

# CHRISTMAS PUZZLES / Prize Acrostic / devised by Martin Redfern

Enter answers to the 26 clues A-Z in the appropriate columns of the vertical grid, transferring the individual letters of each answer to the corresponding squares of the horizontal grid. When completed, the horizontal grid displays a single extended quotation, and the lines to the left of the horizontal grid and across the top of the vertical grid display the author and source of that quotation.

A 101	B 66	C 112	D 67	E 197	F 160	G 155	H 12	I 157	J 121	K 127	L 216	M 198	N 15	O 117	P 78	Q 135	R 224	S 103	T 105	U 191	V 221	W 195	X 110	Y 44	Z 97
A 199	B 20	C 218	D 88	E 91	F 53	G 242	H 170	I 231	J 56	K 100	L 158	M 129	N 7	O 217	P 169	Q 41	R 40	S 177	T 172	U 63	V 81	W 180	X 163	Y 229	Z 64
A 175	B 4	C 21	D 98	E 25	F 238	G 181	H 114	I 106	J 241	K 211	L 95	M 70	N 39	O 204	P 109	Q 215	R 139	S 99	T 165	U 31	V 120	W 141	X 90	Y 144	Z 19
A 13	B 142	C 46	D 26	E 116	F 130	G 202	H 236	I 14	J 115	K 162	L 235	M 38	N 71	O 17	P 23	Q 48	R 234	S 133	T 62	U 247	V 207	W 131	X 132	Y 84	Z 128
A 57	B 193	C 8	D 123	E 52	F 6	G 85	H 34	I 36	J 69	K 192	L 122	M 187	N 174	O 104		Q 72	R 83	S 233	T 118	U 151	V 245	W 222	X 240	Y 29	Z 239
A 205	B 185	C 148	D 153	E 184	F 74	G 227	H 75		J 37	K 143	L 35		N 228			Q 249	R 61	S 138		U 119		W 30			Z 89
A 43	B 93			E 86		G 3	H 68				L 189		N 147			Q 179	R 76	S 203				W 47			Z 27
A 146	B 28			E 102		G 230					L 24					Q 208	R 126	S 51				W 111			Z 159
A 11	B 149			E 2		G 196					L 154					Q 16	R 32	S 190				W 79			
A 82	B 243			E 178		G 171					L 55					Q 168		S 5				W 9			
A 136				E 232		G 59					L 176					Q 194		S 210				W 173			
A 225				E 201		G 107					L 248					Q 108		S 167				W 50			
A 54				E 145		G 186					L 137					Q 125		S 226				W 183			
A 94				E 60		G 164					L 1					Q 10		S 200				W 96			
A 73				E 246		G 150					L 209					Q 219		S 33				W 212			
A 87				E 166		G 22					L 80					Q 182		S 65				W 58			
A 49				E 213		G 134					L 220					Q 152		S 156				W 206			
A 161				E 42		G 45										Q 92		S 77				W 244			
A 214				E 223														S 18				W 140			
A 237																		S 113							
A 188																									
A 124																									

- A.** "All men are liable to error; and -----, -----, by passion or interest, under temptation to it." (John Locke) (4,3,3,2,4,6)
- B.** Move me ten paces towards clock mechanism (10)
- C.** Sickness caused by sodium concealing distraught son of Isaac (6)
- D.** Speak on telephone about Celtic necklace (6)
- E.** "Out flew the web and floated wide; ----- side to side, 'The curse is come upon me,' cried The Lady." (Alfred, Lord Tennyson) (3,6,6,4)
- F.** Offer more at auction and enthrall scout bidding his time (6)
- G.** "For the great Gaels of Ireland / Are the men that God made mad, For all their -----, ----- their songs are sad." (G.K. Chesterton) (4,3,5,3,3)
- H.** "What have you been doing in my ----- [e]?" (Dick Vosburgh) (7)
- I.** Low-bred dog returns to male tuck (5)
- J.** "A Pharisee called Gamaliel, who was a -----." Acts, JB (6)

