

THE HAM GRAM

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A Ham Gram is an American-style pun-anagram crossword puzzle. Each clue sentence (of nine words or less) contains a concealed answer, as well as its overt synonym. In the examples below, the synonym is underlined, and the letters of the covert answer are capitalized; the answer is then given in parenthesis. Several varieties of clues can be distinguished.

1. The letters of the answer are contained in proper order in two or more words of the clue sentence (ignoring spaces or punctuation):

A nudiST RAN Down the beach (strand)
Jack loVES To wear a warm jacket (vest)

2. The letters of the answer are scrambled to form a word in the clue sentence:

Jake has a pill for EACH pain (ache)
Joe's punch came within an INCH of Tom's jaw (chin)

3. The letters of the answer are scrambled to form two or more consecutive words of the clue sentence:

NO MA! BE happy and do not grieve (bemoan)
Donald thought he would DEED ME the property (deemed)

4. The letters in one word of the clue sentence are subtracted from the letters of another word, and the remaining ones rearranged to obtain the answer (the two words are separated by a negative word or phrase, such as: is not, dislike, get off, leave, hate, depart, lose)

I regret that my NAME is not MAUREEN (rue)
HAL disliked THELMA the day he encountered her (met)

5. The letters in two words of the clue sentence are combined and rearranged to obtain the answer (the two words are separated by a positive word or phrase, such as: and, take, want, has, likes, get)

Let WES and BERT scatter the fertilizer (bestrew)
ED took VI to a booze house (dive)

With these hints, try your hand at solving the Ham Gram presented on the next two pages.

ACROSS

1. The puppeteer didn't attend the Mardi Gras on Tuesday
5. Al hates labels marked "Made by an Arabian nomad"
9. In India, a thick vegetable soup costs one rupee
10. After reading the newsy cables, David became wiser
12. The natives of Crete will construct a lighthouse
13. Capt. Nemo, terrified, had to act like a hero
14. Ed got the needle for blabbing "It's a consonant"
15. At Xmas time, this bird could be in danger
16. Did Tristan ride a bus to visit Isolde?
18. Don doesn't fondle a fairy with affection
19. It bores Frank to attend ceremonial rites
21. Man! Who knows the word for "ancient Greek weight"?
24. Lords and masters like to fish in small brooks
28. Wives of this King Henry thought his height right
30. Ed got madder, when served a small portion
31. Using a pile of stones, Vic climbed the crevices
32. A glee club can imitate this bird
33. You never give a haircut to rheas
34. Get Les to buy Marge a fur neckpiece
35. Mary! Eat your fish, or else go to bed
36. This French holy city is located near a ness

DOWN

1. Today, I'm more positive that ruers are sincere
2. The bus stop is near a large coliseum
3. Of late, the center of news has been Watergate
4. To her, not together with Tom means grab Tim
5. Rae's wet jacket is hanging on the line
6. Jill! I'm not happy how Jack will depict you
7. Either Dee or Fritz knows water will rust iron
8. Abe! Tell me more about the Asian pepper plant
9. Don't take me into a temple that rioters stone
11. The ref's vassal carried the athletic gear for him
15. The measurement around my waist is just right
17. Yes sir! Tess visits the nuns frequently
20. Michael is serious, and doesn't like to be teased
21. Capt. James says "Food aboard naval ships is good"
22. Stir not, Christine! Look at the beautiful alcove
23. Nixon is eager to admit that Watergate's a mess
25. Don't groan, Kevin! Just remember it's an element
26. I think London promenades are kinda small
27. Jake! It seem to be a pintail duck
29. Jacob's wife, Leah, was able to cure his ailment
32. Mike's speed on a sharp curve is too fast

For the answers, see Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.

