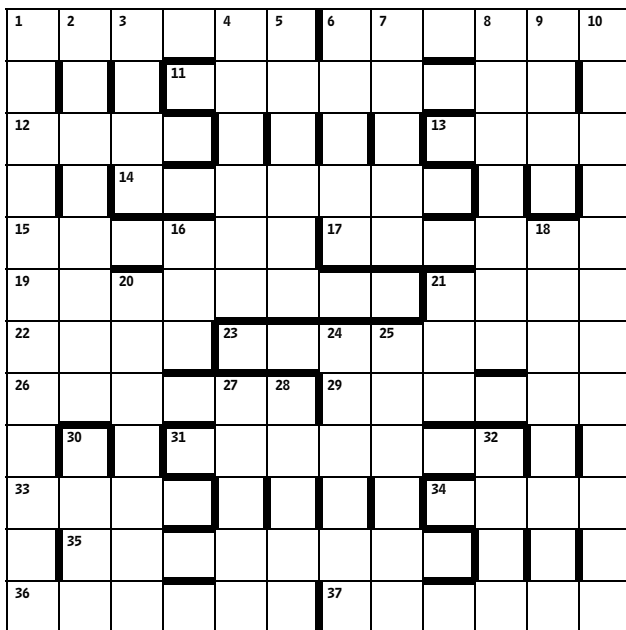


AZED No. 2,356 'PLAYFAIR' COMPETITION PUZZLE



Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

O R A N G In a Playfair word square the code word (in which no letter recurs) is followed by the remaining letters of the alphabet, I doing double duty for **L M P Q U** and J (see left). To encode a word it must first be split into pairs of letters, e.g. **CRITICAL**. Each pair is then to be seen as forming the diagonally opposite corners of a rectangle within the word square, the other two corners being the encoded form. Thus, in the example shown, **CR** gives **SG** (not **GS**, which RC would give). Where a pair of letters appears in the same row or column in the word square, its encoded form is produced from the letter immediately to the right of or below each respectively. For the last letter in a row or column the first letter in the same row or column becomes the encoded form. Thus **IC** becomes **CE**. When all the pairs are encoded, the word is joined up again: thus **CRITICAL** is encoded as **SGCICEOP**. Answers to the four clues in italics must be encoded thus in the diagram. The code word (in this case a two-word compound) must then be deduced with the help of the answers to normal clues, so that the diagram may be completed. **Each of the encoded words is a definition or synonym of one part of the two-word compound code word, two of one part and two of the other.** Competitors should submit with their entries a normal cryptic clue to this two-word compound.

ACROSS

- 1 Former queen constraining Gaul, unruly, unrefined (6)
- 6 Screen male holding singular charm (6)
- 11 Caribbean religion, one gripping millions (8)
- 12 Wife in tow starts to rear off spring, thickening (4)
- 13 Rear of heifer? Person's holding that goad (4)
- 14 Stall serving liquor for the troops: result, drunken yen (7)
- 15 Missile launcher: face backwards a long time (6)
- 17 I'll be hidden in second hearing, at the back (6)
- 19 Head maybe curtailed cane in the house? (8)

AZED 2,353 Solution & notes

1	M	A	D	R	A	S	A	H	F	R	A
2	U	P	O	I	S	H	A	K	E	R	A
3	D	O	S	S	A	L	G	S	T	A	N
4	S	L	E	V	E	N	E	C	K	R	
5	C	U	B	A	N	P	N	A	R	T	S
6	O	N	I	N	T	R	E	F	O	I	L
7	W	E	L	D	M	E	S	H	L	O	O
8	C	O	A	S	T	S	W	W	O	N	G
9	O	D	N	H	S	T	A	G	G	A	R
10	A	D	D	I	N	A	S	T	O	N	E
11	P	L	E	N	A	R	T	Y	U	T	E
12	T	Y	R	E	X	T	E	N	S	I	L

Rules and requests

Send correct solution (one only) and clue as indicated (on separate sheet also bearing name and address, securely attached) to **Azed No. 2,356**, PO Box 518, Oxford, OX2 6WX. Entries should be postmarked no later than Saturday. Please add a brief explanation of your clue (one entry only). £35, £30, £25 prizes and Azed bookplates for the three clues judged best. 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 an sae to this address

AZED No. 2,353 prizewinners

Cherry Duff, Somerset
Bill Neville, London
Ms N Ashworth, Devon

- 21 Muse required for small passage (4)
 - 22 Piece of meat, a long way away from R. Blanc? (4)
 - 23 One that's taken on a range of Lancashire lingerie (8)
 - 26 Release number with backing not lagging (6, 2 words)
 - 29 A beer bottled with oxygen in – what'll need that? (6)
 - 31 Foreign bed in foreign house, making one fume (7)
 - 33 Old-fashioned musket, a feature of Plassey assuredly (4)
 - 34 Clubs getting serious about making a lot of dough (4)
 - 35 Coaches in running shoes (8)
 - 36 The main honorific going round in the upper house (6)
 - 37 Drunk near TV in hostelry (6)
- DOWN**
- 1 Hush before undressed female drops bloomers (12)
 - 2 Regular masonry one place of ill repute has in progress (8)
 - 3 Discharge includes pounds, an advantage (4)
 - 4 Skill cutting into spreading red skin disease (6)
 - 5 Pass in India which a landslide has blocked? (6)
 - 6 Scottish rag, number taken from pub (5)
 - 7 It's proper to leave off start of dialogue and shut up for Shakespeare (5)
 - 8 Pendant doctor's concealed in comic opera (7)
 - 9 Second drink leading to a bit of nooky (4)
 - 10 Not thinking straight: — to get dead, eh? (12)
 - 16 The old make middle of screw centred in nut (3)
 - 18 Horses Scot maybe stabled in Basra strangely (8)
 - 20 A cheer goes up after one stringed instrument or another (7)
 - 21 Religious title, one accepted by priest (3)
 - 24 Once in disguise a devil runs amok (6)
 - 25 Investor hopes for a good one ... and ace defies one (6)
 - 27 Personal prestige involving ego, an abnormal fixation (5)
 - 28 Wild creature making two varieties of earth? (5)
 - 30 Washing solution needing time inside to settle (4)
 - 32 Bits of sea coral are rapidly forming reef (4)
- Every answer is in *The Chambers Dictionary* (2014).