

Redundancies and Deficiencies

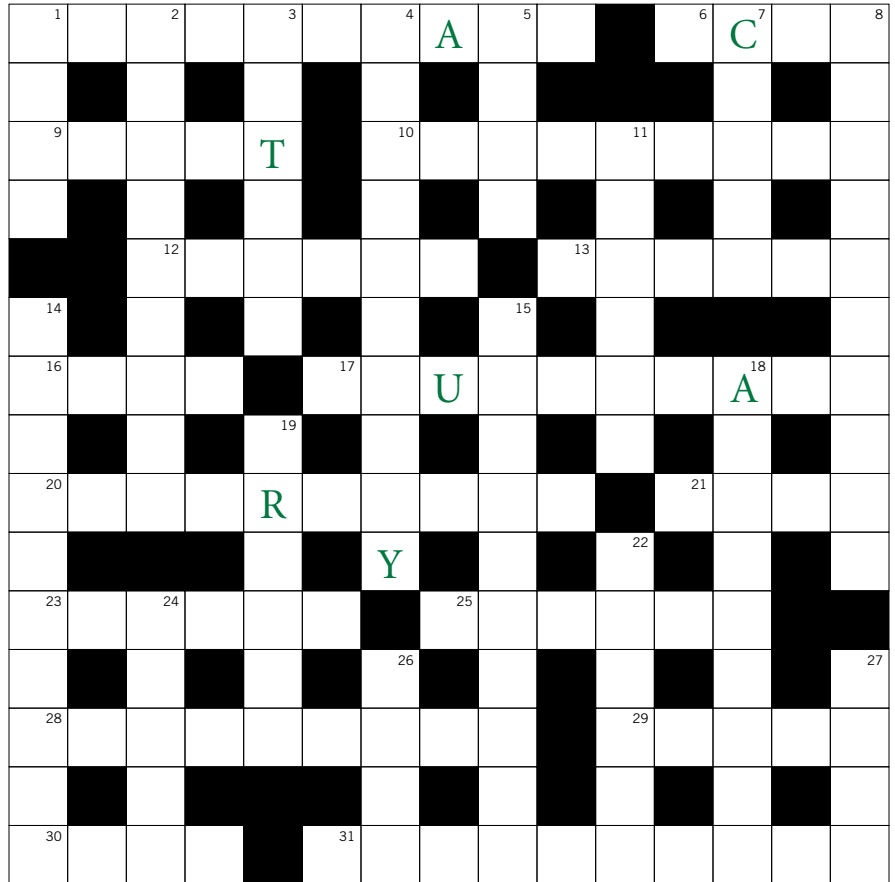
FIVE OF THE CLUES BELOW produce answers that are redundant by one letter. And five lead to answers that are deficient by one letter. This being an actuarial puzzle, adequacy must be achieved. Thus, five letters need to be dropped and five others added in order to fit the answers into the grid.

These 10 letters can be anagrammed to make an adjective that some professionals use to describe conditions that are neither redundant nor deficient, but *just right*.

The adjusted (i.e., adequate) versions of the answers appearing in the grid are all common English words. As an additional guide, I provide clues for these results as well (but in no particular order). To help get you started, I show the placement of seven random (hah!) letters in the grid.

There are three proper nouns and one variant spelling, all within the unadjusted group. The adjusted group includes no proper nouns or variant spellings.

The clues are all cryptic clues. This means that one end is a fairly straightforward definition of the answer, while the other is an alternative, often mechanical, way of getting to the same word. In this puzzle, the mechanical means I use include puns, homophones, anagrams, constructions, and double definitions. (For a further explanation of cryptic clues, e-mail me at Thomas.Toce@ey.com.) Ignore punctuation, which is intended to mislead.

