

# World of Graphite

by Ucaoimhu

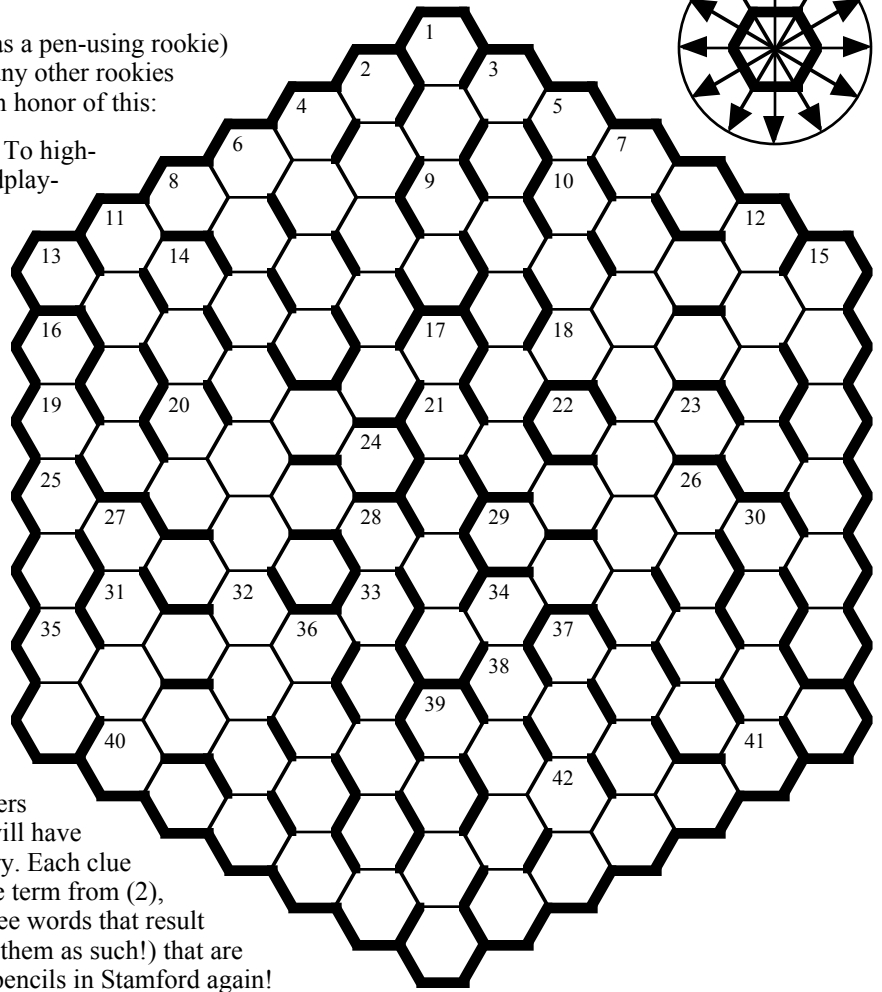
The ACPT has now returned to Stamford, the place where I (as a pen-using rookie) first entered the world of graphite a decade and a half ago; many other rookies before me and after me have also started using pencils here. In honor of this:



(1) The grid's shape imitates the atomic structure of graphite. To highlight this, the vertical entries at 6 and 7 (whose clues are wordplay-only) are themselves *noncryptic* clues whose three-letter answers mean (i) anything like this diagram, and (ii) a mineral substance (though not graphite). In 18 other clues, the sequence of letters the wordplay yields has one extra letter; these letters, in clue order, will say what you can do (suitable for this anniversary) if you can convert (i) into (ii).

(2) In each of 15 other clues, one word contains one extra letter that must be removed before solving. If that letter is the *m*th letter of the *n*th word, draw a line in the grid that (i) starts at the center of the *m*th hexagon of that clue's entry, (ii) goes in the "n o'clock" direction, and (iii) ends at the center of the (A) first, (B) second, or (C) third hexagon it hits the center of, as determined by the extra letter itself being A, B, or C. (The circle in the corner shows how one proceeds from the center of a hexagon in each of the clock directions.) The result will be an informal term that means both exploring the world where graphite is found, and doing what I was doing when I agreed to use pencils here.

(3) For each of the three answer directions, six clues aren't used by (1) or (2) above; these work normally, but their answers (having been distorted by an old graphite microphone) each will have a specific sound replaced by a specific other sound before entry. Each clue direction uses a different "sound change"; if you start with the term from (2), and "undo" each sound change to get a different word, the three words that result will name one nonrookie and two rookies (be sure to identify them as such!) that are a much shorter train ride away now that we are wielding our pencils in Stamford again!



## FOUR O'CLOCK

3. Word in a Latin phrase meaning "Beware of dog and sextet of Pacman emoji"
6. Pivot and beg to receive Larry's first bait
8. Uncentered figure shows the reader abs described by Shakespeare
9. Author/sprinter Johnny who cowrote "Moon River"
10. Body parts flanked by bears initially frustrate experts
11. Couple from Ephesus assents to long narrative poem
13. Powerful, destructive Gothic mana has barely disturbed Clair
18. Take back a kind of wafer, having committed every chip (2 wds.)
19. Anodyne stranger was irritating
20. Rock's secondary color
21. A metal vendor and adult witch processed coal
22. Officer is — ha! — captivating and so forth (2 wds., abbr.)
25. Friend and chum finally resume PDA first seen in 1999 (2 wds.)
29. When the middlemost unit is clacking, stopping, or dragging
31. Where you can see falling water and aragon once more, from the other side
35. Barb's right next to one GE cooker
37. Penny leaves beverage where ice hockey

players go to get busby

38. *Une baguette, par exemple*, causes grief
39. Perk for clarinetist Goodman
40. Rip apart rings or, ultimately, a piece of a clay pot

## SIX O'CLOCK

1. Madame goes after Iron Woman
2. Terribly cruel person writing phrases that puzzle people resembling Thais
3. Employ certain ducats to acquire helium to start levitating supermodel Tiegs
4. Items that ring after the first character displays wings
5. Upsetting golden "pixie" hairdo
6. "Quiet or mature" describes comedian Conway (2 wds.)
7. Weird AI not grasping 150 vines (3 wds.)
11. Rising prez of the Senate has little loftiness, briefly (abbr.)
12. Griffin encountered by camper
14. Actress Zadora's ring displays the word after "El" in the name of a Texan city
15. Electron layer he will put underneath the last forty percent of parkas (2 wds.)
16. Capsicum plants very quietly ingested by noblemen
17. MBA-less mate can almost fail to launch Ruby's plane, perhaps
26. Understanding Barbie's boyfriend

27. Actress Gardner and others bend that aboard a ship with no stern

28. Fiat, with velocity, turned and turned
30. Swinish comment evoked by one caught on stuff in a pen
34. Apple's internal unit possessing IBM machine's swiftness
36. Entity from *Star Trek: The Motion Picture and Very Grand Blunder*
37. Cleric's gun
39. Southern girl's British fashion magazine

## EIGHT O'CLOCK

2. Dost possess sulfur-infused tile
3. Hula dances are transporting
12. Captain Kirk's doctor is (jeepers!) cold and coquettish
15. Rehabilitate that guy Gore
17. Unrestrained little piggy, by report, gives one oaf the chips in certain bags
23. Yearning to occupy, say, a pew at church
24. He accepts Popeye's love for a card game expert
26. Many people laugh at saint
32. Soldiers not accounted for might be with German agents on the border (abbr.)
33. Actress Dale's minibus, entering ocean, capsized
41. Obey the topless editor
42. Odd parts of levee-clad African grassland