

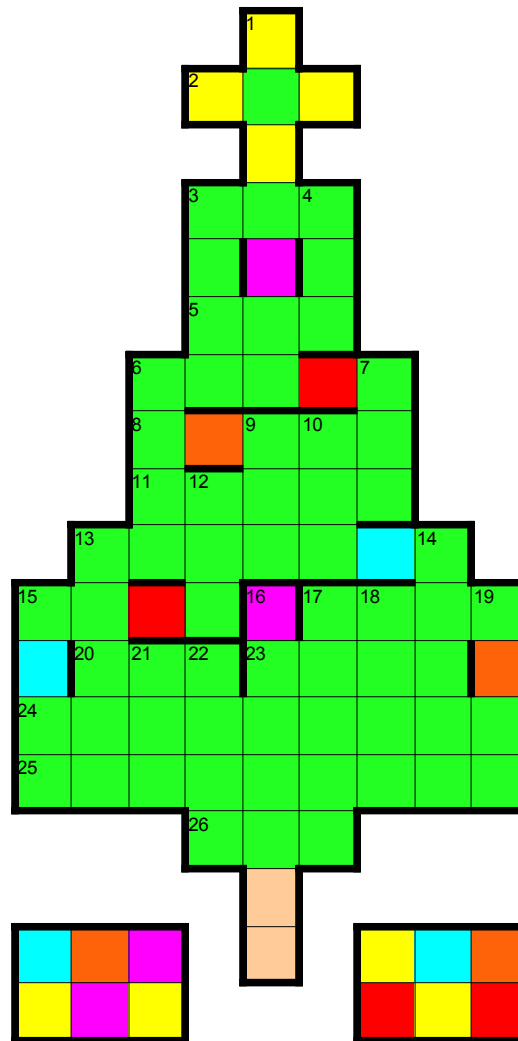
**Instructions:** Solve each cryptic clue, entering the answers into the Christmas tree puzzle. Two unclued answers form a familiar phrase. The letters in the Christmas tree lights should be transferred to the gift boxes to create another familiar phrase, in an order to be determined by you.

Have fun!

### Across

2. Poehler is one of me
3. Biblical character site
5. Make gallons containing beer!
6. See *instructions*
8. Licorice plant is in backward North American energy
11. Let in mixed water from river to ocean
13. Crazy Emily's southern icons of happiness
15. Curse after child's first breakfast cereal
17. Trooper holds hospital hack
20. You foreigners are hiding alien craft
23. Mottled horse ran with nothing inside
24. Tom is Eric, when confused by the same measure
25. See *instructions*
26. Endlessly steal oil from a Texan

## A Cryptic Christmas Tree!



Are you new to solving cryptic crosswords? If so, see the following page for helpful decoding hints.

### Down

1. Strengthen tempo after the first were shortened
3. Christmas story book is surprising win, without fail
4. Label them all good initially
6. Cause damage taking interstate from Miami northward
7. No Russian is without new still
9. Bad one, 50-50
10. Comprehend the Pope's Holy place
12. Cancel hearing of New York cagers
13. Push usher holding silencer
14. Justice Sotomayor decides, finally, on Iowa
15. Arab elder sounds cool
16. Attending show
17. Clay baked bed with teaching assistant
18. Injure remainder of magical object
19. Lobbyists' space is jumbled without error
21. Targeted to right of return
22. Miss 1001 in overtime