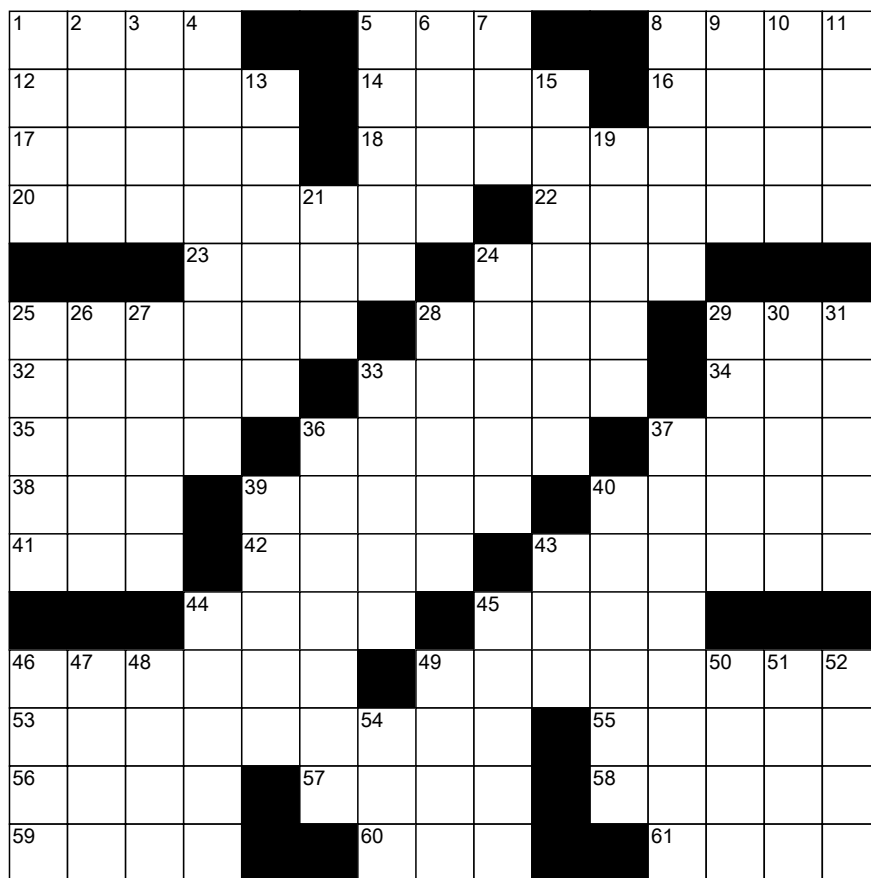


"CROSS" WORDS CONTEST

All the puzzles this week, from Monday to Saturday, have been created by one person, Patrick Berry. Have your solutions handy, because the Saturday puzzle conceals a meta-challenge involving the solution grids of all six. When you have the answer to the meta-challenge, mail it to: crossword@nytimes.com.

Twenty-five correct solvers, chosen at random, whose entries are received by 6:00 p.m. E.T. Sunday, Oct. 23, will receive copies of "Will Shortz Picks His Favorite Puzzles: 101 of the Top Crosswords From The New York Times." Only one entry per person, please. The answer and winners' names will appear on Friday, Oct. 28, at <http://www.nytimes.com/wordplay>.

**ACROSS**

- 1 Steamy places
- 5 "EastEnders" network
- 8 Toothpaste ingredient
- 12 Some soot
- 14 Fellah or fedayee
- 16 The Venerable ____ (old English historian)
- 17 Then, to Thierry
- 18 Insincere flattery, in slang
- 20 Request to an interviewee
- 22 "Harry and Tonto" star
- 23 "____, 'tis true I have gone here and there": Shak.
- 24 Burlesque bit
- 25 1980s Rowan Atkinson sitcom series set in various historical periods
- 28 Material you might look through
- 29 Every last bit
- 32 Items wrapped in friction tape
- 33 Many arcade-goers
- 34 Gift upon arrival, maybe
- 35 Winged god
- 36 Like zebra crossings
- 37 Livery delivery

- 38 Follow a pattern, say
- 39 Jimmy of "The West Wing"
- 40 Title role for Joe Pesci
- 41 House sitter?
- 42 Mates
- 43 Best Supporting Actress nominee for "Five Easy Pieces"
- 44 Sticks out
- 45 Eat in style
- 46 Biased
- 49 Pod-bearing plant
- 53 Started one's shift
- 55 Hunger enhancer, sometimes
- 56 Typical romance novel love interest
- 57 "What rotten luck!"
- 58 Nest-building pests
- 59 It's whipped to make mousse
- 60 Bud drinker?
- 61 Former life

DOWN

- 1 Sarcophagus lid
- 2 Like Death's horse
- 3 One of the Minor Prophets
- 4 Butter knife, e.g.
- 5 Nurslings
- 6 Fastener in a punched hole
- 7 Pink-slip
- 8 Famously polite Old West stagecoach robber

- 9 Unreactive element
- 10 Sedgwick in Warhol films
- 11 Bank
- 13 January department store events
- 15 Iconic AC/DC album with the song "You Shook Me All Night Long"
- 19 Filed things
- 21 Organic sealant
- 24 Bird feeder tidbits
- 25 Cover-up
- 26 Mann of rock
- 27 Go under
- 28 Volcano features
- 29 Unlucky in love, say
- 30 Country singer Rimes
- 31 Untainted by corruption
- 33 Call option?
- 36 Some nerve tissue

- 37 It's worthy of condemnation
- 39 Gumption
- 40 Woman of letters?
- 43 Sorento manufacturer
- 44 Star of 2010's "Gulliver's Travels"
- 45 Packed with ideas, as an essay
- 46 Soreness
- 47 Shot of liquor
- 48 Protracted
- 49 Snack
- 50 Novelist Jaffe
- 51 First-aid experts, briefly
- 52 Defender in a bridge column
- 54 Lightly apply