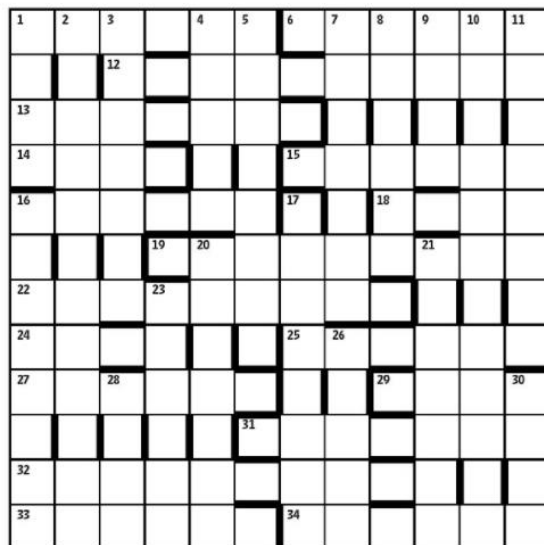


Azed No. 2,659 - Competition Puzzle



Name _____

Address _____

Post code _____

Across

- 1 Symbolic comb good for parting a hank that's plaited (6)
- 6 United lead, a work of art to seethe from below? (6)
- 12 One old Scottish bird wraps wimple perfectly (10, 2 words)
- 13 Dress machine's cut in length of thick cotton (7)
- 14 Unwillingness to speak, ignoring extreme limits ... of this once? (4)
- 15 Duck flesh parcelled by mum (6)
- 16 Driver is waiting nearby, last to take the lead (6)
- 18 A little bit of cash, standard one (4)
- 19 Tiny bit of sponge artist set in mottled stripes (9)
- 22 Company's stage design in opening of gala providing treat (9)
- 24 Lone tree, partially combustible (4)
- 25 Modest about ride with 'ounds, being gentrified (6)
- 27 Pa welcoming men in scruff order, very informal (6)
- 29 Leg with last bit of gangrene requiring operation (4)
- 31 Bowled in first stages, going back, having receiving painful blow (7)
- 32 Alloy I included in manufacture of carillons (10)
- 33 Oily paste absent in watery iftar's starter (6)
- 34 Strike come to an end in Glasgow, allowed in (6)

Down

- 1 NZ bird sounding (almost) like a dove (4)
- *2 Obsession with counting things (12)
- 3 No saint is desecrated by such heathens (7)
- 4 Axis formed in history – and then Germany (5)
- 5 Tar I blended with grey natural sulphide (8)
- 7 One writing about bit of rock, object turning up in prehistoric time (7)
- 8 Pale blue pants concealing worker's muscle (6)
- 9 Everyone's turned up following old crock (4)
- 10 Abuse male patients having to stand inside with temperature (12)
- 11 Hearty girl losing heart slips into apathy (8)
- 16 Chap getting drunk in group devouring like carnivores (8)
- 17 Rodent Circe bewitched three times daily (8)
- 20 Part of e.g. lobster I peer nervously over, gracing menu? (7)
- 21 Melodious snatch taken in a rush (7)
- 23 Source of Asian timber, 75% dehydrated outside? (6)
- 26 Seed's early stage in rubber, trailing 0-5 (5)
- 28 A lot to eat one's way through, nameless (4)
- 30 Regular feature of new digger? (4)

The Chambers Dictionary (2016) is recommended.

Azed No. 2,656 solution & notes

1	J	A	L	A	P	A	B	S	I	N	T	H
11	O	C	O	T	I	L	L	O	S	O	A	E
12	U	N	B	I	A	S	I	W	A	B	I	B
13	V	P	I	S	N	A	T	T	A	B	L	E
14	E	L	C	H	I	N	H	H	A	L	O	N
15	R	E	C	O	N	D	E	N	S	E	R	E
16	T	O	L	O	R	G	N	E	T	T	E	S
17	S	N	A	R	F	R	E	W	O	R	S	T
18	H	E	T	E	R	O	S	H	O	X	S	H
19	A	X	I	S	E	P	S	O	L	I	V	E
20	S	I	A	I	N	E	B	R	I	A	N	T
21	H	A	N	S	A	R	D	T	E	N	G	E

Across 11, o cot + l in anag.; 14, Biba (rev.); ref. fashion chain; 16, tab l in anag.; 19, rec(K)on + dense; 25, cf. worts; 28, x + 1 in as; 30, 1 + Brian in net; ref B. Cox, actor or scientist; 32, i.e. ng in tee (t).

Down 3, Ita (rev.) + shoo!; 6, then E in bliss; 15, one x in anag.; 21, 's in E thete; 27, a in mix (rev.).

Rules and requests

Send correct solution (one only) and an alternative clue to that which is asterisked (on a separate sheet also bearing name and address, securely attached) to Azed No. [enter puzzle number], PO Box 518, Oxford OX2 6WX. Entries must be received by Monday week at the latest and be postmarked no later than the Saturday following publication. Please include a brief explanation of your clue. Emailed entries will also be accepted, addressed to jcrowther2000@hotmail.com. Emailed entries must reach Azed by no later than the Saturday following publication of the relevant competition puzzle.

£35, £30 and £25 (book tokens) will be awarded to the best, second-best and third-best alternative clues (which accompany correct solutions to the puzzle) respectively. The three winners will also each receive an Azed bookplate. The prizes will be sent by post. All alternative clues are judged by Azed personally, according to the following criteria: (i) the clue should contain a definition/indication of the answer, plus a cryptic treatment of it, and nothing else (ie no superfluous wording); (ii) the clue should be grammatically sound in indicating the answer, eg its part of speech, etc; (iii) the clue should be accurate, concise, witty and elegant.

The Azed slip, containing details of successful competition entries and Azed's comments, is available on subscription at £16 a year. Cheques, payable to the Azed Slip, should be sent to The Azed Slip, Coombe Farm, Awbridge, Romsey SO51 0HN. To receive a sample slip, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to this address. Subscriptions may also be paid via online bank transfer to The Crossword Club, a/c no. 31020250, sort code 40-39-05.

For further information visit: theguardian.com/crosswords/2014/dec/30/azed-faq

Azed No. 2,656 winners

Cat Snodding, Newark, Nottinghamshire; Robert Whale, Twyford, Berkshire; Gordon Nicolson, Leslie, Fife