

FENG'S PUZZLE – ALL DECKED OUT

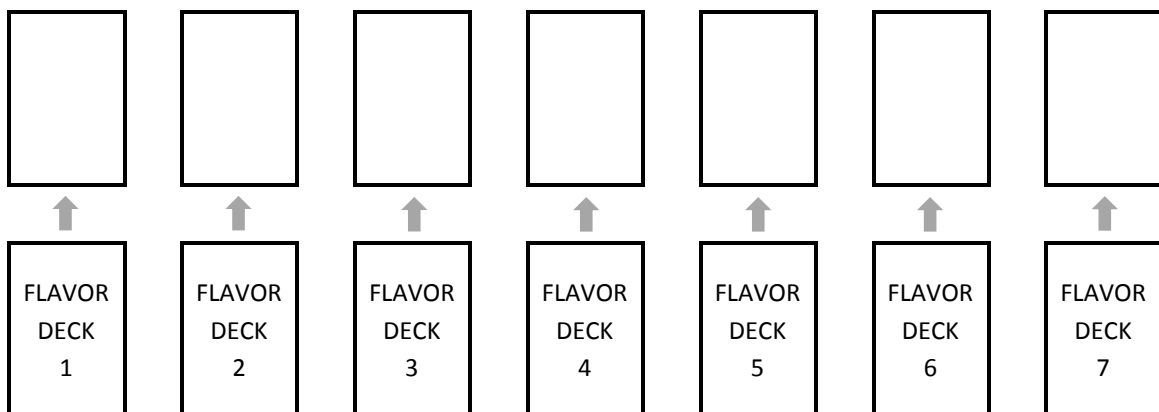
Feng knows that hard work is a factor in every proprietor's success.

Feng had an idea for developing new flavors for his baobing desserts. He took the names of 7 existing and recognizable flavors and made a different deck of cards for each of them – thus, for the flavor cantaloupe, he would use a 10-card deck with the letters, in order, C, A, N, T, A, L, O, U, P, E. (But that is **not** one of the 7 flavors he used in this project.) The 7 flavors Feng used for the decks all had names of different lengths; one flavor was a bit spicy, and one flavor had a 2-word name. Then, every minute of every day – never, ever stopping – he had employees simultaneously deal the top card in each deck onto the table in front of them so that generally 7 letters in a row were showing. The only exception was that when there were no more cards left in one of the decks, during the next minute that deck was gathered up in its original order and no card would be dealt from it during that minute – its space would remain blank, so during some minutes there were fewer than 7 letters showing on the table. Usually the letters showing, in order, would spell nonsense, but Feng hoped that it would eventually spell a great new flavor name.

After more than a year with no useful names reported, Feng asked his workers to start keeping a computer diary of their results. Feng noted the 7 letters and/or empty spaces, in order, that he saw at this time, right after the employees had dealt their cards or picked up their decks for that minute, and called this point in time MINUTE 1. He instructed his workers to record the new result for each successive minute, right after they had all either turned a card during that minute or collected up their deck if the last card in their deck had been turned during the previous minute. They did so accurately and tirelessly.

After many additional years with no useful flavor names resulting, Feng ended the project. Some entries from the workers' diary are below, listing the precise minute when the letters on the table spelled something sensible, just not a great flavor name. The column containing the letters was accidentally deleted, but in all cases, a definition of what the letters spelled is shown, along with how many letters were on the table -- 7 means all spaces were filled with letters, and 6 means one space was empty because the last card of its deck was used the minute before, so the deck was being collected back up. (The empty slot could be any of the 7 – that empty slot is simply ignored when reading the 6 cards on the table.)

Even though Feng did not find any useful new flavors, can you help him recreate the first and last entries in the computer diary, which together might at least remind him of who he is?



MINUTE	Definition and length of word on table during this minute after each worker has dealt a card or picked up their deck
1	First entry in computer diary, listing table cards in order at a point designated "Minute 1" more than a year into the project
88681	Country singer Kenny (7)
109706	Wire support in a clothes closet (6)
141772	Australian gal, generally (6)
349076	Medicinal dose or electronic writing surface (6)
421521	Some oxygen molecules (particularly ones in a certain layer) (6)
456463	Nuanced or easy to overlook (6)
605441	Two-carbon hydrocarbons (7)
617123	Sometimes-monogrammed bathroom items (6)
659363	Adornments for graduation caps (7)
666783	International chocolatier headquartered in Switzerland (6)
772511	Small, furry pet (7)
776524	Dry white French wine (7)
826631	Hang around idly (6)
838476	Moms' brothers (6)
933258	Snoopy's breed (6)
1102071	Pearl manufacturer (6)
1271106	Makes angry (7)
1548516	Ski lodge (6)
1659991	One who breaks the rules (7)
1692841	Tecumseh's tribe (7)
1764711	More tidy (6)
1777636	Drinking glass, or acrobat at times (7)
2013485	Sums demanded by kidnappers (7)
2049152	Thick-trunked tree in The Lion King (6)
2174908	Like jacket weather (6)
2303152	Playground lever (6)
2348130	Code broken at Bletchley Park (6)
2399045	Horse-drawn cab (6)
2418528	Chemical element in certain deep blue pigments (6)
2448468	Nobel-winning playwright Eugene (6)
2615561	Second-best to a ringer in horseshoes (6)
2724996	Beetle in the funny pages (6)
3140023	Prickly national flower of Scotland (7)
3191356	More modest or unpretentious (7)
3257443	Warm-weather region in the U.S. (2 wds) (7)
3339428	Italian food company that's the world's leading pasta producer (7)
3513106	Thirst's counterpart (6)
3606836	His last words were: "The rest is silence." (6)
3729311	Raised flaw in glassware, painting, or wallpaper (7)
3898611	Not sugary (7)
4043306	Actor Rod in On The Waterfront and In The Heat Of The Night (7)
4055128	Like some remedies, shampoos, and teas (6)
4213774	Alaska's owner before 1867 (6)
4429512	Street sign phrase (2 wds) (6)
4650213	State bird of Maryland (6)
4958671	Playhouse (7)
4973631	Kitchen tool used on citrus peels (6)
4975796	Hercules cleaned Augean ones (7)
5172928	Seasoning produced by evaporating ocean water (2 wds) (7)
5293951	Spring holiday (6)
5415964	Patron saint of musicians who shares a name with Simon and Garfunkel title woman who is "shaking my confidence daily" (7)
5542849	Muse of astronomy (6)
5647143	Chess move or rook shape (6)
5652764	Bob Hope's and Gerald Ford's birth name (6)
5663991	Asteroid impact evidence (6)
5764325	Explosive weapon deployed at the beginning of the film Casino and in many other films (2 wds) (7)
5872791	Brings together (6)
6114868	Removes from the market or from elected office (7)
8514201	Last entry in computer diary, listing table cards in order after they were dealt during Minute 8,514,201