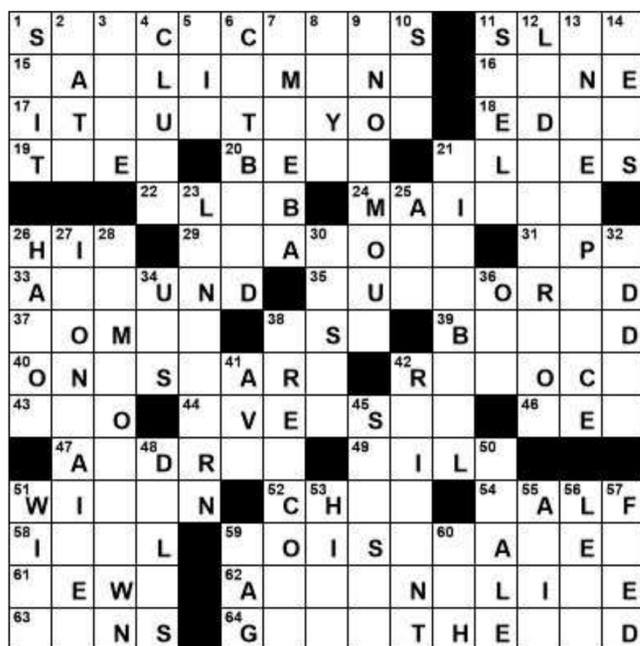


DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL



GRID BY EVAN BIRNHOLZ/DEVILCROSS.COM

Lexiconned: Fake portmanteau words

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1236** (delayed a week by the out-of-order results of Week 1237), the Empress asked you to explain — entirely falsely — that a particular word was derived from a combination of two or more other words.

4th place

Harmony: Combining “harsh” and “alimony.” “After the divorce, all she wanted was some harmony in her life.” (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

3rd place

Kale: From “kaka” and “vegetable,” as in “These chips taste like kale.” (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

2nd place and the poop emoji pool raft

Vote: From “vomit-salute,” or react from the gut. “Last November, like many Americans, I went to the polls and voted.” (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

And the winner of the Inkin’ Memorial

Commit = “completely” and “admit”: “Thou shalt not commit adultery.” (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

Meh-tymologies: Honorable mentions

Banter = “banal” + “chatter”: The “Morning Joe” show is known for the banter between its two stars. (Mark Raffman)

Metro: Verb combining “met” and “zero,” meaning “failed to live up to expectations.” “Why didn’t you show up for our date last night?” “I metroed.” (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Covfefe: A combination of “coverage,” “strife” and “more strife.” (Jesse Frankovich)

Baba ganoush: The name for the gooey eggplant spread comes from Arabic for “grandmother” + “sneezed.” (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park, Md.)

Braces = “bras (for) faces,” since they are worn in the inside, to hold things in place and keep those things from pointing every which way. (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church, Va.)

Huge = “hubristic” + “garbage,” as in “Believe me, it’s gonna be huge!” (Jesse Frankovich)

Climate: Combination of “climb” and “fabricate,” which is how you know not to believe any of those reports that temperatures are rising. — J. Inhofe (Duncan Stevens)

Constipation: “constant” + “anticipation.” (Barbara Turner)

Coitus = “co-” + “it” + “us”: The transformation of two individuals into a single beast, albeit one with two backs. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

College = “colossal” + “privilege”: “The college kids complained about having to take exams the day after the election.” (Mark Raffman)

Complex = “complete” +

New contest for Week 1241: Less taste, more fill-in

59 Across (originally “noisemaker”): MOIST TATER: Menu euphemism for “our fries are always soggy”
59 Across: NO ISNT A YES: First rule taught at this year’s freshman orientation

At least once a year since 2006, we’ve presented you with a filled-in crossword grid and asked you to supply your own creative clues for words in the puzzle; this year you’ll see it probably around Christmastime. Meanwhile, the Empress offers the third go-round (after 2010 and 2014) of this oddball variation.

