

Habits to follow: Introduction to Puzzle Hunts (6)

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Queen Mary, University of London
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Puzzle hunts

- * Puzzle hunts are games in which teams compete to solve all the puzzles first.
- * Each puzzle has a single answer: a word or short phrase.

What makes them special?

- * The puzzles have incomplete or no instructions.
- * You have to make sense of the data.

Related: Pub quizzes

* A pub quiz with a hidden theme is like a puzzle-hunt puzzle.

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2. Another word for Shakespeare's foot?

etc...

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6. WYCLEF

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“Answer extraction”

The Obligatory Wordsearch:

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

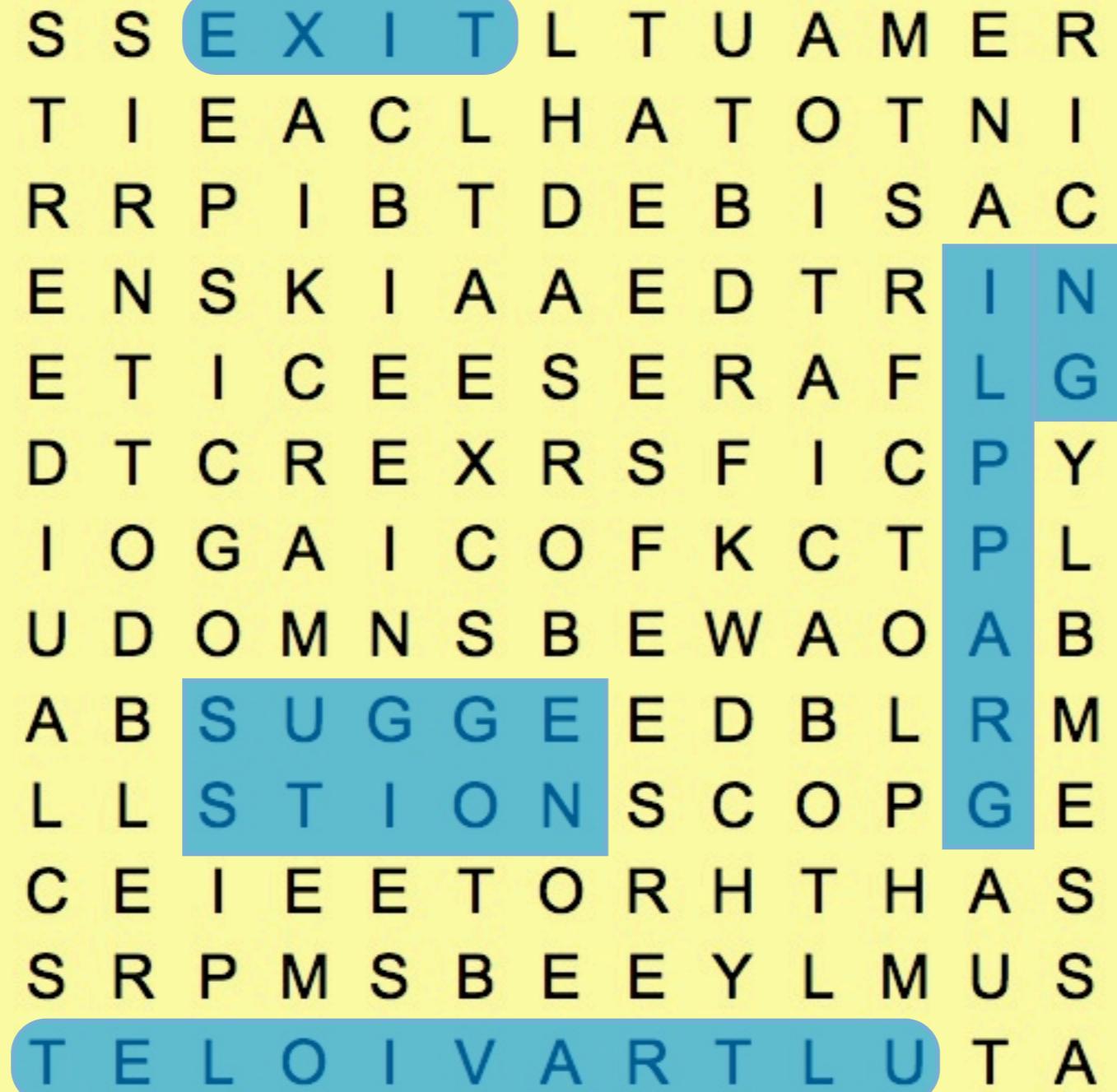
The Obligatory Wordsearch:

