

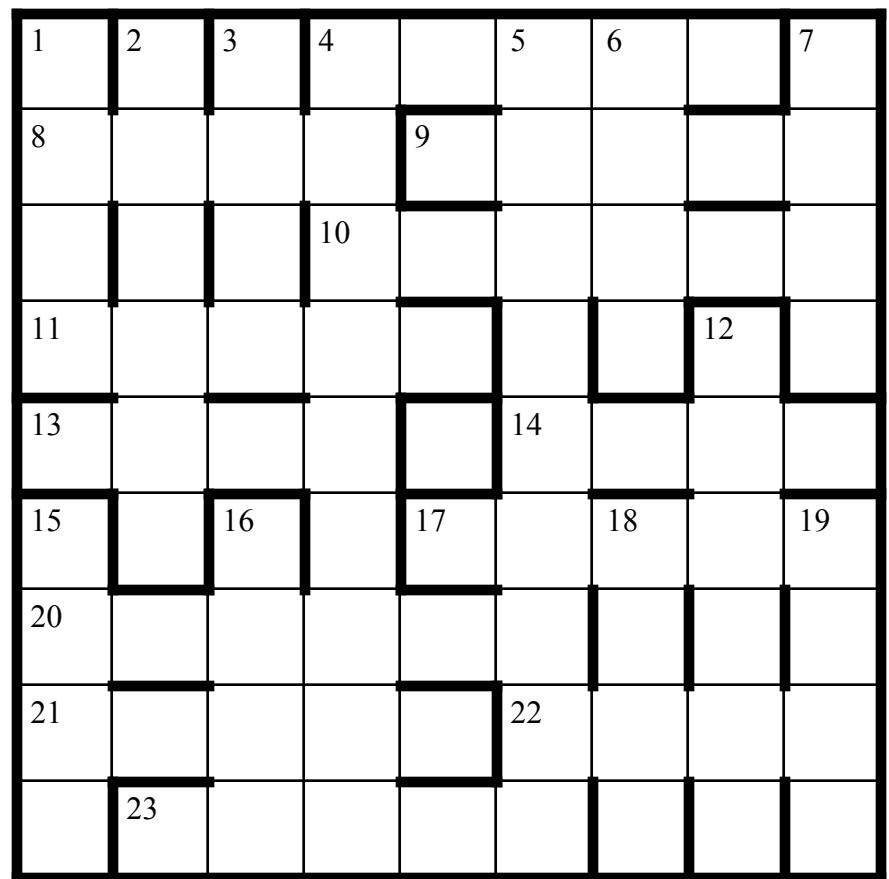
Shower Gift (Assembly Required)

by Ucaoinmhu

This puzzle is a gift for a couple of future parents to assemble. Half the Across answers must be entered with multiple letters in one square; the father-to-be must attach each such letter sequence to the right-hand side of the grid by overlapping its first letter with a matching letter in the right-hand column. The same goes for the mother-to-be, the Down answers, and the bottom of the grid. In each case, the letters outside the grid (as a set) will be clued by the letters inside the grid (as a set).

The other half of the answers are entered normally, but each corresponding clue has one incorrect letter that must be fixed before solving. The

incorrect letters, in clue order, will spell out what the gift is; the correct letters will also do so. Either way, this will explain why the grid has an empty space in the middle, and what should go there.



ACROSS

4. At the center, in pack of 150 besieging area
8. Part of book I bought shows peek inside Tanzania
9. A fish Uc cooked is purple
10. No topless actor named Gene left last year's Con hotel (2 wds.)
11. Solo about Mr Ott's city in Saxony
13. Found out about dog touching Judy's heart (2 wds.)
14. Slanted rook from King Alfred (*abbr.*)
17. Failure to employ sensory apparatus after getting semi-numb
20. Half of math Zadora describes essentially shows shortsightedness
21. Hear Leo's wonky audio receiver [NI3]
22. More of fantasy's American and Greek characters
23. At which point you and I will catch Herb ignoring answer

DOWN

1. Punch a hot water pipe
2. Wise man eating fat and green animal fodder
3. Center of shabby weaving machine is like a mayflower in May
4. The Spanish guy who wrote spooky stories for each of upright juries' leaders
5. Adorable beaus left *Dracula's* Mrs. Harker to have a summit
6. Soul music finally stops helping
7. Hundred and seventy-two barleycorns divided by Sax
12. Georgia's taking in mostly-Asian capital like oxygen
15. Females work over fictional submariner
16. Mistimed basketball's target is Piglet's pal
18. Removing casino from paintings reveals Eurasian river
19. Once, long ago, rating rutabagas satisfied town's leaders