- K.** Half-hose and French port (6)
- L.** "Revolution by its very nature is sometimes compelled to take in more ----- is capable of holding." (Leon Trotsky) (9,4,2,2)
- M.** Pester beagle, perhaps (5)
- N.** Equivocation from Virginia absorbed by reactionary noise (7)
- O.** Replace me in turn and get on board (5)
- P.** "Out of him came forth the corner, out of him the -----, out of him the battle bow." (Zechariah, AV) (4)
- Q.** "I would not spend another such a night, Though 'twere to buy a world of happy days, So full of ----- time!" (Richard III) (6,6,3,3)
- R.** "How awesome is this place! This is none ----- the house of God, and this is the gate of Heaven." (Genesis, RSV) (5,4)
- S.** "Here stand my books, line upon line, They reach the roof, and row by row, They speak of ----- things I did, and do not, know." (Andrew Lang) (5,6,2,4,3)

- T.** Intoxicated evenly concealed by something white (5)
- U.** Soothe arthritic pain inside fireplace (6)
- V.** Vigil about agreed call (5)
- W.** "Love conquers all things - except -----." (Mae West) (7,3,9)
- X.** Supple characters in moonlit heath (5)
- Y.** "We receive no more than the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing -----." (Luke, Knox version) (5)
- Z.** "It is our first duty to serve society, and, after we have done that, we may attend wholly to the salvation of our own souls. A ----- passion for abstracted devotion should not be encouraged." (Samuel Johnson) (8)