The grid pictured here is the solution to a puzzle by Washington Post Sunday crossword constructor Evan Birnholz, from his website Devil Cross — with one little difference: Evan has whited out a bunch of the letters so that you can give us a novel clue for any word or phrase in which the remaining letters fit, across or down, as in the two examples above for the same set of letters. **NOTE: Your word doesn’t have to cross with the other words;** just think about individual across or down words. You may use a real word, name or multi-word phrase or coin a new one. Please begin each entry with the location of the first square (e.g. “14 Down”). The limit is, as usual, 25 entries; you can send us 25 words or 25 entries for one word — the Empress is easy that way. Your clue need not be as short as the ones for real crosswords but shouldn’t be more than eight or 10 words.

Submit entries at this website: wapo.st/enter-invite-1241 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Inkin’ Memorial**, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy — one of the last few before we come out with a new design. Second place receives a solar-powered hand-waving baby Buddha, complete with offensively silly grin — the kind you’ll see at the cashier’s stand at a Thai restaurant. Found in Madrid, of all places, by Roy and Inge Ashley.

Other runners-up win our “You Gotta Play to Lose” Loser Mug or our Gossery Bag, “I Got a B in Punmanship.” Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, “No Childishness Left Behind” or “Magnum Dopus.” First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener” (FirStink for their first ink). Deadline is Monday night, Aug. 28; results published Sept. 17 (online Sept. 10). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week’s results is by Barbara Turner; the honorable mentions subhead is by Nan Reiner. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. “Like” Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofday; follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

● **THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL** The Empress’s weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.

“excrement”: An adjective used increasingly by political leaders. “Our health care bill is complex, so you should pass it immediately, without reading it. Trust us, it’s great.” (Lorraine Hricik McMillan, Alexandria, Va.)

Congress = “constantly” + “regress”: “Congress — on a steady course.” (Mark Raffman)

Healthy: Combines “hot” and “wealthy”: “Really, all I want is a guy who’s healthy.” (Chris Doyle)

Cupid: A combination of “cute” and “stupid.” “Once again, Cupid got me right in the, um, heart.” (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Glamour comes from Anglo-Norman slang, from the phrase “egg I’amour,” or “if you were an egg, I’d get you over easy.” (Barbara Turner)

Implant: Surgical procedure derived from “implausibly” and “buoyant.” (Duncan Stevens)

Peon: Combination of “pee” and “on.” Duh. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis, Md.)

Respects: “resents” + “inspects”: “Nobody respects women more than me.” (Chris Doyle)

Skins = skinflint + morons. “The Skins failed to reach a long-term deal with Kirk Cousins.” (Mark Raffman)

Congrats: Like “baad” becoming “good,” this early American insult that **likened national legislators to rodents** became a word of celebration. (Ken Gallant, Conway, Ark.)

Dinner: Combination of “dalliance” and “sinner,” which is why you have to be very, very careful about your dinner partner. — M. Pence (Duncan Stevens)

Latte: From “lather” and “waste.” “In 1842, Ishmael Balena, a Venetian barber, invented the latte.” (Kevin Dopart)

Guru: From “guy (with) rupees.” From the ancient Indian belief that being really rich means being really smart. (Warren Tanabe)

Stud: “stupid” + “clod.” “All the Miss Universe contestants told Donald he was such a stud.” (Kevin Dopart)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Aug. 21: our contest for limericks featuring “gh-” and “gi-” words. See wapo.st/invite1240.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