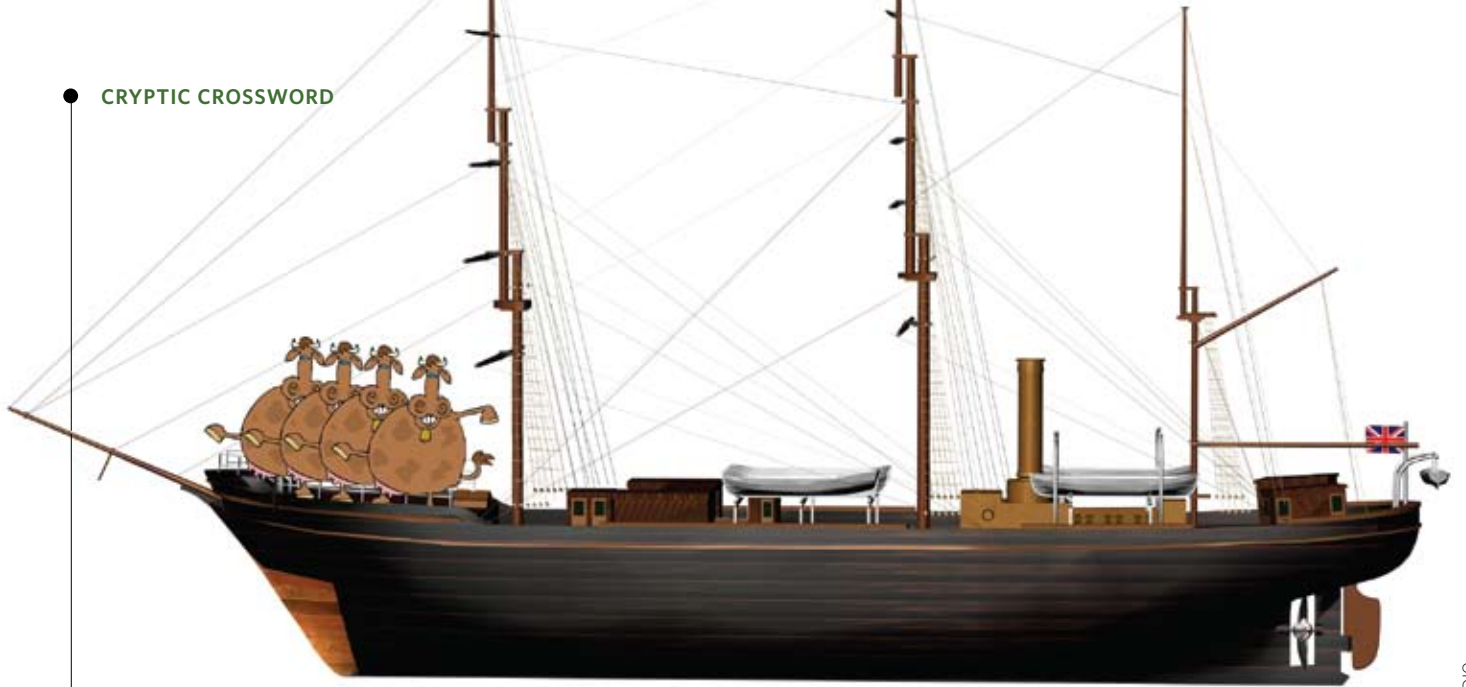


THE CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Every train demolished—by an animal! Doctor!
- 6. Residing in Moscow, learning to show disapproval
- 9. Put in, for starters, “I never saw Emily’s roommate tonight”
- 10 He floats your boat—within this fatwa term, anyway
- 12. Clever—a little bit of evidence planted around President Bush
- 13. Agree with one germ of an idea presented orally
- 16. Repeatedly criticize something a little angel plays
- 17. A new version of “Bung Danger” by alternative rock group of the '90s (two words)
- 20. *Werther und Rolling* didn't reach home
- 21. Creative but a forbidden variation
- 23. Darling, losing love at first is shocking

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- 25. Be consistent, Sebastian—who ran over her?
- 28. New creation causing feedback
- 29. The high point—you might say—of interest
- 30. Trickle of water wet blanket
- 31. Piety, singles do haphazardly

DOWN

- 1. Loudly displaying excessive pride in a streak
- 2. Highly valued—step around, okay?
- 3. Rasps from wretched garrets
- 4. Important? Whew, son, try reprioritizing
- 5. Cheers—a '70s miniseries?
- 7. Trash a Florida baseball team on the air
- 8. Miracle cure taken by the German with poor grade toupee (two words)
- 11. Went too fast and arced foolishly
- 14. Shoved by bore
- 15. Below the radar and under no new management

- 18. Around Lincoln Square, modern dancers pose
- 19. Unrelenting leaders of insurance company saying one thing and meaning another

◀ **22. Pi held**

approximately at ancient Greek center

- 24. More than one spoke with dorm chaperone at 5:02

- 26. Variation of poker called in a Hawaiian city
- 27. The sound of bananas covering bursts of laughter

ADEQUATE VERSIONS

Mania for noisy supercomputers (5)

▼ **Legumes for wild apes (4)**

Cows dancing on an old boat (4) ▲

Censorship of radical romantic possibilities (9)

Oddly, what the Crimean is: no major conduit for H₂O (5,4)

Coming up: Storage, when time runs out, stinks (4)

Took lunch inside railroads with underwriters (6)

Strained to set up the pool table (6) ▶

Unable to move in three Italian turns (5)

Losing does upset beauty (10)

FINAL ANSWER

Not redundant and not deficient, but *just right* = _____



FABINUS08, DENNIS COX, SGAME, ANTONIA, ILONAY75, BADBOO / DREAMSTIME, BONOTOM STUDIO