

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Meeting the c'ha'llenge of 'air quotes'

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1355**, we once again asked you to define a word or phrase in the context of a word that appears within the word. The **T'rump** joke is as old as the man himself, but it must have seemed totally fresh to the dozen people who sent it in as an entry.

4th place:

**Cat"astro"phe:** Losing all four home games in the World Series. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

3rd place:

**"Invent"ory:** A complete list of the president's strengths. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

2nd place and the coloring book 'How Librarians Swear':

**Bir"DCA"ge:** What National Airport feels (and smells) like when your flight has been delayed for seven hours. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

**H"USB"and:** Consider yourself lucky if you get it right on the first try. (Hildy Zampella, Alexandria)

The cleve'rest':

Honorable mentions

**Lib"l do":** What some people mysteriously lose soon after marrying. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

**Ba"star"d:** They let one of those get away with anything. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

**Bu"sin"ness:** Capitalism. — B. Sanders (Steve Smith, Potomac)

**Embr"yolo"gist:** A specialist who encourages women, "Life is short — go for in vitro!" (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

**N"ICE"ties:** Little luxuries, like being given something other than a toilet to drink from. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

**Scap"ego"at:** "Well, I know I handled it perfectly . . . hmm, let's see . . . Okay, I'll admit it was Rick Perry's fault." (Jesse Frankovich)

**"Dem"entia:** What those nutjobs Schiff and Pelosi must have! — D.J.T. (Jesse Frankovich)

**"Hon"cho:** The mayor of Baltimore. (Diana Guy, Smithburg, Md., a First Offender)

**"Spur"ious:** What certain draft deferments were. (Jesse Frankovich)

**"Blur"b:** A suspiciously indistinct review, "Intriguing! Words fail!" (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

**"Bust"ed:** "I admit it: I wasn't looking exactly at your eyes." (Warren Tanabe)

**"Call"igraphy:** The phone number scrawled on the bathroom door. (Sarah Walsh, Rockville)

**"Garb"age:** Off-brands, according to fashionistas. (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

**"Log"istics:** Essential part of planning a bathroom. (Warren Tanabe)

**"Sham"e:** "I'm deeply sorry that mistakes have been made and that people failed to understand my intentions." (Ellen Raphaeli, Falls Church)

**Afr"Al"d:** Fearful that a robot will take my job. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

**Am"eric"an:** Preserving traditional values, such as nepotism. (Ann Martin, Brentwood)

**Bam"boo"zled:** The reaction on the president's face when he realized that those weren't cheers from the World Series fans. (Kathy El-Assal, Middleton, Wis.)

**B"eat"les:** The band behind "I Want to Hold Your Ham" and "Lucy in the Sky with Almonds." (Jesse Rifkin, Arlington)

**Br"ex"it:** Creator of former prime ministers since 2016. (Warren Tanabe)

**Ce"meter"y:** Where they bury people only three feet under. (Raymond Gallucci, Frederick)

**Co"nun"drum:** How do you solve a problem like Maria? (Rivka Liss-Levinson, Washington)

**Cods"wall"op:** . . . and Mexico's going to pay for it." (Jesse Frankovich, Mark Raffman)

**Cr"ouch":** At a certain age, just seeing a catcher behind home plate on TV makes one's knees hurt. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

**Defi"nit"ely:** "Great idea — we should do it immediately. As soon



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1359: Back up in the air (quotes)

Well, that's a doo"zy. Go te"ll your father the news.

We have added an impor"tant ric"hness to our lovemaking.

If you go through life with the Penta"tuch as" your guide, you should be able to avoid making an ass of yourself.

This week we present the results of our Week 1355 "air quote" contest, in which you define a term by pointing out another, relevant word or short phrase within it. And when Longtime Loser Roy Ashley was working on his entries, he had an idea for a spinoff: **This week: Write a sentence or two and highlight an "air quote" that spans two or more words (and two sentences if you like)**, as in Roy's examples above. I'm not going to forbid bending the actual spelling of the word or phrase in the air quote, but I predict that correct spellings make for funnier jokes. If you submitted a words-spanning entry for Week 1355, feel free to recast it and send it again this week.