“MUSIC EXCHANGE” By ADAM T. COBB

ACROSS

- 1 Spiced rice
- 6 Idle in sketches
- 10 Popular tablet
- 14 Potential replacement sites
- 18 Mexican marinade
- 19 Former Cubs slugger
- 20 “... cloud in the sky, Got the sun in my eyes ...”: Carpenters lyric
- 21 ‘50s pol
- 23 Starting blocks user
- 24 Rejects
- 26 Wikipedia policy
- 27 Chinese tea
- 28 Author Harte
- 30 Janus-inspired stringed instrument?
- 32 Tiny colony defender
- 34 Safari sight
- 35 School interlude
- 36 Pkg. payment methods
- 37 Used a dugout
- 39 Top note in a common triad
- 40 Aired of old MGM films
- 43 Task for roadies?
- 46 Cross
- 47 Text ender?
- 48 SEC Network owner
- 49 Employs
- 51 The Willis in Chicago, for one
- 52 Contempt
- 54 Discontinue
- 57 Spirit of Saint-Louis?
- 58 Join
- 59 Deprived (of)
- 61 One of the U.S.’s 435
- 63 Radii, e.g.
- 65 Bit of criticism from Ravi Shankar?
- 70 Have faith in
- 73 Require treatment, perhaps
- 74 Britain’s Penny Black and Two Penny Blue
- 78 Legislate
- 79 Voting coalition
- 82 Quarter of a bushel
- 85 Red, yellow or white veggie
- 86 Like certain gases
- 87 Envisioned being

- 89 Transient with a bindle
- 91 PC dial-up upgrade
- 92 Skin product enhancement
- 93 Percussionist’s answer to “When do you practice??”
- 97 ___ gibbon: zoo animal
- 98 A.L. East
- 101 Delivery on delirance
- 102 “Now I get it!”
- 103 Cold-weather wear
- 106 Appearance
- 107 Tariffed goods
- 110 Hi-hat for high society?
- 113 She, in Capri
- 114 Bill
- 115 “The King and I” group
- 116 They have ideas
- 118 “Cheese!” consequence
- 120 Not bottled

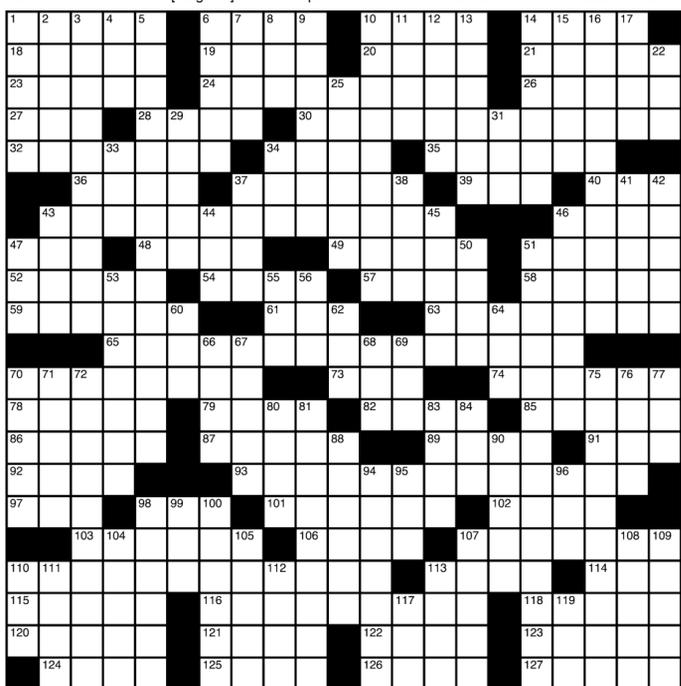
- 121 Dark genre
- 122 Biblical brother
- 123 In shape
- 124 Places to get in shape
- 125 Polish, in a way
- 126 Gambit
- 127 Some MIT grads

DOWN

- 1 ___ nationaux: French tourist attractions
- 2 Picoatello locale
- 3 Regional asset
- 4 Face on a fiver
- 5 Instrument carved from the Tree of Knowledge?
- 6 Glyceride, for one
- 7 Force into ignominious retreat
- 8 Mideast nation: Abbr.
- 9 Baja bar
- 10 World’s largest island country [It’s gone!]
- 12 Clashing
- 13 End zone celebrations
- 14 “Water Music” composer
- 15 Hollywood faves
- 16 Goes for the gold
- 17 ___ City, Iraq
- 22 Expert’s conclusion?
- 25 “Just Do It” logo
- 29 Breaks
- 31 Novelist Umberto
- 33 Classic O’Brien
- 4 Face on a fiver
- 34 Black or yellow pet
- 37 Red coin?
- 38 Laura of “Jurassic Park”
- 41 Labyrinth site of myth
- 42 Parisian parents
- 43 Tinting fabric
- 44 PC options
- 45 Genesis and Dreamcast
- 46 Arizona desert
- 47 Thumb drive port