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

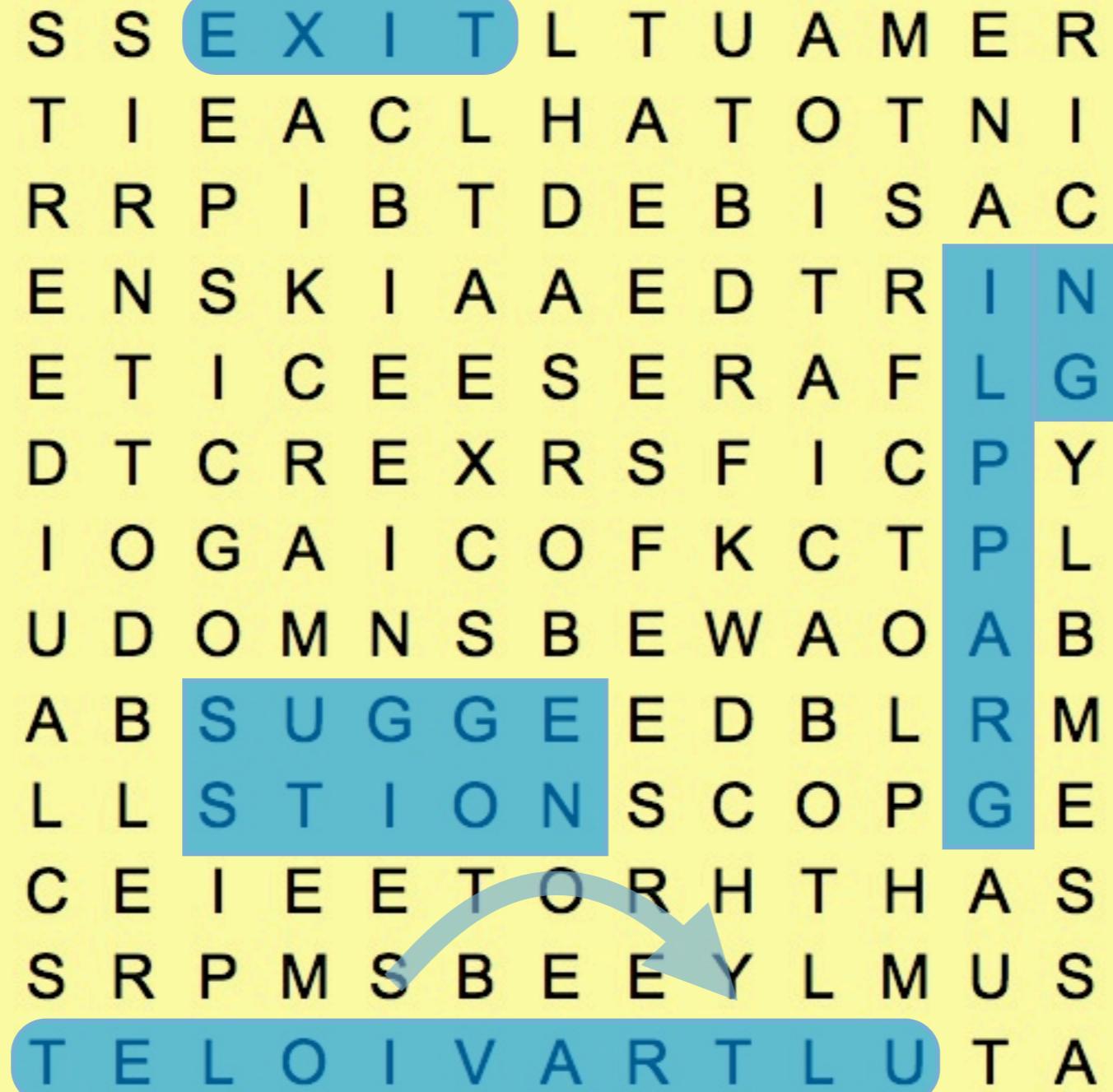
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S	S	E	X	I	T	L	T	U	A	M	E	R
T	I	E	A	C	L	H	A	T	O	T	N	I
R	R	P	I	B	T	D	E	B	I	S	A	C
E	N	S	K	I	A	A	E	D	T	R	I	N