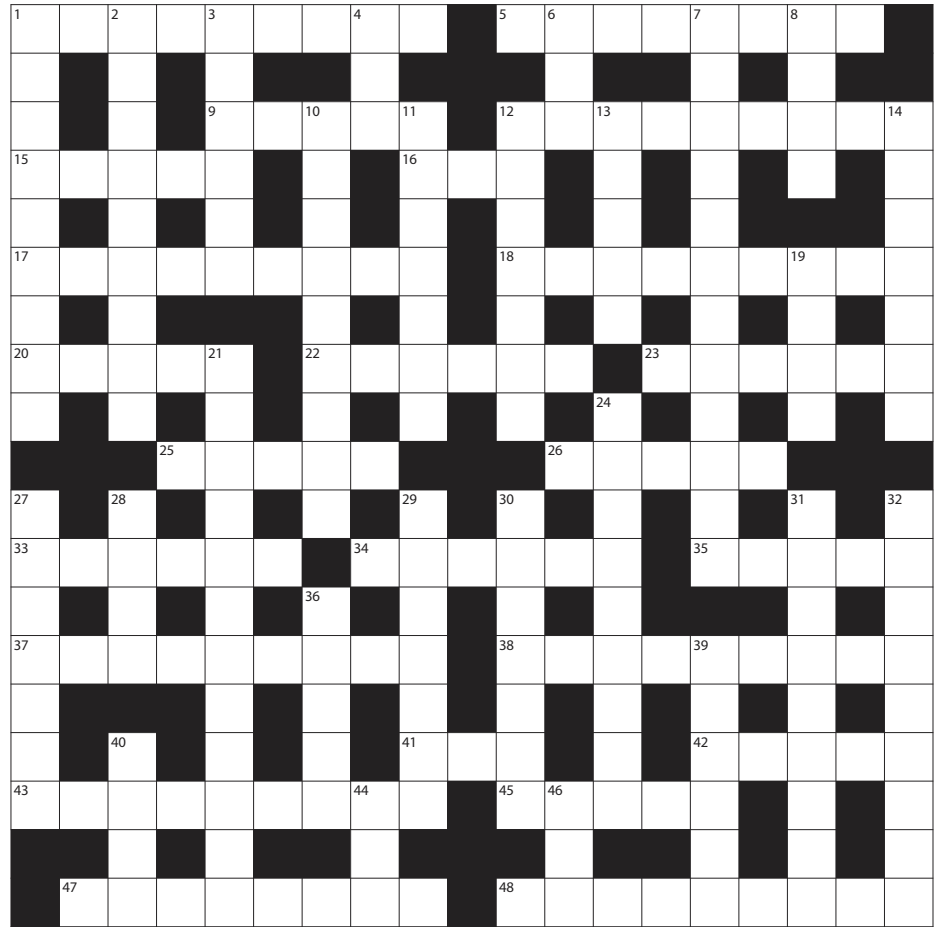


**Across**

- 1 "Tell out, my soul, the ----- of the Lord", opening of Dudley-Smith hymn (9)
- 5 *Erithacus* -----, the seasonal robin (8)
- 9 To the sound of bells chimed removed moisture by twisting (5)
- 12 Wife of Uriah and later King David (9)
- 15 "----- Surprise", an ice cream dessert (5)
- 16 One of the flock the shepherds watched (3)
- 17 Large stadium known as the Flavian amphitheatre in Rome (9)
- 18 Sea monster from Book of Job giving name to something gigantic (9)
- 20 "He came down to ----- from Heaven", "Once in Royal David's City" (5)
- 22 Damon -----, US writer and journalist, his stories basis of hit musical *Guys and Dolls* (6)
- 23 "----- *Nacht*", original of "Silent Night" carol (6)
- 25 Religious in charge of a monastic house (5)
- 26 See 30 Down
- 33 Gold-coloured alloy much used in the making of candlesticks (6)
- 34 Historical term for area including the Middle East and the Holy Land (6)
- 35 Days of special fasting on the Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at the beginnings of the seasons (5)
- 37 Worshippers of false gods (9)
- 38 Along with death, one of the other certainties, from a Benjamin Franklin quote? (6,3)
- 41 Snack item or cake ingredient (3)
- 42 "Come Holy -----, creator, come", ancient hymn (5)
- 43 *The ----- Apprentice*, Dukas symphonic poem popularised in Disney's *Fantasia* (9)
- 45 Musical term meaning "very" as in "allegro -----" (5)
- 47 Christina -----, wrote "In the Bleak Midwinter" (8)
- 48 One giving services unpaid for a cause (9)

**Down**

- 1 President of the Soviet Union who resigned Christmas Day 1991 (9)
- 2 Setting a fine model for behaviour and morals (9)
- 3 Common features of Babel, Blackpool and London (6)



- 4 13 October was the Fatima centenary of the "Miracle of the ---" (3)
- 6 "---- *voce dicentes*" ("saying with one voice", leading into the "Sanctus") (3)
- 7 Opera buffa by Mozart (4,3,5)
- 8 *Das ---- von der Erde*, work for two voices by Gustav Mahler (4)
- 10 "----- ----", or cenacle, traditionally held to be the site of the Last Supper (5,4)
- 11 Country, through St Boniface, of origin of Christmas tree (7)
- 12 French composer whose works include *L'Enfance du Christ* (7)
- 13 Fountain in Rome designed by Salvi (5)
- 14 Catholic cathedral housing shrine of St Philip Howard (7)
- 19 Partly or wholly circular device in paintings to indicate a divine personage or saint (4)
- 21 "Hark the ----- Sing", carol (6,6)
- 24 Hymns or chants or reference to songs in the Old Testament (9)
- 27 Saint and early Pope, died 26 December 418 (7)
- 28 Pulpit or raised standing area in the sanctuary (4)
- 29 Robert -----, with Campion, promoted Jesuit mission in England and set up printing press (7)
- 30 & 26 Across: One of the three Fatima little seers, canonised in May 2017 (7,5)
- 31 "*Procedenti -- ----- compar sit laudatio*", "Tantum Ergo" (Aquinas) (2,7)
- 32 UK supporter of the passed vote to leave Europe (9)

