

An Easy (?) Crossword Puzzle

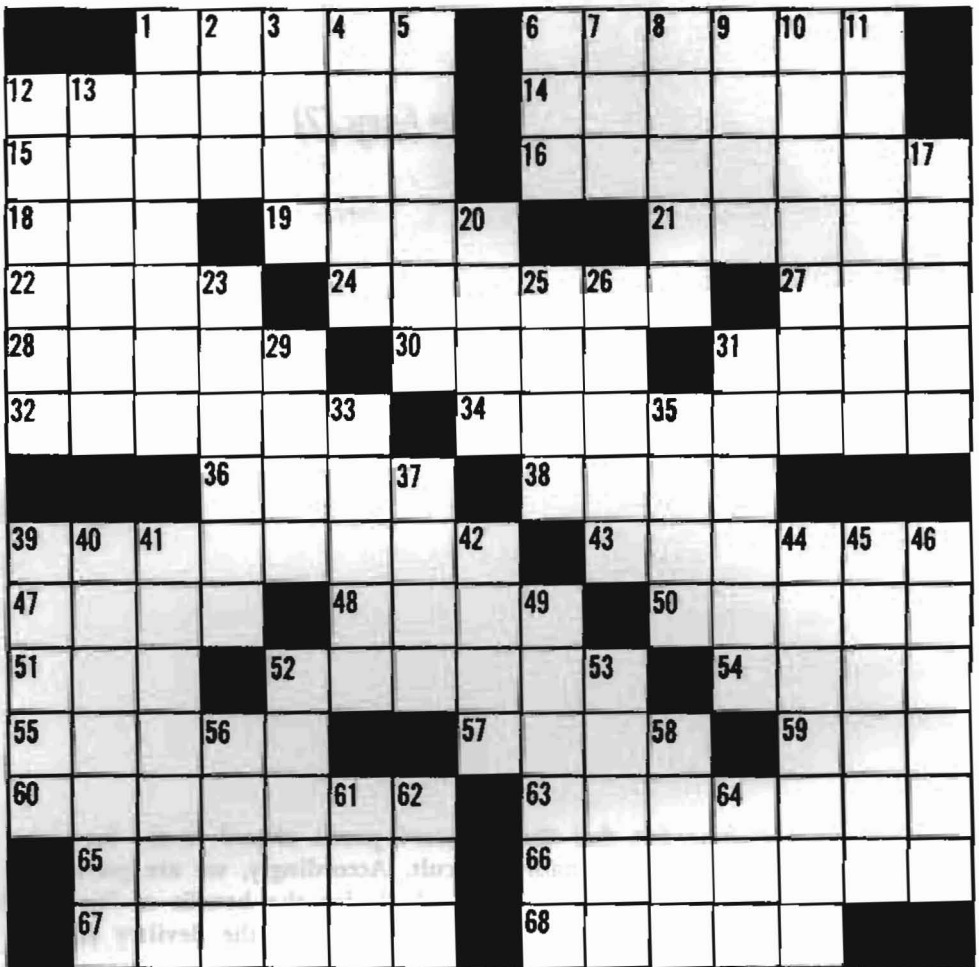
Some of you may have felt that the crossword puzzle offered in the first issue of WORD WAYS was unreasonably difficult. Accordingly, we are presenting a substantially easier puzzle in this issue, both for the benefit of "novices" and as a breather, giving you a chance to rest up for the devilry you are going to encounter in future issues of the Journal.

Our current puzzle *looks* most conventional. The diagram is the standard 15 x 15 size found in newspapers; the pattern of blacked-out squares exhibits perfect symmetry; the black squares represent slightly less than one sixth of the entire diagram; the definitions are entirely straightforward, and typically short; and all answer words are taken from *Webster's New International Dictionary of the English Language*, Second Edition, 1961 Printing.

Yet, the puzzle is no ordinary one, as you will discover when you start working on it. To give you an idea of what you are up against, someone skillful enough to solve the average newspaper puzzle in 15 minutes, without using any reference books, will need approximately 40 hours of intensive effort, aided by dictionaries and other reference material, to solve this puzzle completely.

If you can turn the trick in less than 40 hours, consider yourself a genius! The correct solution will be printed in our next issue.

The Crossword Diagram



Horizontal Clues

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Harmonize | 28. Dupe | 51. Venice street |
| 6. Fabric | 30. Plate | 52. Festival |
| 12. Tables | 31. Saviour | 54. Hair over eyes |
| 14. Indian | 32. Teacher | 55. Tree |
| 15. Evil | 34. Ruler | 57. Laver |
| 16. Glib | 36. Bible name | 59. Combining form |
| 18. Tribe | 38. Sufficient | 60. Alphabet |
| 19. Tree | 39. Fish | 63. Ridicules |
| 21. Suffer | 43. Fish | 65. Girl's name |
| 22. Slab | 47. Suffix | 66. Color |
| 24. Clog | 48. Clip | 67. Liquor |
| 27. Pronoun | 50. Indian | 68. Disease |

WORD WAYS

Vertical Clues

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Apollo's home | 20. Ideal woman | 45. Clan |
| 2. Suffix | 23. Hook | 46. Sugar |
| 3. Beat for deer | 25. Indian | 49. Tribesman |
| 4. Tumor | 26. Seat | 52. Killed for brotherly love |
| 5. Wrangle | 29. Combining form | 53. Bird |
| 6. Fish | 31. Wattle | 56. Tree |
| 7. Exercise | 33. Half-breed | 58. Slips |
| 8. Instrument | 35. Merchant | 61. Trade |
| 9. Millet | 37. Subdivision | 62. Tree |
| 10. Show | 39. Cleavers | 64. Rulers |
| 11. Discomfort | 40. Garment | |
| 12. Piece of glass | 41. Potter | |
| 13. Ornament | 42. Sprinkles | |
| 17. Make tracks | 44. Song | |

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Credit for constructing the foregoing crossword puzzle goes to Mr. Edward L. Lee of St. Petersburg, Florida. Mr. Lee is one of America's outstanding puzzle constructors.

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IMPROBABILITY ENFLESHED

The four letters of the alphabet least frequently employed in English are J, Q, X, and Z. It has always been a challenge to try finding a word that uses all four letters.

No genuine English dictionary word satisfying the stipulated requirement has yet been found. However, *The Times Atlas of the World* (1955) shows a town on the map of southwestern France, some distance south of Bordeaux, by the name of ARJUZANX. If we needed an adjective describing the style or manner characteristic of this town, that adjective would certainly be ARJUZANXESQUE, fulfilling the desired conditions.

ARJUZANXESQUE is truly a lovely word, and it should be brought into common usage. If Julie Andrews was able to popularize the jawbreaker SUPER-CALIFRAGILISTICEXPIALIDOCIOUS, then it must be equally possible to arrange for Elizabeth Taylor to scream at Richard Burton, at a crucial, emotion-packed moment in their next picture, "Charles! Don't be so ARJUZANXESQUE!" Presto! The word would be heard all over the country, even all over the world.

It seems almost as difficult to find a genuine J-Q-X-Z word in foreign languages, but we have succeeded in doing so. Maltese, the Semitic language of the Maltese people, an ancient dialect of Arabic and Italian elements, now written in Latin characters, is full of weird words. One of them is JITQA-ŽŽIŽX, meaning, "he does not mind; he does not feel any revulsion."