- 50 Pak of the LPCA
- 51 What Tubby brushes with?
- 53 Get more out of
- 55 Ball
- 56 Little, in Lille
- 60 Finest
- 62 Harper Valley org.
- 64 Cascade components: Abbr.
- 66 Slubbers
- 67 Zhou
- 68 Bit from a bottle
- 69 Flamenco shout
- 70 Concerning kidneys
- 71 ___ Gay: WWII bomber
- 72 Group once led by Meir and Rabin
- 75 When some late risers get started
- 76 Model act
- 77 NBC skit show
- 80 Admits, with “up”
- 81 Creamy French cheese

- 83 Actor/stuntman Jackie
- 84 “MASH” milieu: Abbr.
- 88 Damascus denizen
- 90 Rays
- 94 Ore refinery
- 95 ___ compos mentis
- 96 Bar opening?
- 98 Outdoos
- 99 Approves
- 100 Wisconsin city on Lake Michigan
- 104 Mr. T’s troop
- 105 Layer in ecclesiastical governance
- 107 Give out
- 108 Tenth American president
- 109 Planted pips
- 110 “I’m Dying Up Here” aier, for short
- 111 Sharpness
- 112 XIX x LIII
- 113 Ballpark figs.
- 117 The Beavers of the Pac-12
- 119 Calendar abbr.



8/20/17 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2017 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week’s puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Aug. 20: This year you exude charisma and creativity. Some people are attracted to you, whereas others are just curious and want to get to know you better. If you are single, you do not have to be overly active in pursuing the one. Trust that you will meet someone special when you’re out and about. If you are attached, you could be unusually assertive, which will create some tension between you and your significant other. A fellow Leo might become sarcastic if pushed.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 A loved one could trigger a lot of unplanned activity. You’ll like what occurs, even though there probably will be a few surprises along the way. A friend or loved one who is involved in some uproar might contact you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 Slow down and make this a lazy day. Know that your idea will be contagious and will encourage others to join you. Let this happen, but do not feel as if you need to do anything with anyone.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 The social quality of the day is not lost on you. Tap into a childlike curiosity and delight in some mischief when dealing with a loved one who tends to be difficult.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 Be aware of the costs of proceeding in a chosen direction. The ramifications could be worse than you had anticipated. Your home might be your castle, but you will need to limit how much time you spend there.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 You’ll be moving more quickly than you realize. If you’re playing a sport, this energy spurt is likely to pay off. However, you could find that your friends seem to be distancing themselves, as they can’t keep up.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 You might not even realize that you have been so irritable as of late. Today, however, you become aware of some anger that is coming from you. A discussion about what is bothering you is appropriate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 You could be on the verge of realizing a long-term goal with the help of a very assertive friend. Together, you can move mountains.

Your positive and caring energy adds a softness to your inner determination.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 You are in the limelight, and others like what they see. Realize that your options are limited and that once you commit, you might not be able to return to where you were. Think carefully before taking the leap.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 Reach out to someone at a distance. You might feel as if you rarely see this individual. Planning a get-together could be a lot of fun. Friends surround you, but one person proves to be a fountain of ideas.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 One-on-one relating will be a source of satisfaction. A close

friend or loved one might help you evaluate a purchase or an immediate change. An older friend seems to like how you present yourself and act.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 You could be more involved in someone else’s life than you are aware. Reach out to someone at a distance who is a nonemotional source of feedback in your life. Listen to this person’s advice before making a decision.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 One-on-one relating could involve a purchase or a decision that could improve the quality of your life. Remain sure of yourself but don’t push beyond your limits. Others need to learn that you, too, have a bottom line that needs to be honored.

Answers to last week’s puzzle.