- 36 The clown in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* (5)
- 39 Relating to the Three Wise Men (6)
- 40 River on which Florence stands (4)
- 44 Small mammal whose name is associated with treachery (3)
- 46 --- Paulo, most populous city in Brazil, named after the Apostle (3)

**Answers in the 6 January 2018 issue**

**Solution to the 2 December crossword, No. 586**

- Across:** 5 Macedonia; 8 Sardis; 9 Missal; 10 Acacia; 11 Ramah; 14 Nadab; 15 Hasidic; 17 Judaea; 19 Esther; 20 Leviathan.  
**Down:** 1 Laodicea; 2 Messiah; 3 Worms; 4 Sins; 6 Zacchaeus; 7 Nazarites; 12 Abiathar; 13 Talents; 16 Tanis; 18 Amen.

**Winner:** Mrs Margaret Stanton, of Garforth, Leeds.

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Are you about to get cuffed or will you practise a little lagom? Have you tomatoes on your eyes? Are your carrots cooked? Or are you just playing the offended sausage? Are you lit, dope or bare? Let The Tablet's tame neologist give you a bit of ikigai with this year's quiz on some questionable additions to English

**Words of the year**

Some words and phrases heard this year. What are the current meanings of the following?

- 1. **Lit?** a. Ablaze. b. Drunk. c. Excellent, exciting.
- 2. **Manspreading?** a. Policy of encouraging human exploration of other planets. b. Tendency of men to spread their legs wide when seated. c. A range of bedding aimed at the male sex.
- 3. **Whataboutism?** a. Making accusations against your opponents to deflect criticism of yourself. b. New religion spawned by the internet. c. A symptom of cognitive decline.
- 4. **Dope?** a. Illegal drugs. b. Lacquer used in model aircraft construction. c. Good, excellent.
- 5. **Dezinformatsiya?** a. Leading brand of IT equipment. b. Heavy metal band from the Crimea. c. Russian word that gave us "disinformation".
- 6. **Cuffing season?** a. Pre-Christmas period when single people make determined efforts to pair up. b. Peak period for arrests. c. The time of year devoted to amateur boxing.
- 7. **Fidget spinner?** a. A person who can't keep still. b. Revolving toy claimed to help with children's concentration. c. A nervous political publicist.
- 8. **Gig economy?** a. Taking the bus to your musical engagement. b. Travelling by horse and cart. c. Economy built on short-term, insecure jobs.
- 9. **Unicorn?** a. A startup company valued at at least \$1bn. b. A mythical single-horned horse-like creature. c. A narwhal.
- 10. **Doxing?** a. Eighteenth-century romantic ritual. b. Espousal of unorthodox opinions. c. Gathering private online documents and publishing them to discredit someone.
- 11. **Lagom?** a. Swedish philosophy based on restraint. b. A small salt-water lake. c. A dance craze from the Far East.
- 12. **Ikigai?** a. Pungent fish dish. b. Japanese for "a sense of purpose". c. A demanding martial art.
- 13. **Femoir?** a. Autobiographical work by a woman, written with a feminist sensibility. b. A piece of furniture. c. A bone in the leg.
- 14. **Sologamy?** a. Card-game to be played alone. b. The act of marrying yourself. c. Of meat, strong-tasting.
- 15. **Pussy hat?** a. Essential feline accessory. b. Dismissive name for a cycle helmet. c. Pink knitted hat worn by women protesting against Donald Trump.

- 16. **Covfefe?** a. What Donald Trump complained about in a midnight tweet. b. Small town in Belize. c. Latest coffee variant introduced by Starbucks.
- 17. **Base?** a. Bottom part of a structure. b. Lowest voice in music. c. Hard-core supporters of a political party.
- 18. **Antifa?** a. Daring new dance craze. b. Conglomeration of left-wing groups in the US. c. Attractive Caribbean island favoured by tourists.
- 19. **Weaponise?** a. To turn something, for instance a chemical, into a real weapon. b. To turn something, for instance an issue, into a metaphorical weapon. c. To acquire a firearm.
- 20. **Bare?** a. Very. b. Naked. c. A heavily-built, thick-furred plantigrade quadruped of the genus Ursus.
- 21. **Levidrome?** a. Theme park devoted to the history of blue denim jeans. b. Four-engined flying device. c. A word, like "pool", that forms another when read backwards.

