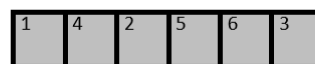
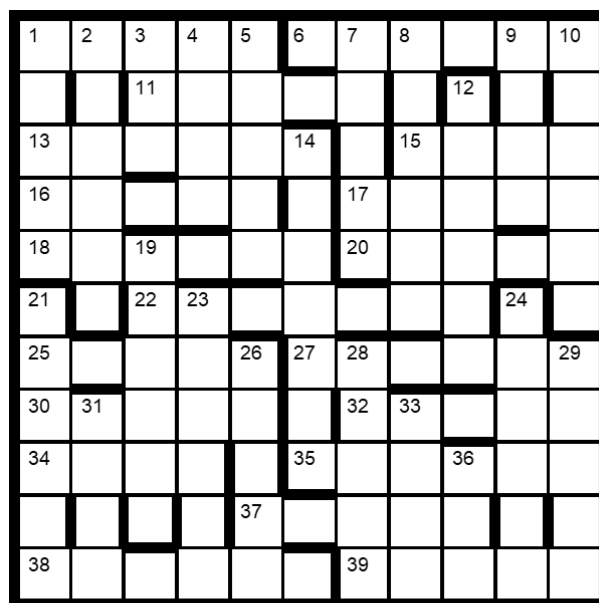


High and Dry

by Gateman

Half of the entries in this puzzle are one letter too long to fit in their allotted positions. Fourteen of them are entered in full, extending outside the grid as needed. External letters reveal more specifically what these entries choose to do with their extra letters, followed by what they do with respect to the edges of the grid (and what they ultimately end up with). The remaining six entries eschew this behavior and instead drop a letter, forming new common words. Dropped letters are deposited in the shaded box numbered according to the dropped letter's position in the original word (i.e. if an entry drops its second letter, that letter would go in the box numbered 2).

Solvers should highlight a word in the completed grid (eight letters in a straight line) which describes the second group of entries, explains why they behave differently from the first group, and reveals what the shaded boxes represent with respect to the completed grid.



Across

- 1 Surgical operation is diagrammed in lecture
- 6 Page with untidy bluish print
- 11 Drug agents are endlessly depicted in *NCIS* dismissing source of information
- 13 Sticking "I" in the middle of Mick from the Stones, say, would make "Jaggier"?
- 15 Quarrel over spiciest filling (*hyph.*)
- 16 Prince's remixing REM, see?
- 17 Got rid of snails near base of steep inner wall of trench
- 18 Recalled characters from just *Cider House Rules*
- 20 Forty all emulate Sherlock Holmes after head of department vanishes
- 22 Skillful handling leads to locomotive engineer crafting satisfactory wheels
- 25 Polish fellows invested in education
- 27 Equipment that helps make an album by Cream better: amps
- 30 Inside five parallel lines, run fast (to the point of dying)
- 32 Six clad in leather spend wastefully
- 34 One comes forward in *Twelfth Night* role, giving cry of revelation
- 35 Throne is available for rent, garnering interest
- 37 Start of a familiar sequence, closing the middle to make home
- 38 Private message on social media during broadcast noted something strange
- 39 Trim fez, do-rag, and another piece of headwear

Down

- 1 Men with ego flexing — it's in their DNA
- 2 They say to prepare for a second harvest in fall
- 3 British king defends an elevated ridge
- 4 Light refreshments are announced
- 5 Inactive witness swapping attorneys essentially for the second time (2 wds.)
- 7 Recommended taking time off, being in a withered state
- 8 Hound at home escapes from crib
- 9 Hoot captured by audiotape
- 10 Periodic report disturbed priest
- 12 Disqualify heartless hermit
- 14 Some prosecutors like many diamonds (*hyph.*)
- 19 Work at a casino in one's dreams
- 21 Fixed a flat tire owned by baffled elders
- 23 Make steam by brewing green tea ultimately
- 24 Orients new dons to see if it's a good fit (2 wds.)
- 26 Make Dracula far less scary by, say, holding fire up after onset of dusk
- 28 Adult raised kid to be unsociable
- 29 Each part of a ship closes early for holiday
- 31 Even though it's expected, defer introductions
- 33 Naked first lieutenant
- 36 Temporarily give tennis champ fifty bounces