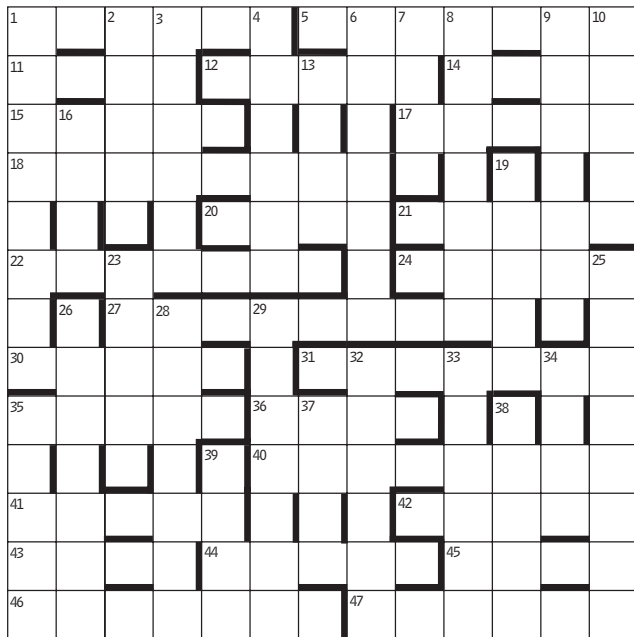


# AZED No. 2,324 'MSUSMXOFTYKB' CHRISTMAS COMPETITION PUZZLE



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

From the answers in each of the 13 rows and 13 columns one letter must be omitted, as often as it occurs, before entry in the diagram (a different letter of the alphabet in each row and column). In the clues the definition parts, and the numbers in brackets, refer to the full un mutilated answers; subsidiary indications (such as anagrams, etc) refer to the mutilated forms to be entered. The omitted letters from the rows (across), taken in order top to bottom, form an appropriate three-word phrase. Using this as the code-phrase for a Playfair word square (see example below) solvers should then be able to decipher the title of the puzzle. **Competitors should submit a normal cryptic clue to this title with their entries.**

**S H O W J** In a Playfair word square the codeword or code-phrase (in which no U M P I N letter recurs) is followed by the remaining letters of the alphabet in G A B C D order, except Q. To encode a word. It must first be split into pairs of E F K L R letters, e.g. FINISHED. Each pair is then to be seen as forming the T V X Y Z diagonally opposite corners of a rectangle within the word square, the other two corner letters being the coded form. Thus FI gives LM (not ML, which IF would give). When a pair of letters appears in the same row or column, the coded form is produced from the letters immediately to the right of or below each respectively. For the last letters in a row or column the first letters in the same row or column become the coded forms. When all the pairs are coded the word is joined up again, thus: LMUNHORG.

## ACROSS

- 1 Computer facility to use freely when penning volume (8)
- 5 100 books catalogue expert in mystical texts (9)
- 11 Litigation envelops this toff (7)
- 12 WWII battlesite – I've mate here (6)
- 14 Roller brought into centre of quad? Whoopee! (6)
- 15 Fool chopped trees (6)
- 17 Sedan chair, front of pole held by a servant (6)
- 18 Southern words including Middle French ancestral roots (9, 2 words)
- 20 Young lady lassoes a domesticated ox in India (5)
- 21 Board of Education holds nothing back where author's name appears (6)
- 22 Regular feature of R. Stein restaurant, one seen in sink he redesigned (9, 2 words)
- 24 End of exercise – fat all round – wide at the bottom (6)
- 27 Earned more than rest with goods recycled (10)
- 30 Sticky pebble (6)
- 31 Hard courses negotiated (8)
- 35 Old coins are arranged on board (7)

