

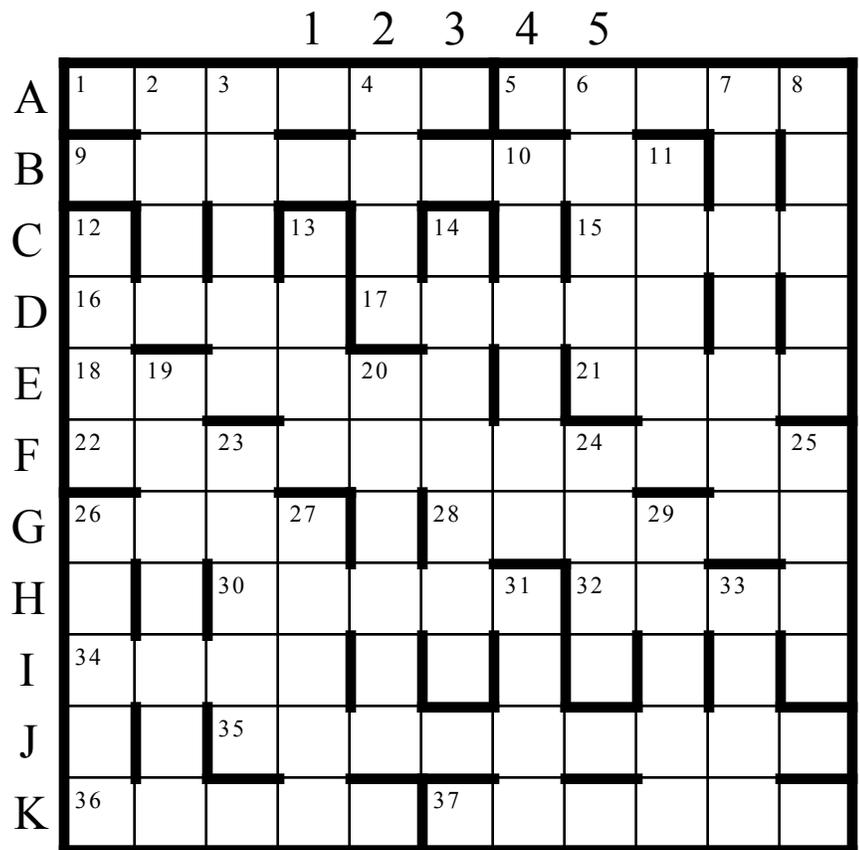
Both Ways on the 6

by Ucaoinmhu

It's tournament time again, and once again we can take the 6 train to and from the venue. Correspondingly, in this puzzle 11 clues are ambiguous, having two answers each (with the enumerations for both shown after the clue, separated by a slash). As a result, there are two different solutions for the overall puzzle.

For all other clues, the string of letters the word-play part yields has one extra letter. In just over half the cases, this letter will be one of the first five in the string; use the letter and its position as coordinates to select one square in the middle five columns of the grid, and circle the letter in that square. When all of these circles have been made, draw lines connecting any two circled letters that are adjacent in the alphabet. When this is done, perform the action indicated by the clue and answer to 22 Across to get half of a very important datum; to get the other half, solve the puzzle again the other way.

In all other cases, the extra letter will be in position 6; read these letters in clue order to get one final word.



ACROSS

1. Before '60, wear a strange organic secretion (6)
5. Mo embraces you twice? Hogwash (2 3)
9. That French actor Julia initially observed us complaining (9)
15. Computerized assistant returned, I wager (4)
16. Needle case misdirected GI and southwestern native (4)
17. Use omens to predict a semi-ugly web address (5)
18. Burton, who films neighboring ER's items internally producing "buzzing" or "ringing," perhaps (6 / 6)
21. Iron corroded, something that was hard to do (4)
22. Dotty seethed, "Get around one end of Wichita to show what part of this grid should be turned downwards" (3 4 4 / 3 4 4)
26. Quartet often placed ultimately after "en" can live to the right of "bachelor" (4 / 4)
28. Fourth of letters Ace and Greg scribbled is one that can leave a mark (6 / 6)
30. Transposition of "apt," and like items that would be somewhat tasty, possibly (5 / 5)
32. Sate revolutionary with rum drink (4)
34. Sharp bottom of galleon (eek!) turned left (4 / 4)
35. Glowing watch part appearing in limited quantity (9)
36. Disheartened sot (ole!) that's grabbed new diamond, say (5 / 5)
37. One king touches *Glee* actress Michele's joints (6)

DOWN

2. Skinny female relative (4)
3. Once again add thing from a Roman ref (5)
4. Glow coming from gold over time (4)
6. Odd characters among you'd shun faux singer Islam who was once Cat Stevens (5)
7. For example, help singer Charles put up with distance on a football field (7)
8. In *My Fair Lady*, Miss Doolittle mostly drinks to somersaulting poet Thomas Stearns (5)
10. Should informally circle comment from the disgusted half-Aztecs from the south (6)
11. Poem that praises Roentgen is perversely begotten (5)
12. Limb on that vacuous Baltic person (4)
13. See jockey getting bit to start "wave" (4 / 4)
14. Possible entry in a schedule of transit use exhibits subs doing Anusara Yoga on top (7 / 3 4)
19. North Argentine uncle and Peron shout, upon meeting, "Eureka!" (1 4 2)
20. Spoke in place of singing barber Todd's portrayer and excellent Rabbi on the rise (6 / 6)
23. Get into the Cuban's gripping adaptation of *Rent* (5)
24. English joke about, essentially, waffle brand (4)
25. Thus a Jovian moon contains 100 nanojoules (4)
26. Lincoln's fed by a thousand cooks (5)
27. Waterway fundamentally cutting land-potty singer Yankovic depicted in the video "Bob" (5 / 5)
29. Georgia holding support bar and cup (5)
31. Hit the bottom of bridge (4)
33. Instrument made from cob and husk in Oakville (4)