**Initials and abbreviations**

These are still popular online and in texting. Here are some you may have spotted this year.

- 1. GOAT. 2. BFF. 3. JK. 4. BRB. 5. IRL. 6. MAGA. 7. BD. 8. GTG. 9. Q. 10. ICYMI.

**Words of what year?**

Each of these groups is made up of words that are first recorded in English in the same year. What were the years? Clue: they are a century apart.

- Group One:** cheap; chisel (v); gasping; marchese; mutilation; novitiate; pioneer; rancorous; rent roll; sageness.
- Group Two:** airship; betrayal; cobra; dynamic; entitled; intensify; kaleidoscope; morphine; pseudonym; technique.
- Group Three:** bouquet; disarming; exportable; ill-judged; mantilla; padded; poncho; prudish; shipbuilding; well-judged.
- Group Four:** answerphone; blotto; defeatism; hokum; home movie; oojah; pep pill; showstopping; sociopathic; stainless steel.
- Group Five:** black friar; diminish; disloyally; erect (v); forage; high school; just (adv); purloining; supplicate; wholesale.
- Group Six:** aggravating; cringing; decry; distractedness; fractured; grotto; hesitancy; highwayman; meandering; pinhole.

**Slang 1**

Here are 10 slang words that all mean the same thing, taken from Jonathon



Green's slang timelines website ([thetimelinesofslang.tumblr.com](http://thetimelinesofslang.tumblr.com)). What do they mean, and when is each word first recorded?

- 1. Sir John. 2. Mumble-matins; 3. Black coat. 4. Tub-man. 5. Cushion-cuffer. 6. Jack-at-a-pinch. 7. Spouter. 8. Canter gloak. 9. Sky-sharp. 10. Half-a-nicker.

**Idioms**

Here is a collection of idioms from other languages, in literal translations. What do they mean, and where are they from?

- 1. You have tomatoes on your eyes. 2. It fell between chairs. 3. I think my pig whistles! 4. To blow ducklings. 5. The carrots are cooked. 6. Take your little horse away from the rain. 7. It's a roll with butter. 8. We are talking about the wolf. 9. A cat in gloves catches no mice. 10. She's playing the offended sausage.

**Slang 2**

Ten more slang terms all meaning the same thing. What do they mean, and when do they date from?

- 1. Of the breast fleet. 2. Dogan. 3. Tad. 4. Mackerel-snapper. 5. Chest-pounder. 6. Doolan. 7. Guppy-gobbler. 8. Bead-puller. 9. Chopper. 10. Tatty-muncher.

**Mystery words**

Each of these words has been proposed over the last 150 years to solve a common problem in English. What is it?

- Ou. Ne. Thon. Er. En. Han. Un. Se. Um. Ita. E. Hesh. Thon. Hi. Le. Hiser. Hersh. Hisern. Ip. Hae. Tha. Thar. Zyhe. Ir. Ze. De. Ons. Hors. Zie. Hoo. Heesh. Hier. He'er. Heris. Heor. Hie. Su. Ha. Thir. Hse. Che. Co. Be. Ta. Tey. Fm. Shis. Na. Shem. Hir. Ey. Ho. Po. Xe. Jhe. Ae. Et. Shey. Heshe. Shey. Hiser. Hes. Hann. Herm. A. Ala. De. Hey. Mef. Ws. Per. Sie. Ve. Zie. \*e. Fae. Ve. Xe.

**Answers:** 6 January 2018 issue