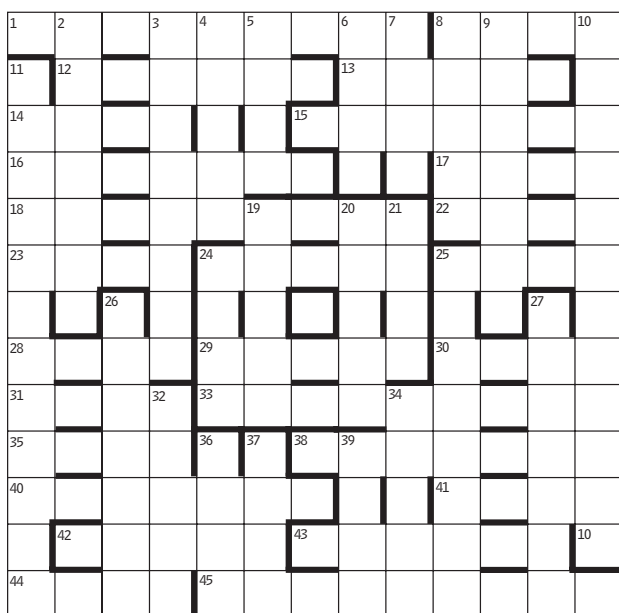


AZED No. 2,272 'Snowflake' CHRISTMAS COMPETITION PUZZLE



Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

In the completed diagram, eight words in jumbled form may be seen radiating from and including the central square, which must be deduced: four, each of six letters, proceed consecutively and diagonally towards the corners of the grid, and four, each of four letters, proceed consecutively north, south, east and west, towards the mid-point of each side of the diagram. All eight words form compounds when preceded by SNOW. Each clue to entries which include one or more letters of these 'snowflake' words consists of a definition of the complete entry and a subsidiary indication of the entry excluding 'snowflake' letters. Other clues are normal. Bracketed numbers throughout indicate the length of complete entries. Competitors should submit with their entries a normal cryptic clue to the 10-letter word formed by the 'snowflake' word proceeding towards the SE corner, preceded by SNOW.

ACROSS

- 1 Who in Rome has time to accept rest, relaxing? One on a mission no longer (9)
- 8 Examine china fragment of porcelain (4)
- 12 Attending Muslim physician, I'm denied dance with mime (6)
- 13 Local crook, king in commerce briefly (5)
- 14 Graduate university 'gated' – bananas (4)
- 15 Hairy canine to wash lightly (7)
- 16 Computer storage methods left half of us space (7)
- 17 Power split (4)
- 18 Run among stormy reefs is enlivening (9)
- 22 Useless so-and-so one cut short repeatedly (4)
- 23 Face switching sections in supermarket (4)
- 24 Prince accepted girl's name (5)
- 25 Fish which US seamen will be found netting (4)
- 28 Like e.g. sponges in 1,000 island fringes (4)
- 29 Temple gateway leads to this interior (5)
- 30 Nature's thrilled RA with this air (4)
- 31 Greeting score at Murrayfield (4)
- 33 Having spent wildly, tenor introduced period instruments (8)
- 35 Drive back pampas rodent? (4)

AZED 2,269 Solution & notes

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

Across 1, op to in apsis; 8, i.e. machine less mine; 13, cf. rogue; 17, 'Mimi'; ref. Puccini, *La Bohème*; 21, hitch in cats; 23, Arlo in h, t; ref. Arlo/Tyrone Guthrie; 28, (a) rabc(a); 30, do in anag.; 33, arrêt in geer.
Down 2, up (rev.) + Rex; 3, anag. incl. g; 4, O in pulpe(d); 5, tef alternating with r; 6, anag. incl. a/c; 10, anag. + hell; 11, anag. less f in grog; 14, tit in in sutor; 20, b in cariou(s); 22, cf. Thales (of Milletus, c. 640–c. 546 BC); 25, Rain Mae (West); 26, see swank in C.

Rules and requests

Send correct solution and clue as indicated (on separate sheet bearing name and address, securely attached) to **Azed No. 2,272**, PO Box 518, Oxford, OX2 6WX. Closing date, Saturday 2 January 2016. Results will be announced on 27 January. Please add a brief explanation of your clue (one entry only). £100, £65, £40 prizes for the three clues judged best. Extra prizes and Azed bookplates for those very highly commended. The Azed Slip, containing details of successful competition entries

and Azed's comments, is available on subscription at £16 a year, electronic option £11. Cheques payable to the Azed Slip, should be sent to The Azed Slip, Coombe Farm, Awbridge, Romsey SO51 0HN. To receive a sample slip, please send an sae to this address. For much more information on the Azed Slip, visit www.andlit.org.uk

- 38 Exiles set out clutching duplicated bits of property (7)
- 40 A maker's modified special label (7)
- 41 Rule book: it's learnt in ballet school (4)
- 42 Scrape maybe set back European company in e.g. Lyon (5)
- 43 Bony part of cuttle-fish muddled up sel (6)
- 44 Cheers pony with amateur on (4)
- 45 Straight carver? An exaggeration (9)

DOWN

- 2 Self-contained rubber instrument (7)
- 3 Pen capturing air tripping in sparkling fashion (8)
- 4 Scots from part of south Rannoch (5)
- 5 Pungent fish stuffed with bit of coriander (4)
- 6 Tell fortunes, frightening, to be avoided by amateur (4)
- 7 Order neat dress fittings (4)
- 8 Horse smelling strongly (5)
- 9 Warm slice of mutton put in to stir endlessly (7)
- 10 In a hurry to grab power, biased (12)
- 11 Born cowboys maybe having met galloping round mountain spur (12)
- 19 Special hot drink, sort of tisane (5)
- 20 Front-runner in National? Distance no longer used (5)
- 21 Sloth, something fatal for widow (4)
- 24 Working out what to serve with rolls? (4)
- 25 Cooked chip, dry inside, subject of much debate (8, 2 words)
- 26 Water-parsnip cocktail imbibed by exclusive group (7)
- 27 Former marriage following love not once (7)
- 32 Bloodsucker, reverse of direct going after pounds (5)
- 34 Devotee of Demeter went off by the sound of it? (5)
- 36 Cadet in specialized unit displaying baggy items (4)
- 37 Ornamental detail, metal ridge to etch (4)
- 39 What principal has held as part of noble peerage? (4)

The Chambers Dictionary (2014) is recommended. It does not give two familiar proper names or the common collocation at 25 Down (also a trade name). The standard plural form at 16 may be found on the Internet.