E	T	I	C	E	E	S	E	R	A	F	L	G
D	T	C	R	E	X	R	S	F	I	C	P	Y
I	O	G	A	I	C	O	F	K	C	T	P	L
U	D	O	M	N	S	B	E	W	A	O	A	B
A	B	S	U	G	G	E	E	D	B	L	R	M
L	L	S	T	I	O	N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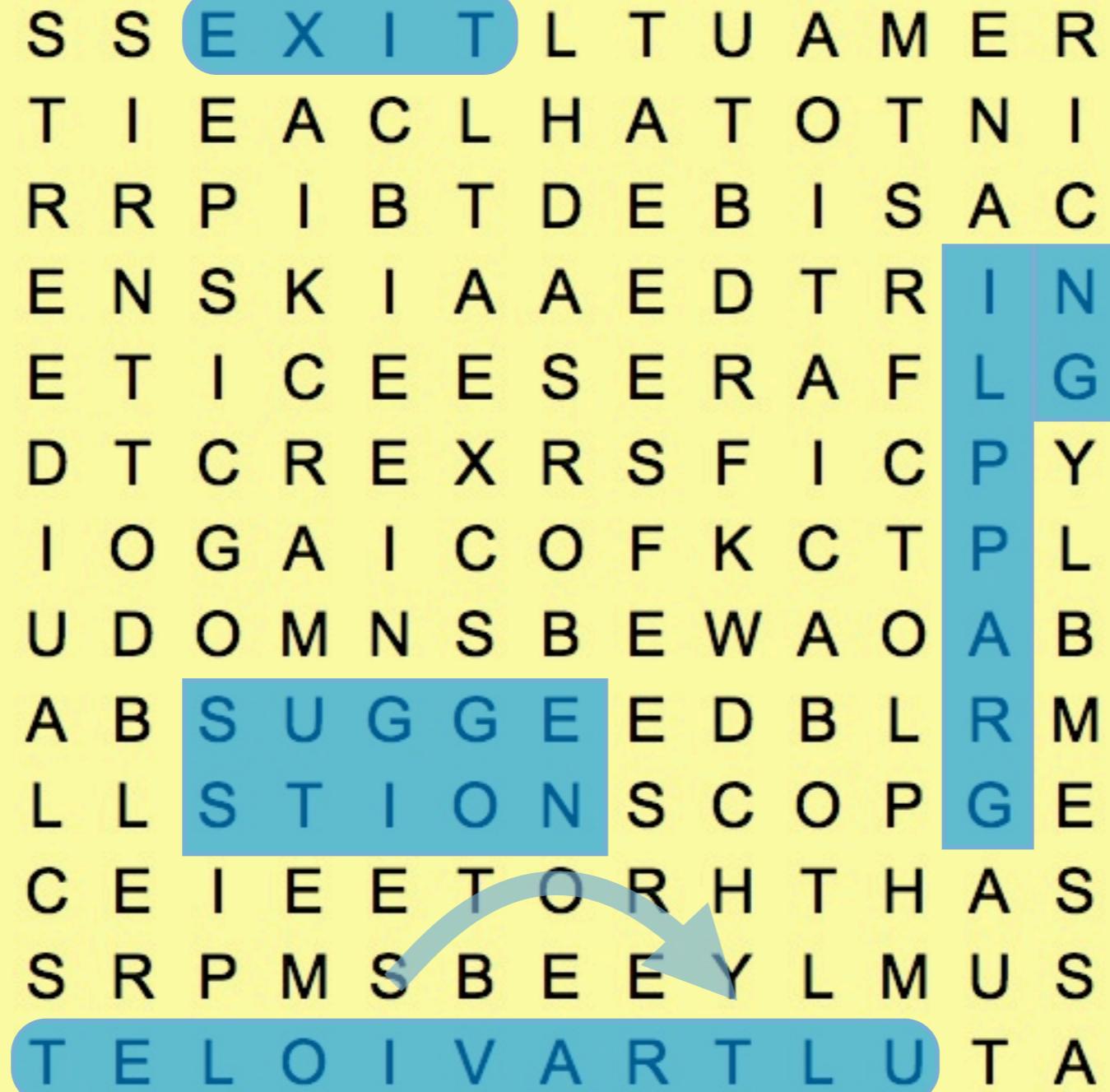


