

Enigmata & Solutions

by Ucaimhu

Solvers of enigmatic extravaganzas often use Acme's "Have You Tried" list, which gives categorized suggestions for what to do when you can't get to a solution; here's a modified version:

A (For Starters): Have you tried turning the intro over in your mind?

B (Zen): Have you tried doing nothing at all?

C (Creativity): Have you tried, just after the midway point, simply making something up?

D (Collaboration): Have you tried bringing in a third person after the first two?

E (Giant Leaps): Have you tried decoding something with only two-thirds of the code symbols?

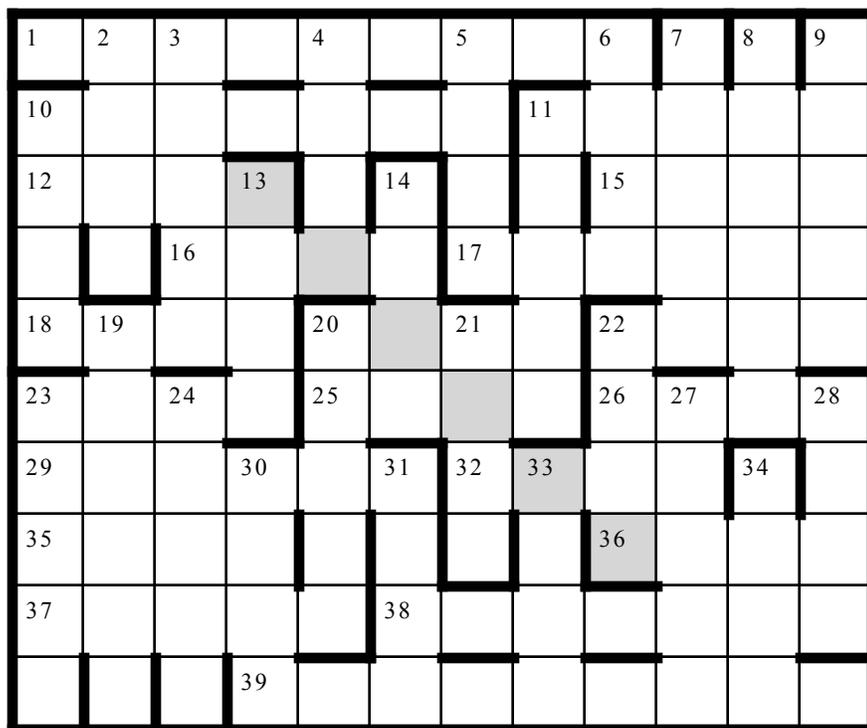
For each suggestion above, four Across answers must be modified (or unmodified) in an appropriate way before entry. (One altered entry will be a three-word phrase.)

Also, in keeping with the title of this cryptic, (1) half the Down clues must have a letter deleted before solving, and (2) the other half yield an answer from which one letter must be deleted before entry. For each deleted letter from (1), where it is the nth letter from the start of the clue word in which it appears, find the nth letter from the start of the clue; then do the same with "(1)", "start", and "clue word" changed to "(2)", "end", and "answer", respectively. Arrange the letters you find in order by the deleted letters they come from; the result will be a (non-cryptic) clue for a word dear to the hearts of extravaganza fans. (Note: two letters of the alphabet will not be used as deleted letters.)

Finally, alter that word, step by step, as shown in the gray squares, which will also show a word relevant to that word. (Note that the result of each individual step will not necessarily be a word, nor even consistently capitalized. When you have a choice for how to perform a step, choose the option that changes the length the least.) The result will be another term dear to the hearts of extravaganza fans.

ACROSS

1. I need to eliminate two errors in succession (2 wds.)
10. With men and women and earth-swallowing fish
11. Partly bastardised transport device on *Doctor Who*
12. Behold! A penny will be put in
15. 2% of a nickel processing facility
16. Triumph when besieging East Österreich's capital
17. Briton's sleep disorder upset gigayear-old man
18. Applies paint crudely as Bud horses around
20. Saint and rotter ID revolutionary teachers
22. Thin, not-quite-viscous substance
23. Poorly-seen suffix on "fuller" or "pent"
25. Mr. Wald and Mr. Gore's lunch, perhaps
26. Like Jean Arp's endless info about a podium
29. Hathaway, who acts with a little heat



32. The thirteenth or fifteenth that is trimmed
35. Body art immediately makes a comeback
36. Jacob's brother at last bathes in Vichy water
37. Tense word filled with anger
38. Using your mouth, produce crow-like sounds
39. Spinning annulus encircles fish

DOWN

2. E-ink user is no faqir
3. Tulsa's biggest drone bee produces something akin to a big tone
4. Poetry about gun smoke that is vacuous
5. Saudi Arabian city Jean mostly stocked with dates
6. Looking haggard, down uncooked center of donut
7. Tanner that's goutless concocted oil compound with three -OH groups
8. Brazilian soccer player starts to usurp Achilles's pay
9. I would cover pane for Faith
10. Pull 75 couples out
11. Lofty canvas on a ship going around slow location
13. Slip up when carrying small, round items that are flat
14. Saved counterfeit e-coin (2 wds.)
19. Remove spikes from 50% of failing supports Umberto initially names
20. May (after disrobing) fight Dee, Lemmy, or Oscar
21. South Asian that finally erected city in Peru
22. Malevolent tart from *Peter Pan* is meek on the inside
23. Toy originally concealed by Mirrored Maze ultimately bore words Alice read, in Wonderland (2 wds.)
24. Bear dancing nude near river? Excellent
27. Immigrant from Japan is atop hollow Sinhalese cone
28. Troy embraces many a goon
30. Lead-spurting oil well remains uncapped
31. One abandons cleaning product that's nauseating
33. Try to find water and sod we mislaid
34. Offspring dropping second Manx on the chessboard