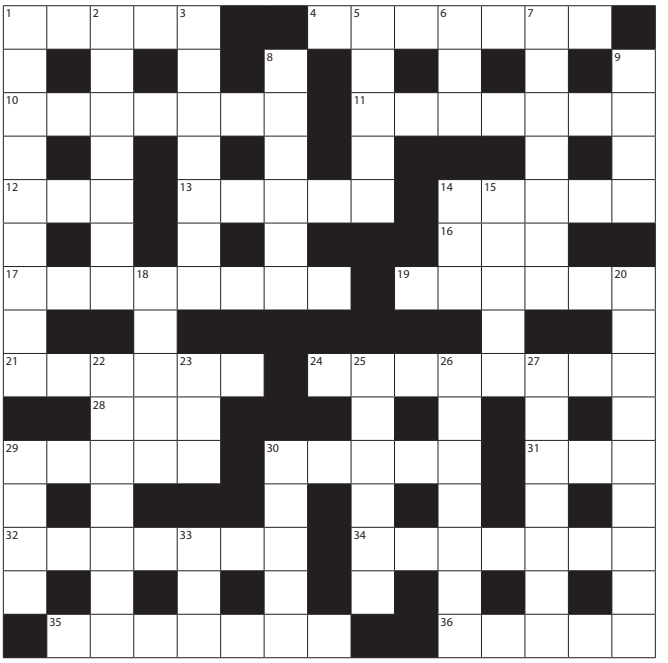
Miranda Rights

SINCE IN COURT ANYTHING YOU SAY CAN BE USED AGAINST YOU, we offer some good advice, which comes from the entry at 24A. Seventeen answers, eight from across clues and nine from down, have an extra letter. These letters must be removed before insertion into the grid. (Both the clued answer and the grid entry are, of course, valid words.) Read in clue order (across first, then down), the 17 letters spell out a pertinent four-word phrase, a well-known quote from 24A.

There are six proper nouns among the grid entries (and one more which can be a proper noun but doesn't have to be). There are three more proper nouns among the 13 special entries, one of which doesn't have to be a proper noun but is as clued. There is one common foreign word among the grid entries. Everything else is playable in Scrabble.

Two grid entries (4A and 35A) may seem to violate the principle that at least half the letters in an answer should be checked. Each of these clues leads to an eight-letter answer, so three letters are checked in the grid and the fourth is checked by the quote. The eight-letter answer at 4A is unusual. To quote Stephen Sondheim, "Ignore punctuation, which is designed to confuse."

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



Across

1. Verbally hit on but squeaky clean
4. Greek huntress at a loss, starts to adopt new training approaches
10. It improves coverage in a region when it's distorted
11. One country cedes nearly all to another country
12. Portrait of Popeye's girlfriend ordered by phone
13. Load-bearing beam found in brothel in Telluride
14. Mistakes made by nurses over fifty
16. One in sorry shape for a long time
17. Lethargic gig played in wet snow
19. Pressure group leader is bringing some heat
21. Edgy recording group presents "Get Back"
24. See instructions
28. Map out roadie's responsibility
29. Sid, confrontational despite nervousness, ultimately moves laterally
30. Boeings land on perfectly flat surfaces
31. Melody heard by one's child, maybe
32. One of two brothers is surprisingly lovelier but with no enthusiasm at first
34. First, one small criticism, then I also gloss over to a great degree
35. Tensions ensuing from too much rest after an accident
36. Watch the outline of sensitive circuitry

Down

1. Our cruise is getting weirder and weirder
2. Dear old uncle might be a poet
3. Not succumbing through sexting, I fussed
5. Agony if Virginia leaves footprints
6. Irreverent Sam's at a church service
7. Somewhat stricter minigolf limits
8. Salted nuts offered at river beds
9. Flaw is apparent in Yankee great
14. Ales poured at bar
15. Indigenous diet
18. DNA instructions all about genius outcome
20. Everyone can support kinetic energy, for the most part
22. Protest after sleazebag remains
23. Well, get this, some of them may call you out
25. A gadabout is operating primarily with slow movement
26. Steel in church's tower
27. Cook Strait's backer of autocratic rule
29. Stairway outside of student co-op
30. Breakthrough for a President
33. Close, but a little late to succumb

Good advice from Miranda:

