

No 27,286 set by Maskarade

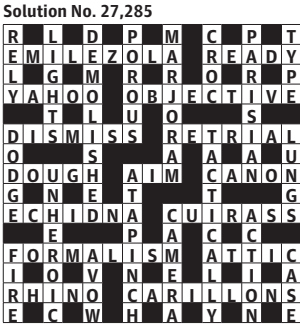
Each clue leads to two solutions beginning with the letter indicated, which are to be entered in the grid, jigsaw-wise. One of each pair is of a kind, not further defined. The thematic solution for X ignores small child at city.

- A To adapt to new conditions, a mountaineer reportedly prepared site of some classical revolutionary (11; 4)
- B Pop duo swallowing drink, as girlfriend turns up – Boom! Boom! (8; 8)

- C Cretan-style mosaic initially re-designed for fancy decal applied to glazed pottery (12; 7)
- D Artist could be reinvigorated with books and edited anthologies and essays for starters (5,6; 5)
- E Rosie ate rotten fruit, shedding tear with love (8; 5)
- F Lavish pieces for franchise holders from choice of neighbouring countries (7; 5)

- G New Age leading activist removed Guardian’s centrepieces for noisy bird (4; 4)
- H Audience member suggested it’s tough covering unknown area – something drivers should avoid (4; 6)
- I Advance slowly and steal quietly away from seductive woman topless on edge of Rhine (4; 5)
- J Jack’s car for author backing British Medical Journal – a posh one, that is (4; 1,1,6)
- K Dress material for a specific purpose left for spirit of a dead person, half-constructed (4; 4)
- L Diver is an eccentric fellow, only half there, before pantomimes one cancelled (4; 9)
- M Food fit to eat on fast-days that is involved with many (6; 6)
- N Wild women working at crescent destroyed cairns – fishy! (3,4; 9)
- O Amount of water aboard sailing vessel, with ensign at first moved to its bow, off course endlessly (3,6; 5)
- P Imaginative novelist with money for little dog close to centre stage (8; 6)
- Q Short question, perplexing to all Aztec singers, heard by several papers (12; 6)
- R The French left parasitic plant for use in basketry regularly returning from lake shore (6; 4)
- S Fencer’s exclamation during duels – as always – unruffled when changing sides (2,2; 6)

- T Indian dishes with a taste of anise, somewhat removed from Spanish omelette, for a Japanese fighting dog (6; 4)
- U Drunken fault-finder fled off, as below, found in scullery (2,5; 5)
- V Top academician’s room is available – my mind’s gone blank! (5; 7)
- W Emotional film where, oddly, top producer and youth leader are seen in Newtown (5; 5)
- X Cricket team taking exercise at capital of ancient Lycia, so cross with one, at first (4; 7)
- Y Covered in hoar frost up around Orkneys and New York city (4; 7)
- Z Some prize testimonial in which dozing beggar mourns deaths, all in the centre of stepped tower (5; 8)



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