Submit up to 25 entries at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1359](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1359) (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Dec. 2;** results will appear Dec. 22 in print, Dec. 19 online.

**Winner gets the Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives, just in time for the holiday, a pair of socks featuring "Happy Hanukkah" and a **menorah with . . . seven candles**. (That's the regular rest-of-the-year menorah you'll see in Jewish symbols; a Hanukkah menorah has nine candles, one for each day of the holiday plus one to light the other candles.) Donated by Eagle-Eyed Loser Marleen May.

**Other runners-up** win one of our last "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mugs or our "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "Too-Weak Notice" or "Certificate of (de) Merit." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The "Cha'llenge" headline is by Kevin Dopart; Chris Doyle wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/on.fb.me/invdev). "Like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](https://www.facebook.com/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](http://wapo.st/styleconv).



Well, they're good for the first six nights. These socks are this week's second prize.

as we make these 43 alterations . . ." (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

**Diplo"mats":** People you wipe your feet on. — R. Giuliani (Kathy El-Assal)

**E"con"omics:** A system to make medical care and college free without raising anyone's taxes. (Ellen Raphaeli)

**E"rot"ica:** Porno novels featuring zombies. (Jeff Contompasis)

**Encou"rage"ment:** Incitement. "At the rally, the speaker gave encour'rage'ment to pat'riots.'" (Jeff Contompasis)

**For"tuna"te:** Charlie finally got picked by StarKist! Wait . . . (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

**In"au"thentic:** What "goldtone" jewelry is. (John McCoey, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

**In"compete"nce:** When multiple teams decide to chase the top draft pick by losing as many games as possible. (Duncan Stevens)

**Jo"urn"alist:** An obit writer. (Gary Crockett)

**Loy"alt'y:** What Trump gets from his base. (Brian Halbert, Ashburn)

**M"itch" McConnell:** Annoyance that many hope to scratch in 2020. (Keith Ord, Potomac; Mark Raffman)

**O"PAC"ity:** The darkness where democracy is dying. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

**P"last"ic:** The enduring legacy of our time. (Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

**P"run"es:** There's a reason they're the eternal butt of toilet jokes. (Bill Spencer, Cockeysville, Md.)

**Satis"fact"ion:** When Google proves you are right and your spouse is wrong. (David Kleinbard, Mamaroneck, N.Y.)

**Stephanie Gri"sham":** She shares the job of telling "alternative facts" with Kellyanne "Con"way. (Mark Raffman)

**Recr"eat"ion:** The main purpose of most cruises. (Drew Bennett)

**Ser"IOU" sly:** The check is in the mail, I promise. For real this time. (David Kleinbard)

**S"tub"born:** What belly fat is. (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)

**Syr"i"a:** "Look how great it all worked out, thanks to me!" (Sam Mertens)

**Toilet t"raining":** Accidents will happen! (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

**Tr"um"p:** To claim a victory even if you don't know what you're talking about. (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

**Tho"ugh"tful:** "Aunt Doris, you really shouldn't have." (Frank Osen)

**Uk"rain"e:** Weather forecast for Trump's parade. (Dudley Thompson)

**And Last: A"pat"hy:** "So you got no ink. Should I care?" (Rob Cohen, Potomac)

**Two contests still running — deadline Monday, Nov. 25:** — Song parodies about current events: [wapo.st/invite1357](http://wapo.st/invite1357) — Write something using only words in "The Night Before Christmas": [wapo.st/invite1358](http://wapo.st/invite1358)

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"ACCENTUATING THE NEGATIVE" By GAIL GRABOWSKI

