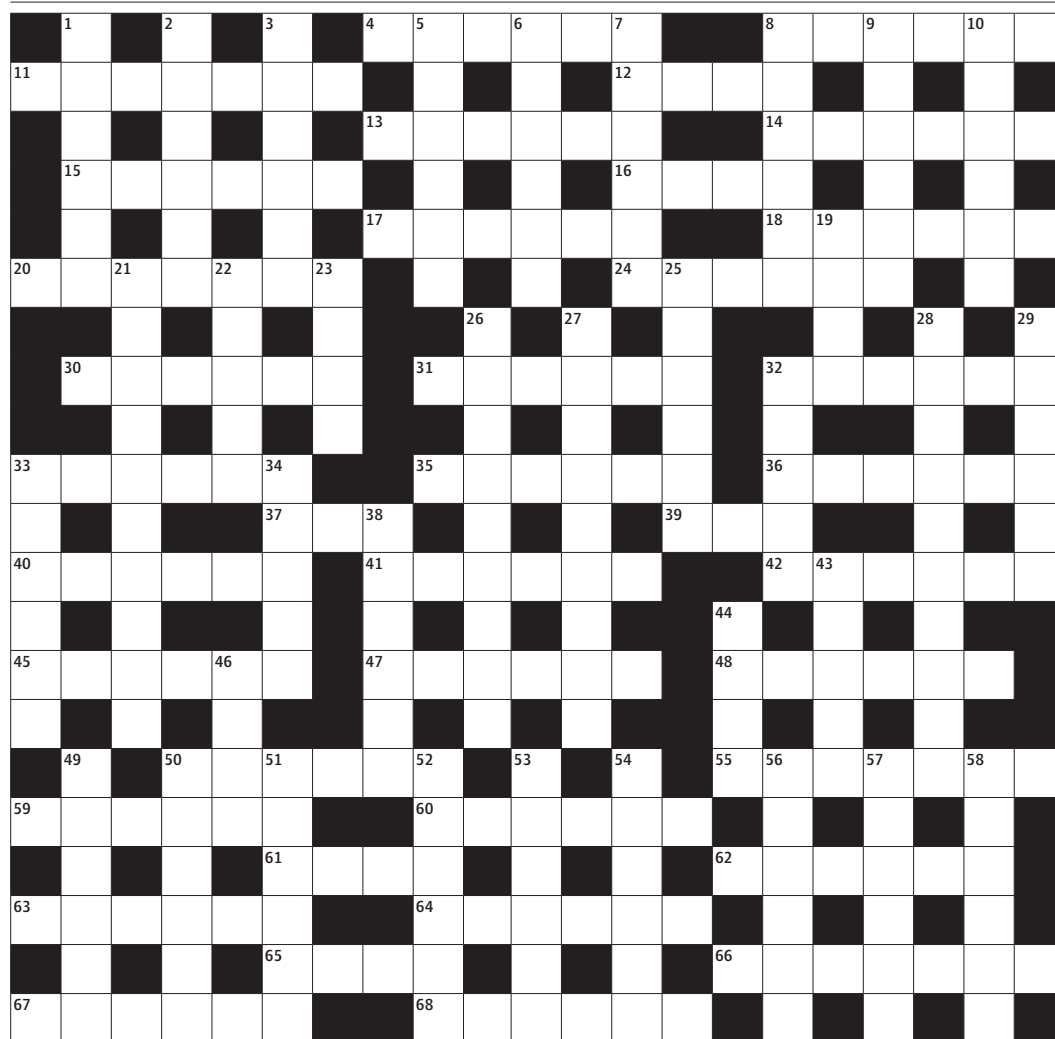


# Guardian cryptic crossword Easter special

by Maskarade



Thirty-five six-letter words or phrases can be arranged to form a chain, the last three letters of one word giving the first three of the next. Fifteen of these clues include a definition; 20 do not. They are presented in alphabetical order of their entries and must be fitted into the grid, jigsaw-fashion.

## Across

- 11** Extremely tense learner crossing Shropshire town (7)  
**12** Plan lunch, but some rejected bone (4)  
**16** Average May Day, love (2-2)

- 20** Medic sidles up and clears away (7)  
**24** Priority system for two-thirds of geriatric round (6)  
**32** If it is true, it can be swapped for essential cheese ingredient (6)

- 33** Valuable resources from state coffer, unendingly (6)  
**37** Little dog with bushy head of hair returning (3)  
**39** Bitmap image of half the design in retrospect (3)

- 50** Barrow-boys have no time for social workers (6)  
**55** Many set free, thus? (7)  
**59** Empty zone with relation where females are secluded (6)  
**60** Some drinks at a golf match, more or less (6)  
**61** Upset priest starts to use rude language (4)  
**63** Go and complain having lost a cup (6)  
**65** State expressions of pain and grief (4)  
**66** Mystery a peculiar vessel contained (7)  
**68** Legal official's name on seal (6)

## Down

- 3** Track's repeated rhythms (6)  
**8** Pastry first seen in Polynesian island group (6)  
**9** Long and limp Scottish seaweed (6)  
**10** Lavish spreads, having fine food, swallowing seconds (6)  
**19** Historic site put up gargantuan houses (4)  
**21** Perhaps shamans and I cross River Exe, floundering (10)  
**22** Dynamic types with energy moving later plant (5)  
**23** Shipping area - could be Dover? (4)  
**26** How winds may blow in Lebanon, poet admits (9)  
**27** Likely location of flying ptarmigans with temperature dropped (9)  
**28** Racecourse animals at home in ceremonial roll-outs (3,7)  
**32** Prince Philip's birthplace is - my goodness - half-full (5)  
**34** Brief period of enchantment (5)  
**43** Stock Exchange certificate St Paul found now and again (5)  
**44** Three different blood groups, maybe, or one group (4)  
**46** Spanish region without success in knitwear (4)  
**52** Small nut cut for fish (6)  
**53** County Down's top store refitted (6)  
**56** During springtime, a greenhouse is poorly supplied (6)

## Word chain

- A cut, no different from usual (2,4)  
 Drinks in A&E (2,4)  
 In punt, a couple of lines for historic song (6)  
 Unfeeling, nothing less (6)  
 Exuberant, keeping husband back a lot? So crude (6)  
 Close attention for charm (6)  
 Crumpled notepaper Poe's thrown away (6)  
 Artist swapping sides (6)  
 King's College on edge of Cambridge (6)  
 Inferior alternative (6)  
 C, say, for correspondence (6)  
 Five years' distinction (6)  
 Fellows chat endlessly (6)  
 52 with carp's innards (6)  
 Awaited the arrival, holding flower (6)  
 Most distant Scottish cottage room (6)  
 Soon perspire regularly (6)  
 Transported soldiers (6)  
 Some boulder - a scallywag! (6)  
 Assembly of characters from Tralee (6)  
 Up in part of Yorkshire (6)  
 Booked heroine turning up after game (6)  
 Note that's part of auction (6)  
 Start a journey in contrast (3,3)  
 In Germany they sat about, resting? (6)  
 Steamroller dismantled, metal components thrown out (6)  
 Station loo-sign? (6)  
 Story books (6)  
 Bone in foot of male hawk (6)  
 Rarest form of volcanic fragments (6)  
 Lengthy musical extract getting it in the neck (6)  
 Against clergyman's title and identity (6)  
 Does it come from the epicentre, more usually? (6)  
 Oz vehicle with corrosion, mostly (6)  
 Abuse when overbalancing somewhat (6)