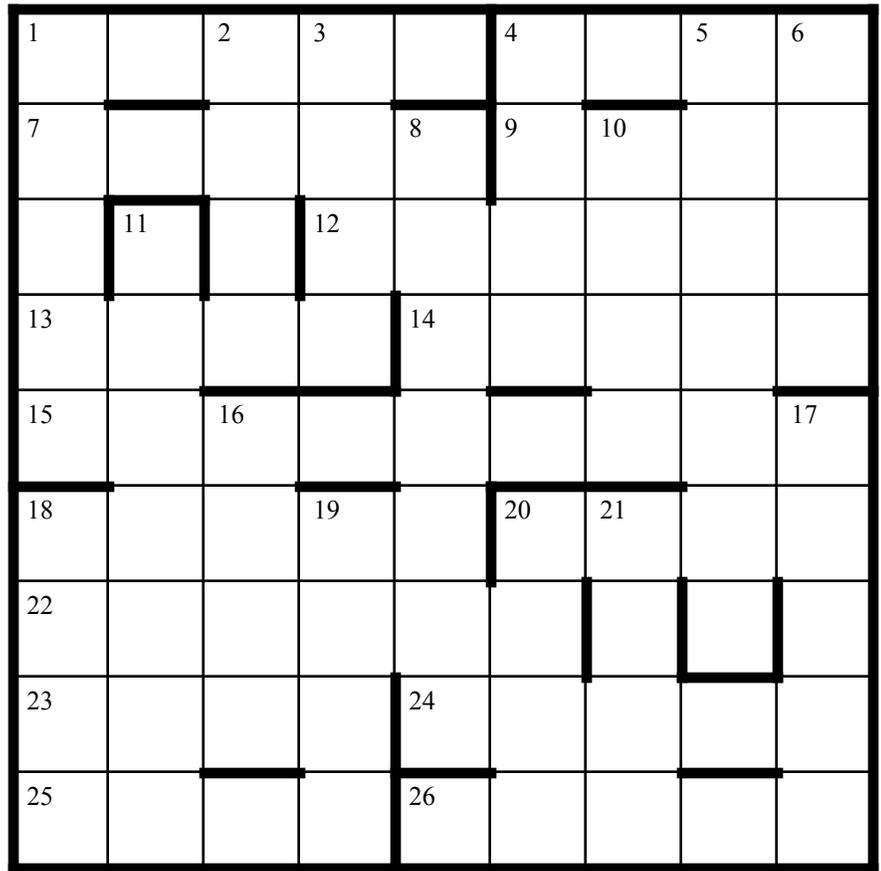


# Big Ram Roast

by Ucaoimhu

If you prefer something other than turkey, here's a big ram roast! In nine clues, a bigram (two-letter sequence) must be deleted before solving; nine other clues work normally, but the answer to each one must have a bigram deleted before entry. In each case, the set of nine bigrams is the same; it consists of three three-bigram subsets, each of which can be assembled (with one-letter overlaps) into a four-letter word.

In the remaining twelve clues, the wordplay yields a letter sequence with one incorrect letter; arranging the correct letters in order by the incorrect letters will tell you what is provided by dropping those four-letter words as you have done.



## ACROSS

1. Artist's initial desire to depict hat
4. Ties left in the clutches of Mr. Radley
7. Fantasized about being hugged by Lady Penny
9. Keyboard's first four letters might be "A JUG"
12. Amazingly agile top-steering
13. Where Dubliners are beginning to encounter mirage
14. Note sibling holding long spikes
15. Liberated ex-nun Chad toyed with
18. Boxerlike, kiltlike garment ultimately adorns Gödel
20. Detective's top-notch endorsement
22. Exclamation before trying that woman I arrested, essentially (2 wds.)
23. Bug a character from *Frozen*
24. Weird Ed's gold cold-weather vehicle
25. Yer beggars start to see a Belgian river
26. *Frozen* character had to pay

## DOWN

1. Dog that appears in *Garfield at College* later
2. Fight about the last of the rent
3. Land that may surround a balky colt's first duplicate
4. Risk touching a letter eleven places before menu
5. Little mystery writer Gardner's short, like some tables
6. Oscar assesses talks
8. Maid noted Dotty was the boss
10. Rule about relatives needing no appointment (*hyph.*)
11. Bricklike candy's filled with pigment, and gets ruder
16. Part of the eye getting real close to sclera!
17. Game created by Gygax, a brother of Naphtali's guiltless father (3 wds., *abbr.*)
18. Gag shy stranger with unkempt hair
19. Sound from a legion or, perversely, a radical
20. Letters on brandy bottles or odd parts of vest? Yep (*abbr.*)
21. Key Largo's biggest seaports rise unrightfully