

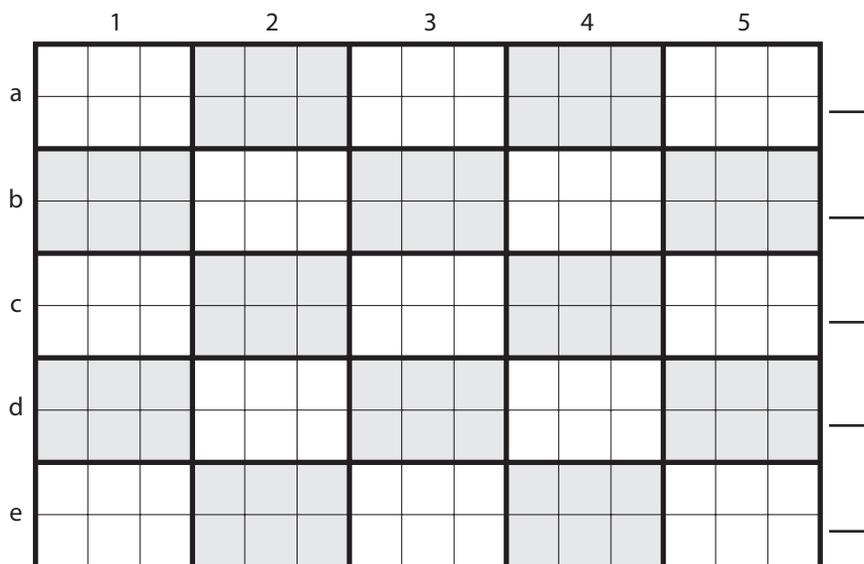
THE PUZZLER

BY EMILY COX AND HENRY RATHVON

Categories

Recalling the old parlor game, this puzzle's grid has columns for five Categories and rows for five Examples —one per Category and only one per row a–e. The Categories, which are unclued, appear directly under the numbers 1–5; each is eight letters long and skips its own Example's box. The Examples, also unclued, are all six letters long and rotate clockwise within an outlined box, starting in any one of its six squares. Their first letters, when copied to the blanks outside the grid, will spell a message to solvers.

Clue answers should be entered in normal order, Acrosses row by row, left to right, and Downs column by column, top to bottom. Four out of five letters are cross-checked, but often by unclued entries. Five answers are capitalized.



Note: The instructions given are for this month's puzzle only. An introduction to clue-solving may be found online at www.theatlantic.com/issues/puzzclue.htm.

ACROSS

- a. For Example, write "Quaker"? (5)
Daub bit of medicine into burn (5)
Eliot adopts Old Possum's last alley cats (4)
Needlefish sting server (6)
Zen riddle about right book for religious study (5)
- b. Roman's welcome, but on even ground (9)
Hide one animal from South America (5)
Banks in Cooperstown, not initially in Pennsylvania town (5)
Reportedly, key locks (4)
Spoiled Giants slugger slid into Cincinnati player (6)
- c. Twisted green yarn tangled around squirrel's tail (6)
Polynesian plant seaman set next to orange (4)
Rent shop with no facade (4)

- Svelte one was in charge of boat (8)
Norm is Helen's lover (5)
- d. Actor McGregor made over anew (4)
Class in "Heads or Tails" (4)
"Citrus Cheer" floor cleaner returned (6)
Boston subway drops lines of cars (6)
- e. Seafood entirely eaten by bard (7)
Risk surrounding a sovereign (8)
Tiny mammal, endlessly cunning (5)
Cryptic letter written finally in regret (4)
Bores some monkeys (6)

DOWN

- 1. Chill second of burgundies in vintage (4)
Listened to agreeable rock (6)
- Learn tap dancing before making a debut? (8)
- 2. Squat beside eastern river (4)
NM yard's other side (5)
Drive Ford model into wild tract of land (5)
- 3. Boy busy with a musical work (6)
Player in the middle missing the first board (5)
Name I adapted for film genre (5)
- 4. Element delivered around mid-October (5)
Blow the whistle before overtime (4)
Condiment found aboard *Santa Maria* (6)
- 5. Between two alternatives, a true stumper? (6)
Wrong breathing reversed (4)
Nasty team taking fifth in tournament (5)
People print sources when audited (5)