The Obligatory Wordsearch:



The Obligatory Wordsearch:

SUGGESTION
BOX



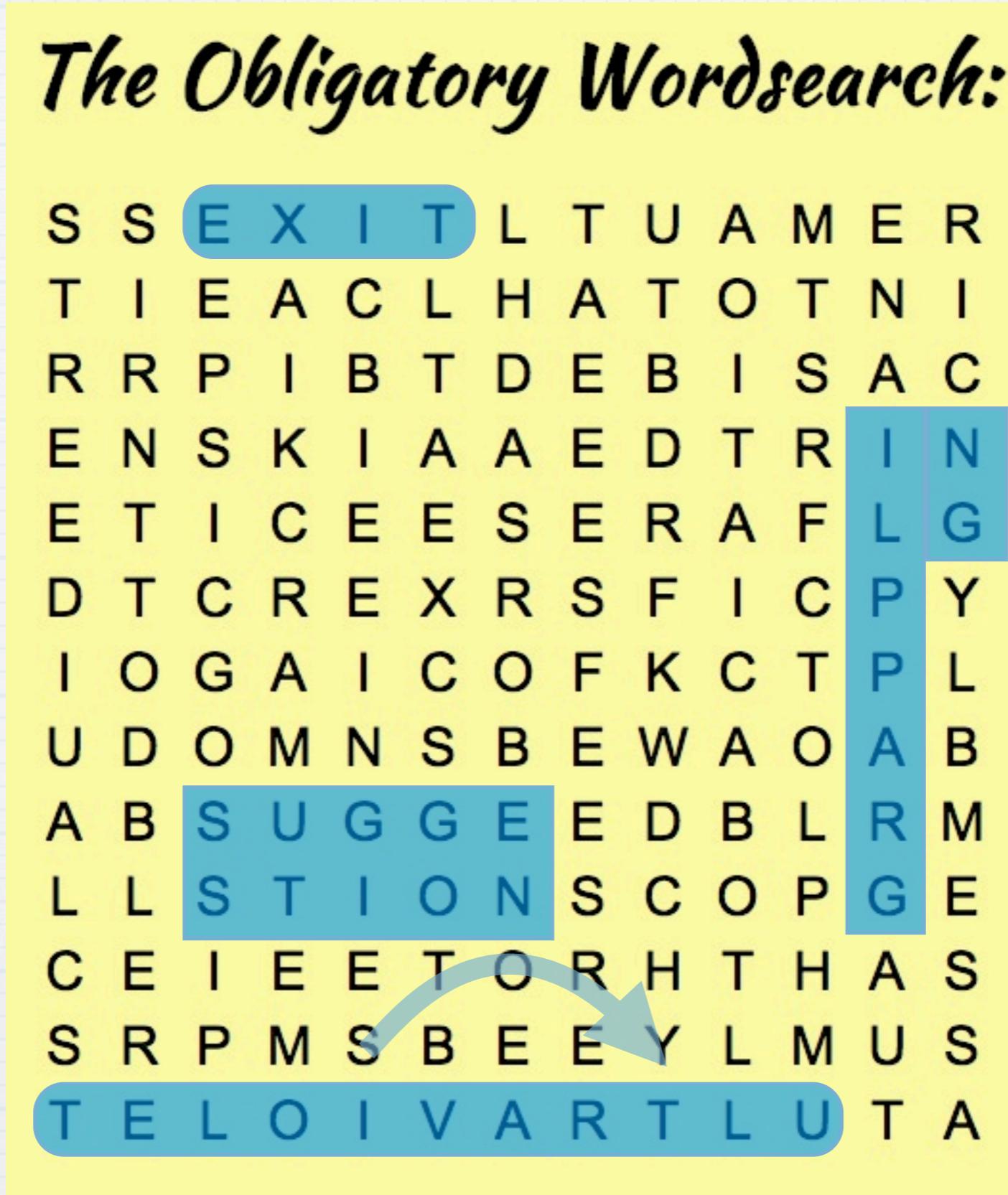
GRAPPLING
HOOK

STORY ARC

The Obligatory Wordsearch:

EXIT ROW

SUGGESTION BOX

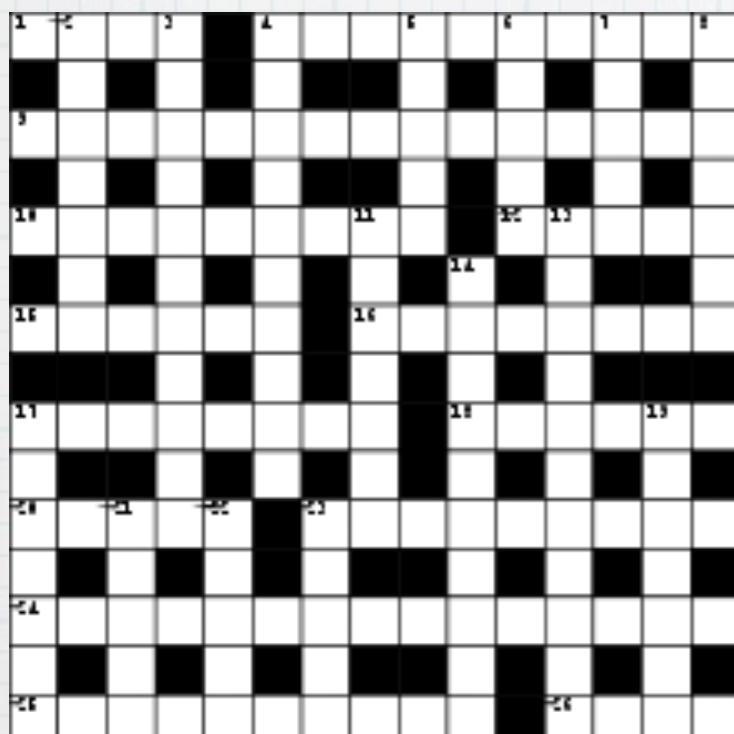


GRAPPLING HOOK

STORY ARC

ULTRAVIOLET RAY

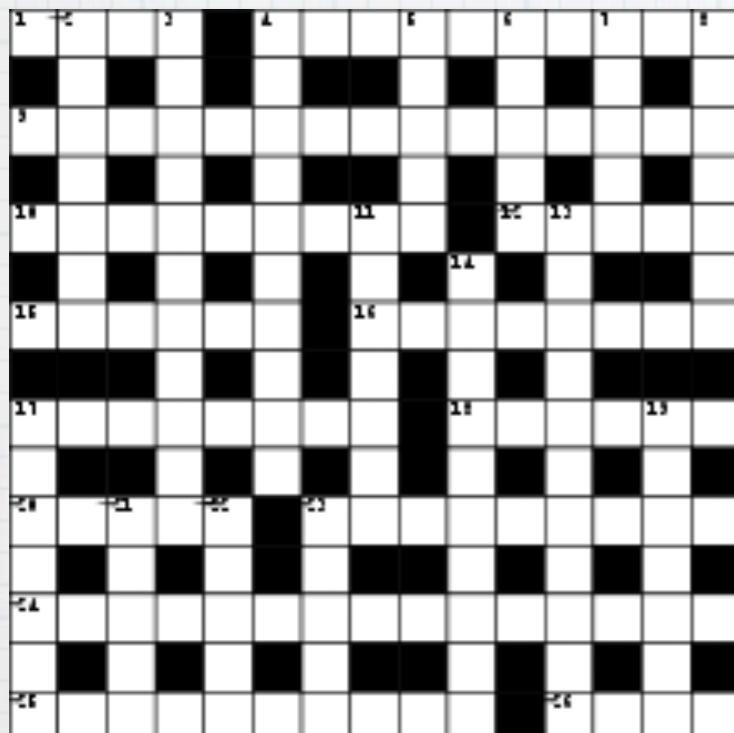
ARE THERE ANY RULES?



