

# Picky, Picky by Ucaimhu

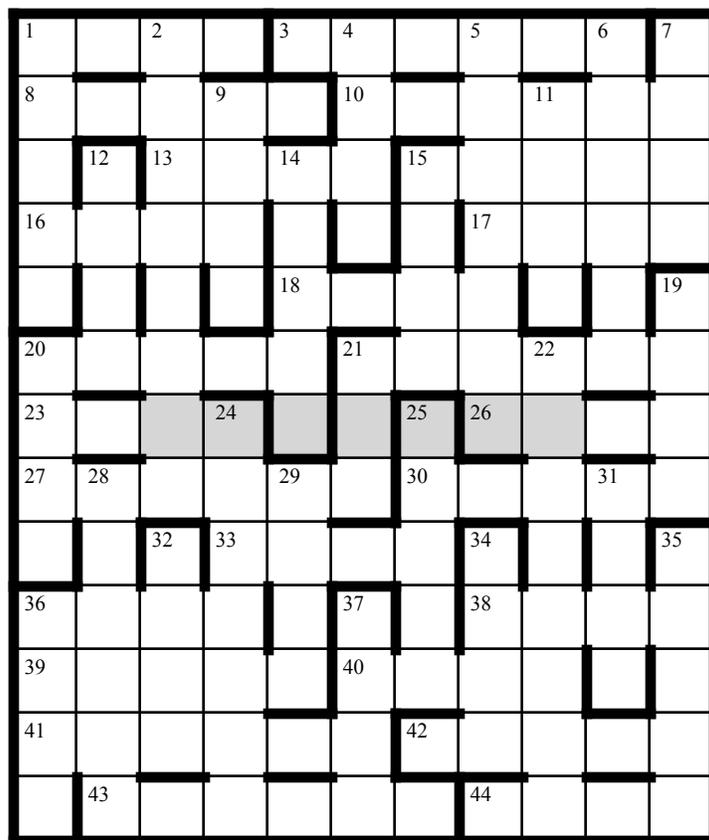
Each Down clue in this puzzle contains one or more extraneous words, which must be removed before solving. Specifically:

(1) Seven Down clues each have an extraneous sequence of two or more words; these sequences clue answers A–G at the bottom of the page, in order. When their letters are transferred to the extra grid, they will complete this sentence: What is odd about the Across clues is that \_\_\_\_.

(2) Seven Down clues each have a single extraneous word; these words form a clue (with enumeration) to a single word that describes what is odd about the letter sequence you can derive from the oddity seen in (1).

(3) Each of the other Down answers will be too long for its space, requiring you to overstuff one square. Each corresponding clue contains a single extraneous word, which clues another answer that would require that square to be overstuffed differently. (Any tagging applies to *both* answers.) In the grid, connect any two squares in the same row or column that are overstuffed in the same two ways. If each of the resulting connected sets of squares is followed by the two sequences its squares are filled with (in some order), and the results are read left to right, you will get a description of the oddities seen in (1) and (2).

Finally, the gray squares in the grid will present two kinds of entertaining activity while alluding to a third; if you repair the letter sequence from (2) and follow it with the letters that make it odd, you will get a description of one last such activity.



## ACROSS

1. Two items in your tears will resemble three (4)
3. Revolutionary gives a brief account of item Ione uses to separate things (6)
8. Before the end, Bunny is an expert on Jewish slaw (5)
10. Sought to imitate the color of roses with a scent (6)
13. Calf dances after a taste of niobium salt (4, *abbr.*)
15. Toto's final ceremony is getting Uno points for originality (5)
16. Hurry, at first, through bus (4)
17. Get Fred when taking a spin in ROK's ninth largest city (4)
18. He and Janet ultimately pound Chad (4)
20. Person working for a while west of pearly city in Arizona (5)
21. Weird Al's the furthest from pill (6)
23. Briefly getting folks out of a tight spout or twisting grotto (4)
26. Zit captivates this French rap star (3 1)
27. The zone Emile loves in *South Pacific* is, strangely, in *Elle* (6)
30. How one agrees to do stuff over the lair with the Italian CO (5)
33. Rime exhibited by excited Greeks (4)
36. Butter-like item in Spain is seized by Mia (4)
38. A 101-dimensional substance that neutralizes biases (4)
39. Sis keeping Mr. Weasley in chains (5)
40. Fighting a creature with swings (2 2)
41. Louse claiming one topless club in tent expanded by 800% (6)
42. Elmo is unexpectedly providing booze (5)
43. Vacuous yapper interrupts Elean harp player (6)
44. Caste that's replaced AIs in movies, maybe (4)

A. 8 54 45 61 21 34 12 27

B. 19 5 25 52 46 23 44 60 40 31 10

C. 42 6 58 16 51 48 30 26 13

D. 18 36 3 57 43 39

E. 32 4 20 14 9 53 47

F. 11 59 2 7 28 37 56 50 41

G. 49 24 38 13 1 29

33 17 22 35 55

## DOWN

1. Roman official that's whimsical, attractive or pert
2. Weird Al gets prodigy to start burlesquing Ms. Desmond
4. Dad's shirts clinging to gutless, lazy, coral-making creature
5. Trig final perhaps enraged collier/violinist/composer Arcangelo
6. Brooks grabs Parisian photodetectors and hoes again, say
7. That had too much verse by Penny
9. Rod circles initial letters of crazy Tocharian word after "Ulan"
11. As big as a pachyderm band's resonant sound
12. Loyal Roman's allied to three grasping underlings, initially
14. He-orc's code confused a blackjack user (*Brit.*)
15. Where tars go around drunk with aggressive nude bear (2 *wds.*)
19. Corrected slogan does not mention M. Hahn, the physicist
20. In Scotland, watchful singer Bush doesn't appear in this clue
21. Publicize the origins of his and your gym socks
22. Heterogeneous, outwardly exotic, and wildly Celtic brain cell
24. Head of scribe's chattier, skinnier maid, for example
25. Cutesy ending of erroneous text message with  $\leq 140$  characters
28. Chef Lagasse is, er, not exempt from duty in English military
29. The thirteenth or fifteenth repetition is getting Edward upset
31. Yak and cool adult baked clay dishes
32. Tim's primarily curious about Mike, who Welles used to fight
34. Mentioned whitish blue cheese bucket
35. Losing heart, Laurel's partner Zoe appears in ads for tools
36. The author's holding weird little tin like a candy cane
37. Agreements in Austria about eleven yellow birds

1G	2F	3D	4E	5B		6C	7F	8A	9E	10B	11F	12A		13C
14E	15G	16C		17G	18D		19B	20E	21A	22G	23B		24G	25B
26C	27A	28F	29G		30C	31B		32E	33G	34A		35G	36D	37F
38G	39D	40B	41F	42C	43D	44B		45A	46B	47E		48C	49G	50F
51C	52B	53E	54A	55G		56F	57D		58C	59F	60B	61A		