## AZED 2,321 Solution & notes

A	S	S	E	T	S	T	R	I	P	P	E	R
S	A	U	L	O	C	O	I	V	O	C	A	B
P	U	L	D	R	O	N	T	R	U	G	S	R
A	T	T	R	I	T	E	T	E	S	T	E	E
S	O	R	G	H	O	C	A	S	S	A	B	A
M	I	Y	F	U	M	O	S	S	E	A	A	D
A	R	T	I	S	A	N	H	E	A	R	T	H
T	W	E	N	T	Y	T	H	E	C	A	T	E
I	I	M	E	L	A	R	E	G	A	L	I	A
C	R	U	S	E	M	O	A	M	T	I	E	D
C	E	N	T	R	A	L	P	A	H	A	R	I

**Across** 1, as set + stripper; 11, see Names in C.; 12, v o' cab; 14, anag. in pun; see clinch; 15, t' + rug; 18, gros(s) (rev.) + ho; 34, anag. less a; 33, 'tide'.  
**Down** 3, cf. sultan; 5, Scot o ma; 6, n + anag. in tool; 8, (l)ivres + se (Fr. reflexive pronoun); 11, sp. + (b)asmati + c; 13, b + a in redhead; 19, anag. less l, & lit.; 21 shea in asp; death = cause of death; 24, Arabia with l for b; 23, W i re; dip = pickpocket; 31, i.e. (l)egma(n).

## RULES AND REQUESTS

Send correct solution and clue as indicated (on separate sheet also bearing name and address, securely attached) to **Azed No. 2,324**, P O Box 518, Oxford, OX2 6WX. Closing date, Saturday 31 December 2016. Please add a brief explanation of your clue (one entry only). £100, £65, £40 prizes and Azed bookplates for the three clues judged best. **EXTRA PRIZES FOR THOSE VERY HIGHLY COMMENDED.** The Azed Slip, containing details of successful competition entries and Azed's comments, is available on subscription at £13 a year for 13 issues (£16 for overseas subscribers). 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 an sae to this address. For much more information on the Azed Slip, visit [www.andlit.org.uk](http://www.andlit.org.uk).

- 36 Climbing on the bandwagon, low when involving minimum of effort (5)
- 40 Unmasked, one leaves country, cutting wound (9)
- 41 Rich dessert, whipped pud, that is to follow (6, 2 words)
- 42 Conservative abandoning holiday villa, a cluster of houses (6)
- 43 Force halt, front moving to the rear (5)
- 44 Mourn return of sickness, not short (6)
- 45 He composed final act for widow (5)
- 46 Loathe auntie's broadcast about river? Not I (8)
- 47 Become more inclined to write after a little support (7)

## DOWN

- 1 Becoming silent, use icing creatively (9)
- 2 Applauds porridge, packed with energy? (6)
- 3 Stalk fine antelope (7)
- 4 The old plait black curly 'air with them on top (7)
- 6 Taboos imposed on the French dances of old (8)
- 7 Livid Scots are furious (5)
- 8 Down topper, one in crude rubber (8)
- 9 Lentils coming up spread inside, formerly thin (8)
- 10 Part of capstan – I expect it was covered in seaweed (6)
- 13 One with thick hair up on top, he attends Sofia mosque? (5)
- 16 Stone from Washington, say, is dazzling (5)
- 19 Poem turned up about Irish oddball (6)
- 23 Wolf that woman's seen devouring ducks (6)
- 25 Is kept in doin' some housework, repellent (10)
- 26 Racing cyclist once raving mad having to follow barrow? (8)
- 28 Awful blunder in part of roofing? (8)
- 29 Tuck: odd slice of beef to have for lunch? (8)
- 32 Revenue in grain, acceptable in coin (8, 2 words)
- 33 Slip out of place, as role is miscast (8)
- 34 Damn employer promoting his last (5)
- 35 Sparkler in use when it's lit (6)
- 37 Rug length rolled up (5)
- 38 Wattle lost colour? Quite the reverse (6)
- 39 Final yard of race disposed of, put your feet up (5)

Every un mutilated answer is in *The Chambers Dictionary (2014)*, except three proper names, of which one may be unfamiliar but is verifiable on the Internet.