

# T or T-oise? by Ucaimhu

Happy birthday, Tortoise! In celebration of the noun-or-adjective form of your nom, eight pairs of answers in this puzzle, each consisting of a noun and an adjective, have had their clues swapped in the list of clues. In each such pair, the answers are two (straight) clues for an additional “special” noun and adjective (the latter is not always a dictionary entry), having special properties that (as suits this party) are shown audiovisually:

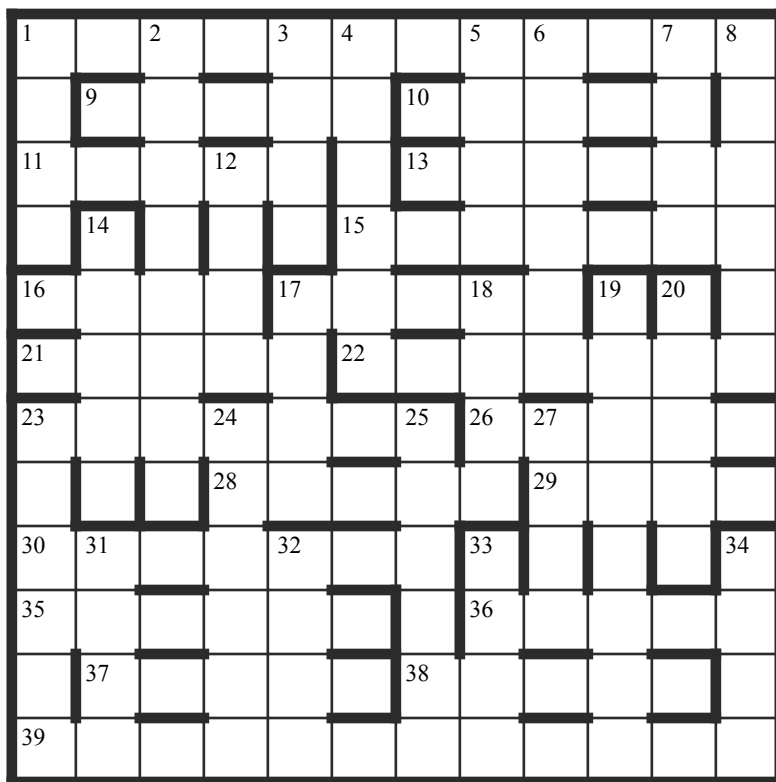
**Visual.** All sixteen special words have the same ending. Seven other clues in this puzzle have wordplay yielding a letter sequence in which one letter has been replaced by a sequence of two or three direction letters (N, S, E, or W). For each, start from the grid square with the replaced letter, and travel as per the direction letters *two squares at a time*; then draw a straight line connecting the center of the square you finally end up on to the center of your original square. When all these lines are drawn, the shared ending will be visible.

**Audio.** The noun from each special pair can be changed into the adjective by a certain process. For each of seven other clues (all of which work normally), you must enter a *homophone* of the answer, and where the original answer has *n* letters, circle the *n*th character of that clue. In clue order, all the circled characters will spell out the process. (You can also put a + somewhere inside this process to get *another* process, which you can apply to the **Visual** image to give this puzzle a final artist’s touch.)

The other twelve clues are completely normal. In *each* set of clues (ACROSS and DOWN) *separately*, underline the first word of the first such clue, the second word of the second such clue, and so on. These two sets of underlined words will each describe this online party; they will also be (straight) clues for yet another special noun-adjective pair (however, neither noun nor adjective nor [adjective] [noun] is an accurate description of this party).

## ACROSS

1. Weapon that pierces small fruit
9. Something played by plucking a brim wildly
10. Missouri State is greatest
11. Amphibian following Obi-Wan has one advantage
13. To partake of stuffing Imre cooked with more beef, say
15. Fortification that protects current region in Spain
16. Grain product with Dutch marquee
17. Showing sauciness each time
21. *Westward Bound* is about western Arizona Bantu group
22. Generally, at first only actress Miles will
23. Speak about Penny having the timbre of a woodwind
26. Style of furnishings bovine and wombat initially fit into rec room
28. Flexible, drunk Hoss tossing hoop
29. Marc knows we must eliminate every other skin issue



30. Entering one internally winy virtual reality, drinking beverage made from fruit
35. Glowing blue at 90°
36. Busybody hides from Elsie, Evelyn, and Talia
37. Land surrounded by indigo sea endlessly!
38. Consisting of (say) snapshots hip carhop got retouched
39. Grainy set of films forming a sequence, reportedly

## DOWN

1. With robust aquatic mammal
2. Having support from Queen perhaps, OBE is bowing
3. Two images from a tic-tac-toe game involving red and yellow antelope
4. Vehicle holding 201 bits of alum promoting immunity
5. Donkey carries heartless, ruthless war god
6. Dad finally sent back retired Major General’s song, say
7. I had evacuated late, being lazy
8. Where the reel damaged a kid’s vehicle (*hyph.*)
12. Light-hued liquid ingested by 007
14. 1774 years before 1776 cuts “White Warty Creature”
17. This carries data electronically, if in Wisconsin (*hyph.*)
18. Start of a news story about paradise geek unveiled
19. Energetically hug a co-worker on a cattle range
20. Heard Morse symbols used to spell “He is a birdbrain”
23. Part of Hugo’s pellucid New Testament book
24. Earl’s pasty when rising to run out
25. So swallows run over (essentially) other fowl
27. 11 characters in peewee teepee perceive bare desk
31. No, I see one boating in locations that are usually dry
32. Whatsis to be positioned south of narcs’ org.
33. Kind Mr. Melville’s forerunner to *Omoo*
34. Frankfurters, primarily, are food