- ACROSS**
- "Proud Mary" pop gp.
  - "Glad that's over!"
  - Vineyard measure
  - Contaminate
  - Grammy winner Corinne Bailey
  - Lille lover's word
  - Coward in drama
  - More eco-conscious
  - Like frayed laces on hockey skates?
  - Forward motion
  - Stretches on the job
  - Waterlike
  - Brontë
  - governess
  - Road trip expenses
  - Area 51 creatures, it's said
  - Tail end
  - Málaga mlie.
  - Flight school hurdle
  - Dig up buried Burma-Shave relics?
  - Roomba, briefly
  - Contrail makeup
  - Defense org.?
  - Wet suit material
  - Elm Street surname
  - Advice to a sinner
  - Junkyard fillers
  - Seemingly forever
  - Brief period of apathy?
  - Iowa Straw Poll city, once
  - Do as Vassar did in 1969
  - NOYB part
  - Text addition?
  - Feminine side
  - "Say no more"
  - Deceptive operation
  - It has all five black keys in its scale
  - Grab with a toothpick
  - Vital opening?
  - Verizon subsidiary
  - Song often sung in Italian
  - Flip, in a way
  - German gent
  - Committee leader who's a bit on edge?

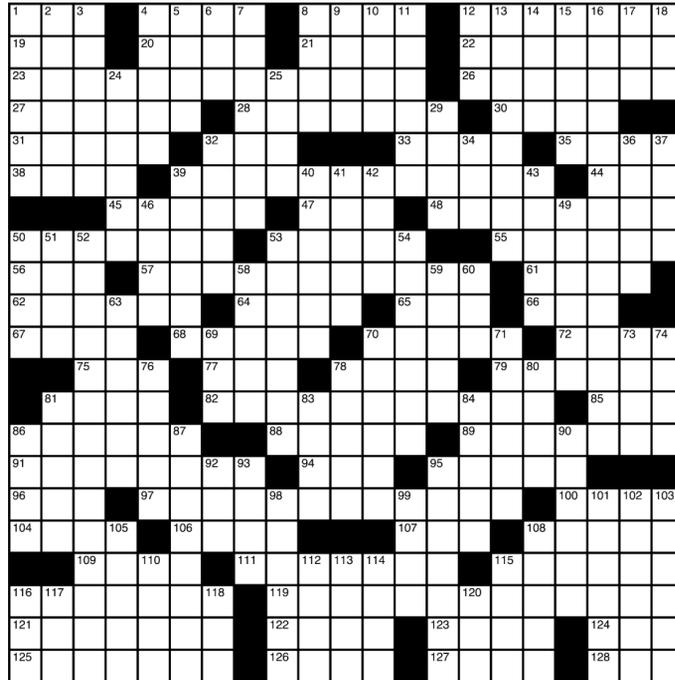
- Biodegrade
- Frustrate
- Really go for
- "The Ten Commandments" role
- Team culled from other teams
- URL ending
- Marnor of fiction
- Jeans go-with
- Orthodontist's concerns
- Contest on horseback
- Coward in drama
- Some square dancers
- Title after vows, perhaps
- Passover feast
- Ten Benjamins
- Erode
- Rinky-dink
- Morgan of "The Bucket List"
- Pets that help with luggage after a trip?
- Challenge for a flight attendant

- Work (out)
- Sistine Chapel mural setting
- "The Ten Commandments" role
- "Ain't gonna happen!"
- Straddling
- Learning method
- Part of GPS: Abbr.
- DOWN**
- Some prefer them thin
- Braggart's comeback
- "Frozen" snow queen
- Guitar amp units
- Singles, say
- Moody music genre
- "Blue-Backed Spelling Book" author
- Join the game, in a way
- Small decision-maker
- 2018 Masters champ Patrick

- Trees with berries
- Vardon Trophy org.
- Limited offer come-on
- Assess
- King and a Norman
- Rattle football linemen?
- TV's Jim Rockford, for one
- Cockney adverb
- Under Cupid's spell
- "Frozen" snow queen
- Pull back, with "in"
- Huge, to a poet
- Eligibility factor
- Suffers a sudden decline
- Links rarities
- Overturns
- What stars may represent
- Doggie bag treat
- Chill (with)
- paint
- Flu symptom