Cryptics seem crazy, but they have rules.

1. Every clue has a cryptic half and a crossword half.
 2. The cryptic wordplay types repeat:
anagrams, CHARADES, con(taine)rs,
puns, etc.

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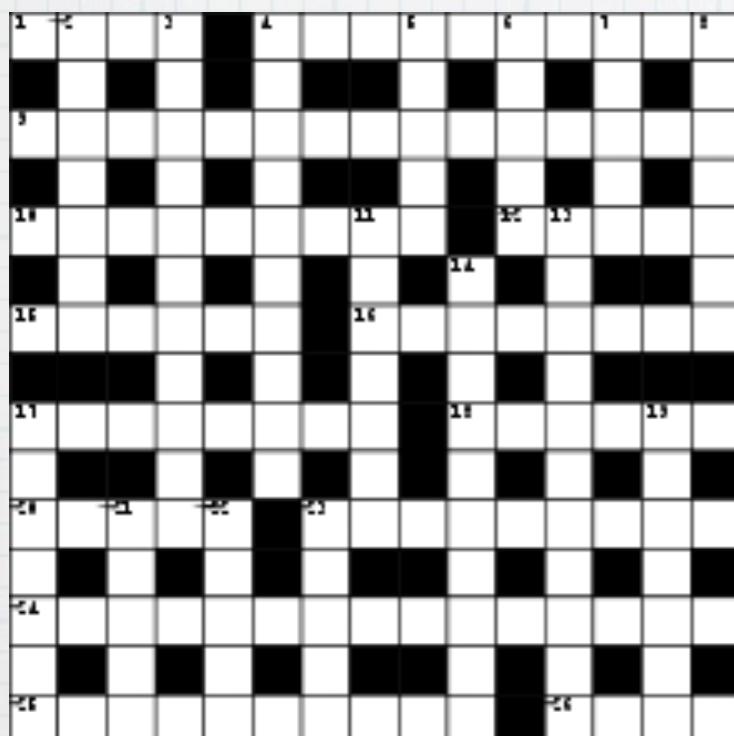


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“Habits” are ROBES
introduction to “puzzle” is P
ROBES to follow P = PROBES = hunts

ARE THERE ANY RULES?

- * Sort lists
- * Take acrostics
- * Look for patterns
- * Make connections
- * What information have I not used?

ARE THERE ANY RULES?

- * Sort lists
- * Take acrostics
- * Look for patterns
- * Make connections
- * What information have I not used?
- * Apply standard codes (Morse, Braille, semaphore...)
- * Look for recursive patterns
- * Look for puns

Meta puzzles

BOOKWORM

COCOON

COSPONSORS

ENTICING

ENUMERATE

MEDLEY

OCTOPOD

PINHEAD

SUBSTITUTE

TORCHWOOD

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ELEPHANT IN
A TUTU!

Puzzles can get crazy

None of us know Greek, one of us knows English, and the two of us know Russian, but we still can't understand this message.

