

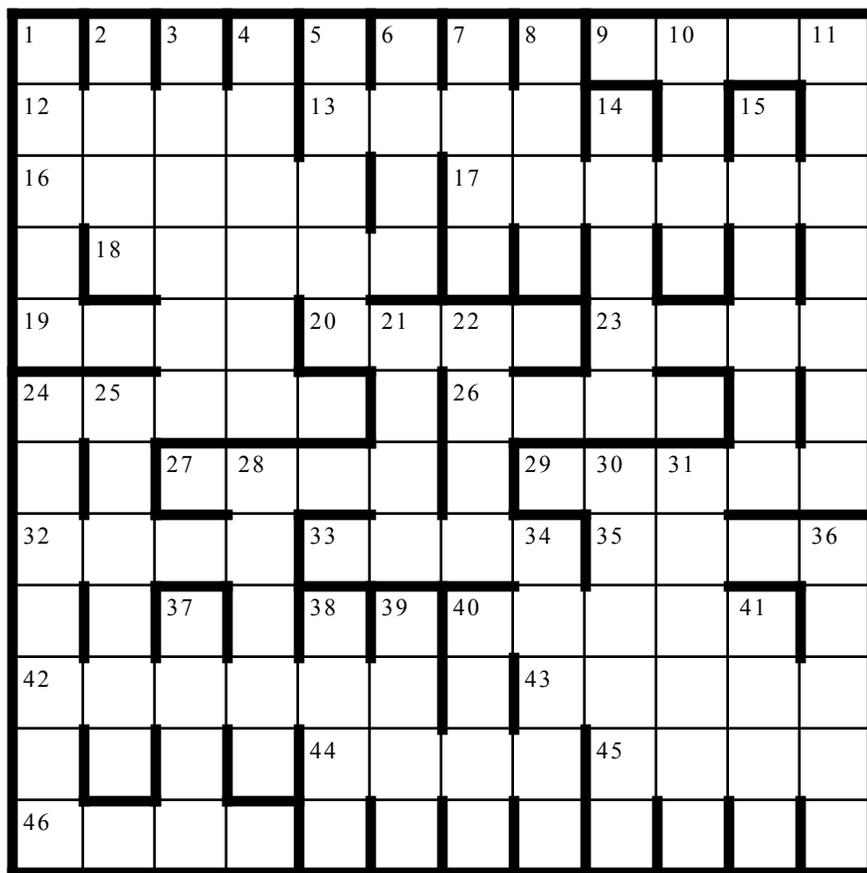
Eat, Drink, Give, Take

by Ucaoimhu

Creating a tasty culinary combination involves a bit of give and take. In this puzzle, one Down answer in each column must have a letter *removed* before it goes into the grid; write that letter below the column. Some other Down answers must have a letter *added* before entry; write each such letter to the left of the row in which it appears. (To help further, each altered entry is defined by a series of one or more words in the original clue; one of the altered entries is an abbreviation, and one is usually part of a hyphenated phrase.)

When the grid and external letters are complete, the left-hand phrase will be missing a piece; find the missing piece in the grid, traced out by three long noun phrases. Each such phrase names one of our culinary forerunners, noted for combining just one of the items below the grid (ancestral to one of ours) with an item to the left of the grid.

The remaining Downs (and all the Acrosses) are completely normal; the starts of all those Down clues will name another entertainment involving taking (cards) and giving (presentations).



ACROSS

9. That male Republican's writing on a towel (4)
12. Whalebone strips pointed away from the wind (4)
13. Word for nude Athena's left-hand side (4)
16. Brightly colored fish-and-tater mixture (5)
17. The gutless radical fled from Earth (6)
18. Threescore and nine residing in pen (5)
19. Most of actress Barkin's fashion magazine (4)
20. I will leave cooked taters around for a medieval laborer (4)
23. A wet, bedraggled couple of Scots (4)
24. Outwardly rural Scots, at first, like a Londoner's pronunciation (1-4)
26. Left to join swarm (4)
27. I don't believe that a filter eliminates tritium (2 2)
29. Mistakes less long, vaulted structures for churches (5)
32. Nana baked Indian bread (4)
33. Oscar brought back donkey bones (4)
35. *Cheers* premiere is ignored by people near Warsaw (4)
40. Offspring is to bring legal action (5)
42. Window that's not encased or enclosed by walls (6)
43. Glue primarily secreted by arachnid (5)
44. The French/English word preceding "majesté" (4)
45. As *Mad* magazine puts it, I am disgusted by that sect barely attending church (4)
46. Dense, faceless city folk's term for a rural person (4)

DOWN

1. Actor Damon's "pad" (flat) in back
2. So Lea brewed substances with soothing qualities
3. Transparent measuring aid Lt. Rice newly put on flooring of granite

4. Copies ancient king that's elevated dullards
5. Droids and cooking vessels using boron for power
6. Weep about one essentially obscene suffix meaning "form of government"
7. Eight in Italy with director Preminger
8. Skin of toe subsequently getting number and number
10. How hearers might perceive groups of two edible fruits
11. Is upright Sharon from *Cagney & Lacey* taking name unencumbered by "+" or "-"?
14. Fancy orchestra's leaders finally pontificate about singer Cole
15. Origins of kicking and related arts in the exercises of a Jewish sect that rejects the Talmud
21. *Nadine* actor Bridges has not started exhibiting letters from an unhappy teacher?
22. Mechanical ways to proceed, in short, unfortunately make hotel echo
24. Rick & Hans, getting a bit funky & kooky
25. Picks up saner lunatic
28. Drunkard covering Olivia's nose with black stuff
30. Pinup perhaps is upset about bribe
31. Section of short story describing opening of channel
34. Say, "A shilling-flipping Parisian? Really?"
36. Caller's attempts to find some Indian monotheists
37. Of lyric poetry recited to the Québécois PI
38. Name for an Italian friend that will sport Antonio's navel ring
39. Rabbi assumes half of Bernie Rabbit's honorific
40. Drop the n from tiny, weird suffix used with "human" or "stupid"
41. Errors involving two-hundred-and-four-letter Latin word meaning "behold"