “Skip’s heavyhearted”
12. GARTERS—Anagram of “garrets”
13. MILTERS—MILERS (“Some middle distance runners”) around T (“turkey at first”)



14. WORRIES—Outside of “work-song series”
 15. DRAFTER—DR (“Doctor”) + AFTER
 16. STEAMER—Inside “Paste ‘America”
 17. SMARTIE—Anagram of “imarets”
 18. WINSOME—One half of “win some, lose some” (“a philosophical statement of acceptance”)
 19. FORWARD—Double definition
 20. MISDATE—Punny double definition
 21. ANAMIST—Anagram of “Tim, Ian’s”
 22. WINDSOR—Punny double definition (i.e. neckties and “Windsor and Wally’s affair,” as Stephen Sondheim put it in his song “I’m Still Here”)
 23. MATILDA—ADAM over LIT (“excited”) reversed
 24. MANSION—Anagram of “Onanism”
 25. NOMINAL—Anagram of “name only” without the Y (“Yen does not exist”)
- Center row: BEESWAX
 - Rows 4 and 10: HIVE MIND
 - Four-letter word from unchecked cells in groups 11 and 15: KITE

Solvers: Steve Alpert, Dean Apps, Lois Cappellano, Laura Cremerius, Jared Dashoff, Todd Dashoff, Christopher Dickens, Mick Diede, Deb Edwards, David Handelman, Jason Helbraun, Pete Hepokoski, Catharine Hornby, Max Jackson, Ruth Johnson, Paul Kolell, Mike Kosciuk, Ken Kudrak, George Levine, Tim Luker, Ben Lynch, Michael Manos (and Eric and Lillie), Mathew Marchione and Marika Brown, Dave McGarry, Jim Muza, David and Corinne Promislow, Ram Raman, Zig Swistunowicz, Tim Tebbe, and T. O. C. E. (Josh DenHartog and Sean Donohoe).

TOM TOCE is an FCAS and a seasonal director at KPMG. 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 Aug.1, 2026.