

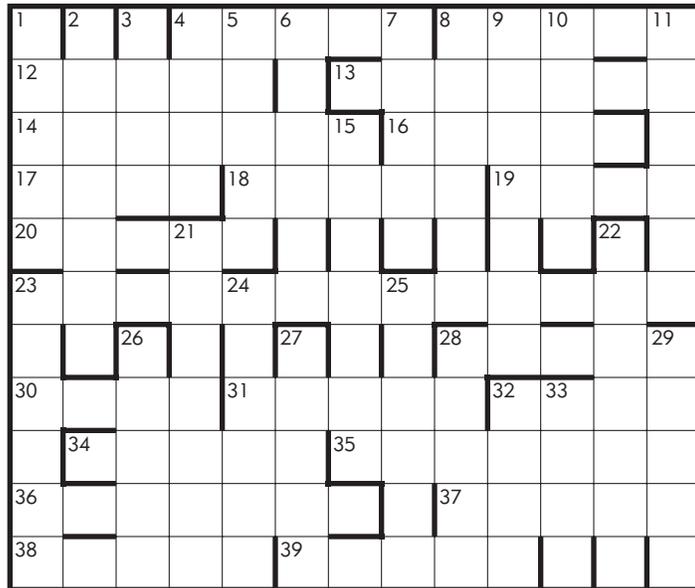
# THE PUZZLER

BY EMILY COX AND HENRY RATHVON

## Getting Into the Spirit

In the spirit of 15 Down, nine Across clue answers are affected by a 23 Across upon entry in the grid, forming nine new words or phrases. These new Across entries should mesh with the Downs, which are normal except that 15 Down has no clue. Letters *not* entered in the grid, in order of their clues' occurrence, will demonstrate a fitting spirit; their replacements will do the same. Eight clue answers and one new entry are capitalized; one new entry consists of two words.

*Note: The instructions above are for this month's puzzle only. An introduction to clue-solving may be found online at [www.theatlantic.com/issues/puzzclue.htm](http://www.theatlantic.com/issues/puzzclue.htm).*



### ACROSS

4. Infant beginning to learn many languages at once (5)
8. Hearing pause, slow down (5)
12. Audibly evokes yawns from physicists Niels and Aage (5)
13. Mush tossed on plate (7)
14. Invalidate Yankee ring (7)
16. Migrating herd I screened again (5)
17. Explosive containing iodine dye (4)
18. Intangible quality about average Honda division (5)
19. Make large head of lettuce something to play with (4)
20. Spur's age absorbing General Grant at first (3,2)
28. Answer found in Mars regions (5)
30. Passage from *Zarathustra*, as follows (4)
31. Return portion of a trip with popular actor Bruce (5)
32. In the morning, second rounds (4)
34. Experts receiving 1000 points above the rest (5)

35. Bit of gumbo framed by abstract Creole artist (2,5)
36. Article on Sumerian city, speaking of dawn (7)
37. Facing a pitcher one time, blink rapidly (2,3)
38. Operator, in places, looks sullen (5)
39. Pull empty, small sleds (5)

### DOWN

1. Fall off a boat with no lifesaver, by error (5)
2. Tense about running talk show (7)
3. Good French horn's last German locale (4)
4. Very dry, except around mid-April (4)
5. Fictional lion in Glinda's land (5)
6. Tactless Argentinian cowboy cut short Ecuador's leader (6)
7. Truck on a motorway's left or right fork (5)
8. Make white expanse of sand surrounding lake (6)

9. In audition, interpreted "Beloved" for some bucks? (3,4)
10. Performing, I lit bulb (5)
11. Glee at cuckoo chick (6)
21. Half hour in love nest is not to be repeated (3-4)
22. Run into carbon in roof covering trolley (7)
23. Nod toward knight in visored headwear (6)
24. Attendees embracing last of ten hopeless cases (6)
25. Probe something fishy held by judge in reversal (6)
26. Cruel, pitching money (5)
27. Natural fiber is carried by mule on the Erie Canal (5)
28. Some beer tainted with green, a sign of stagnation (5)
29. Black pair of circles boxed by pen (5)
32. Leaves after the first song and dance, perhaps (4)
33. Fitting answer (4)