- Negligent
- They're often tapped
- Underlying cause
- Do a "Wheel of Fortune" job?
- "Anne of Green Gables" setting
- Imposing building
- Often-minced veggie
- Quran deity
- Word of support
- Met works
- Frat letter
- Pre-BBQ treatment
- Difficult times
- Alternative medicine plant
- Initial orders?
- "Un Ballo in Maschera" aria
- Equally eccentric
- Funny Bomboc
- Paris abductee
- Arabian
- Peninsula port
- Energetic risk-taking type, so it's said

- Spreadsheet filler
- Sign
- Regard
- 2010 World Cup host: Abbr.
- One and only
- Sgt. played by John Wayne in "Sands of Iwo Jima"
- Patriotic chant
- Apple since 1998
- Lofty standards
- Stahl of '60 Minutes"
- Hush-hush meetings
- "The Rapture of Canaan" novelist Reynolds
- Excel
- Sharif of "Che!"
- Flanged fastener
- Lhasa
- Bee-eater's prey
- base
- Brazil map word
- Name change indicator
- Flap



11/24/19 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2019 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Nov. 24:** This year, you seem quite serious, yet your imagination is running off with wild ideas more often than not. You see answers on a deeper level than in the past. If single, a new door could open as you might choose to be with a very different type of person. They might be quite shy. If attached, you bring out the softer side of your sweetie. They feel more protected with you. Scorpio understands you well.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) Lay off spending and making important decisions. The unexpected runs through your finances. A partner could act up out of the blue. Play it cool and go for a walk or some other activity.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) You might not be aware of how rebellious you have become. Many of you will take that steady Taurus way and stand up to what appears to be a bad idea. You might give others quite a jolt.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) You could be more verbal than you realize. You hear something that stops you dead in your tracks. You could be taken aback and stunned by the implications. Pace yourself and do not get uptight.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) Your imagination takes you down a new path, and you might have difficulty coming out of your thoughts because they appear to be more amusing. A discussion might not take you in the direction you desire.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) Have the family over for dinner; you don't need to make it a big thing. Family and home remain high priorities. You might want to chill some, but make sure you touch base with a key family member.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You can read between the lines at present. You notice what is not said. Take a cue from this observation. You might not want to initiate any hot topics right now.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Take charge of a project with ease, but you need to keep your budget in mind. You could easily go overboard with spending. A partner also might be out of control.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Your intensity draws others toward you. Some people might be a bit hesitant because of the magnetism you radiate. You could be unusually fortunate or lucky when dealing with finances.

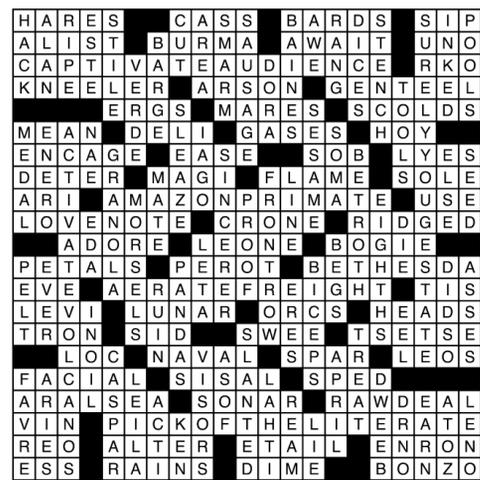
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Understand that sometimes the less said, the better. You have a lot on your mind. Use timing to air out some of your thoughts. Give yourself a few days before completely verbalizing your thoughts.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Emphasize the positive in a friendship. Consider how you feel when you are around this person. You might opt for a repeat experience. A child or loved one might throw a tantrum that could stun you.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Wherever you are, it appears that others notice you. You could be uncomfortable with all the attention you are receiving. Relax and go with the moment. A friend makes a suggestion that you cannot say no to.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) You demonstrate your ability to detach from an immediate situation. You could decide to go for a ride in the country, to just relax and hopefully meet up with a friend. You might not want to return home.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



11/17/19