— — — — — — — —, — — — — — — — — —



Solution to Previous Issue's Puzzle—Island Rings

Across

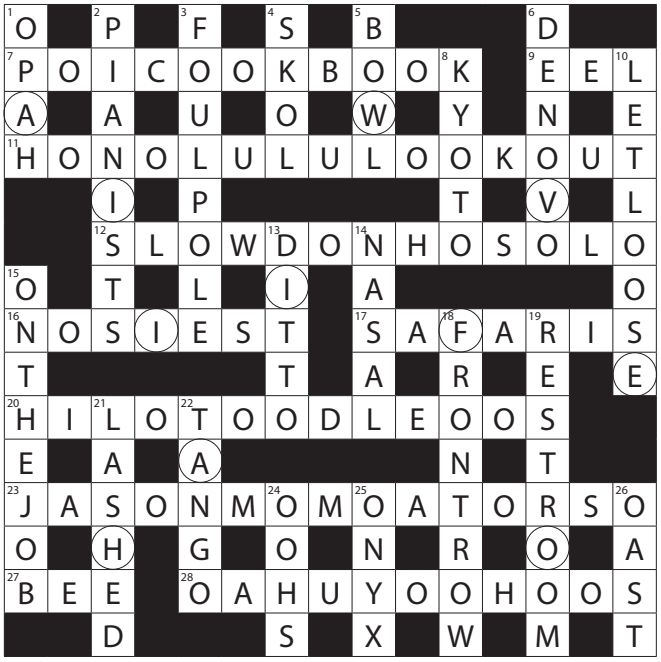
7 POI COOKBOOK—Theme Pun (Unlikely luau souvenir?)
9 EEL—Homonym/Pun ("That's Amore!" hom.)
11 HONOLULU LOOKOUT—Theme Pun (Diligent Diamond Head defender?)
12 SLOW DON HO SOLO—Theme Pun (Tiny bubbles?)
16 NOSIEST—Anagram ("On-sites" anag.)
17 SAFARIS—Insertion (A + FAR) inside SIS
20 HILO TOODLEOOS—Theme Pun (Alohas upon departure?)
23 JASON MOMOA TORSO—Theme Pun (Body of work displayed on "Aquaman" movie posters?)
27 BEE—Homonym ("B" hom.)
28 OAHU YOOHOOS—Theme Pun (Alohas upon arrival?)

Down

1 OPAH—Hidden (sh)OP AH(ead)
2 PIANISTS—Anagram ("sit in spa" anag.)
3 FOUL POLE—Homonym ("fowl poll" hom.)
4 SKOL—Hidden (a)SK OL(af)
5 BOWL—Simple Charade (B + OWL)
6 DE NOVO—Simple Charade (DEN + O + V(igenère) + O)
8 KYOTO—Letters Shifting (TO)KYO --> KYO(TO)
10 LET LOOSE—Anagram ("Tools Lee" anag.)
13 DITTO—Insertion (ITT inside DO)
14 NASAL—Hidden Initial Letters (N(ew) A(ge) S(ingers) A(re) L(oud))
15 ON THE JOB—Anagram ("John to be" anag.)
18 FRONT ROW—Hidden Odd Letters (F(o)R (n)O(o)N (s)T(a) R(t) O(f) W(e))
19 RESTROOM—Comb. Anagram/Container ("termors" anag. around O)
21 LASHED—Container (LAD around SHE)
22 TANGO—Simple Charade (TAN + GO)
24 OOHS—Homonym ("ooze" hom.)
25 ONYX—Simple Charade (ON + Y + X)
26 OAST—Comb. Deletion/Pun (r)OAST

The theme-relevant TV Show: HAWAII FIVE-O (AWIVIIFEHOW anag.)

All six of the Across theme entries have exactly five letter Os.



Solvers

Steve Alpert, Dean Apps, Steven Berman, Jack Brauner, Bob Campbell, Lois Cappellano, Laura Cremerius, Jared Dashoff, Todd Dashoff, Christopher Dickens, Mick Diede, Deb Edwards, Phil Gollance, Jason Helbraun, Pete Hepokoski, Max Jackson, Ruth Johnson, Patrick Jou, Paul Kolell, Ken Kudrak, George Levine, Tim Luker, Ben Lynch, David McGarry, Jon Michelson, Molina Team (Michael Manos and Erik Whitescarver), Becky Moody, Jim Muza, Todd Pierce, Ram Raman, Zig Swistunowicz, T.O.C.E. (Josh DenHartog and Sam Donohoe), Tim Tebbe, and James and Betsy Uzzell.

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 Dec. 1, 2026.