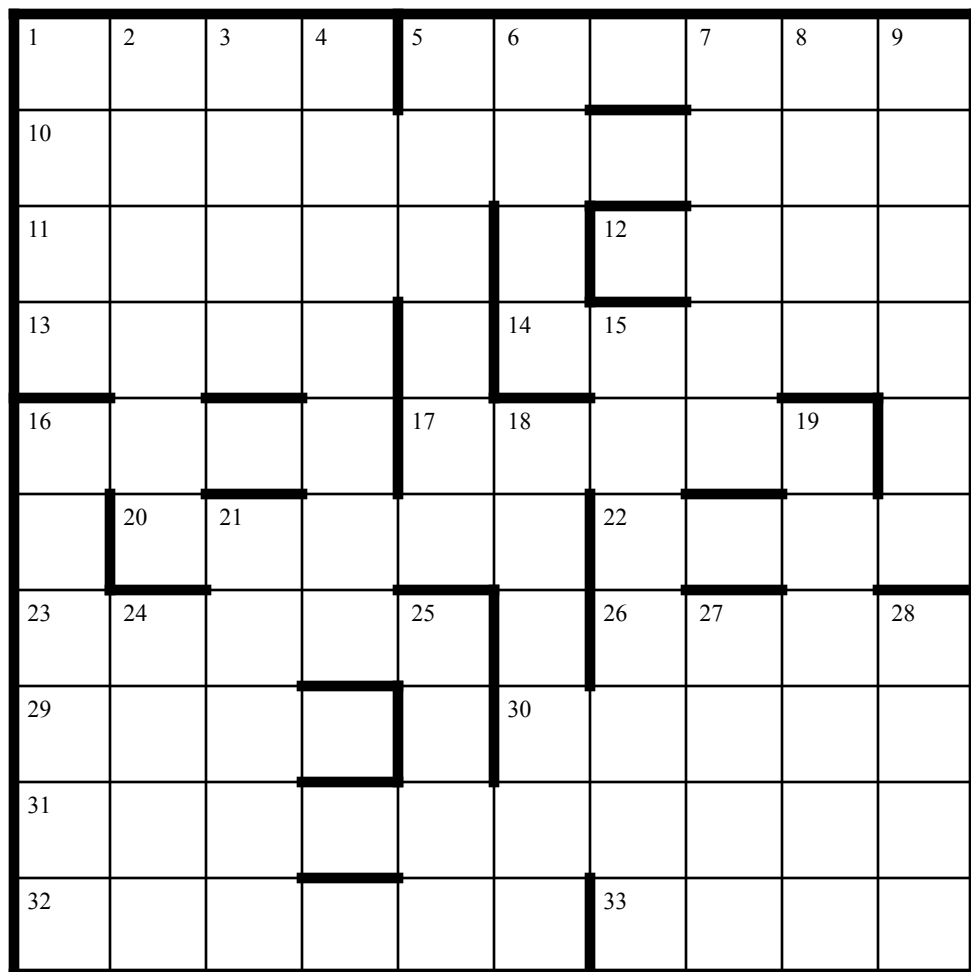


# 12 Across Threes

by Ucaoimhu

Our usual 12 Across Chinese meal is a bit different this year. In the filled grid, a set of three letters will appear repeatedly in the same arrangement (and appear nowhere else). In each Across clue, one word has an extra letter, to be removed before solving; those letters (1) starting, (2) ending, and (3) neither starting nor ending their respective words (each in clue order) will say what each of the three letters represents in the set. In each Down clue, the wordplay yields a letter sequence with one extra letter; in clue order, these letters will form a phrase saying what the three-letter sets constitute when interpreted as Mandarin. As well as being relevant to this meal, the phrase, plus the sets themselves, will constitute what this puzzle apparently considers to be the true meaning of 12 Across.



## ACROSS

1. Rev Spooner's first posh, retro employer (4)
5. Revolutionary caresses nickel part of stock (6)
10. On the radio, "cloud" and "clear" will be signified by "Vivify beef stew" (4 2 4)
11. Mao stuffs half-onions from one sultanate (5)
12. Noël Reed is about to receive omen (4)
13. Function of *nomen* that's mentioned (4)
14. East Parisian author with coat tossing a boot (5)
16. Tow block with \$0.01 piece of wood (4)
17. Stinker's teammate veers wildly (5)
20. End with Mae weirdly swelling up (5)
22. Yorick's first obit is going to sound cunning (4)
23. Train none of French to be cutting (5)
26. Musk oxen disheartened doges inwardly, Nell (4)
29. I have to be east of areal divide (4)
30. Note prerecorded after one's first fruit (5)
31. Well, Traicher from *The Captain Hates the Seal Unrightfully* married an actress from *Kill Bill* (3 7)
32. Rouse maximally nice leader from nice river (6)
33. Attach some egg to your tears (4)

## DOWN

1. Saucers that fly up above opponents (4)
2. Say, like a rock that's about 1 sq. mile (6)
3. Unclad Gabor and Hansen (4)
4. *Pippin's* Ryan Gosling at last gutlessly equivocated and backed out (7)
5. I manacle 'em in the same place (6)
6. Nebraska has okay share-trading inst. (4, *abbr.*)
7. Again spray water on upright clock (5)
8. Get out somersaulting tailless guinea pigs (4)
9. Quietly get cozy with mortar-filler (6)
15. Yes, Swiss lyre we tuned perhaps rings (7)
16. Angel is to polish under 50% of chequers (6)
18. Ultraviolet hits some rain and gas in the UK (6)
19. Czech's neighbor from south Virginia in the clutches of Loki (6)
21. Couches for prima donnas (5)
24. Weather in general makes you green (4)
25. Pre-college couple from Hungary enters Yale (4)
27. Cat has muscle car (4)
28. Annex never houses goose (4)