ЭЛАВНРНХΞУΤЮВҮВГХЙКЗМСХ

ВΞВХИР

ВРХІДКДГСТЗЮВΞДВЕЭМВЭРКЯ

ВΨΡΙХЮΣΗΤ

ЁКДTXЧGYKBÆРТЕ

ЮЛІХПГНVGЖРПВВРЮΣЭВНTCДЕEHЁРTEВСКСАРUIBЮЁD

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SEPARATE
BY
ALPHABET
AND
SHIFT
SIMULTANEOUSLY

Puzzles can not solve

ΛΒΞΥΒΥΒΓΚΜΒΞΒΡΚΤΒΞΒΕΜΚΒΨΣΚΤΥΚΒΞΤΛΠΓΠΡΣΒΗΞΚΛΒ

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e.g., +5: a → f, b → g, c → h, ...

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+11: ЗЫШИФТАМАУТИЗЗЫЙИРАВЗЫПИСИЗПРЭМЬИР

Puzzles can not solve

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(these shifts “sound” better)

Puzzles can not crawl

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...they transliterate
each other!

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ΛΥΣΗ ΕΙΝΑΙ ΤΟ ΟΝΟΜΑ ΤΗΣ ΕΟΡΤΗΣ ΓΡΑΜΜΕΝΟ ΣΑΝ ΑΥΤΟ
THE SHIFT AMOUNT IS THE YEAR OF THE PIECE'S PREMIERE

Puzzles can not solve

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A cantata was written for a Christian holiday.

Solution is the name of the feast written like this. [In Latin]

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Puzzles can not solve

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1727 is 23 mod
24, 11 mod 26, 11
mod 33

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“Ich Habe Genug”,
by Bach, premiered
in 1727

Puzzles can not solve

ΛΒΞΥΒΥΒΓΚΜΒΞΒΡΚΤΒΞΒΕΜΚΒΨΣΚΤΥΚΒΞΤΛΠΓΠΡΣΒΗΞΚΛΒ

ΑΝΗΧΤΧCPXΙDDCDBΡΙХHTDGΙХHVGΡBBTCDHPCPUID

ЭРНЮЙЗХВХИГЗЮЭРЯЮЁХЧЭРЕЮЖЮЭЕЁТВСЮ

“SHIFT”: Caesar shift

e.g., +5: a → f, b → g, c → h, ...

+23: KANTATABΙΛΑΝΑΠΙΣΑΝΑΔΛΙΑХΡΙΣΤΙΑΝΣКОВОПРАЗДНИКА

+11: LYSIEINAI TOONOMATISEORTISGRAMMENOSANAFTO

+11: ЗЫШИФТАМАУНТИЗЗЫЙИРАВЗЫПИСИЗПРЭМЬИР

(these shifts “sound” better)

...they transliterate
each other!

КАНТАТА БЫЛА НАПИСАНА ДЛЯ ХРИСТИАНСКОГО ПРАЗДНИКА
ΛΥΣΗ ЕΙΝΑΙ ΤΟ ΟΝΟΜΑ ΤΗΣ ΕΟΡΤΗΣ ΓΡΑΜΜΕΝΟ ΣΑΝ ΑΥΤΟ
THE SHIFT AMOUNT IS THE YEAR OF THE PIECE'S PREMIERE

A cantata was written for a Christian holiday.

Solution is the name of the feast written like this. [In Latin]

The shift amount is the year of the piece's premiere.

1727 is 23 mod
24, 11 mod 26, 11
mod 33

“Ich Habe Genug”,
by Bach, premiered
in 1727

Greek name:
ΗΥΡΑΠΑΝΤΕ

Hunts

- * MIT Mystery Hunt: 100+ puzzles, large teams, 2–3 days to solve
- * Lots of smaller hunts in North America (puzzlehuntcalendar.com)
- * Nice tradition in Australia (MUMS, SUMS, CISRA)
- * Internet-based / crowd-funded hunts: Puzzazz, “Unique Puzzles for a YEAR”

DASH 5

- * I'm running a puzzle hunt!
- * 25 May, 2013.
- * Starts at UCL
- * 10am to 5pm
- * Register online by this weekend:
playdash.org

Thanks!