

Azed No. 2,630 'Playfair' - Competition Puzzle

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ORANG In a Playfair word square the code word (in which no **ESTIC** letter recurs) is followed by the remaining letters of the **KBD FH** alphabet, I doing double duty for I and J (see left). To **LMPQU** encode a word it must first be split into pairs of letters, **VWXYZ** e.g. CR IT IC AL. Each pair is then to be seen as forming the diagonally opposite corners of a rectangle within the word square, the other two corners being the encoded form. Thus, in the example shown, CR gives SG (not GS, which RC would give). Where a pair of letters appears in the same row or column in the word square, its encoded form is produced from the letter immediately to the right of or below each respectively. For the last letter in a row or column the first letter in the same row or column becomes the encoded form. Thus IC becomes CE. When all the pairs are encoded, the word is joined up again, thus CRITICAL is encoded as SGCICEOP. Answers to the eight clues in italics must be encoded thus in the diagram. The

code word must be deduced with the help of the answers to normal clues, so that the diagram may be completed. Competitors should submit with their entries a normal cryptic clue to the asterisked definition at **9 Down**.

Across

- 1** *Explosive artillery holds in reversing rupture* (6)
- 5** *Gun going off boy becomes miserable* (6)
- 9** *Driver on probation, loiled car roughly weekly, say* (10)
- 10** *Opening created by bullet remaining* (5)
- 11** *Bit of timber in dry measure thereof* (5)
- 13** *Feudal court changed method (not hard) after conflict* (8)
- 15** *Holy ascetic, sober heartless Hindu* (5)
- 16** *Historical document, part about university* (5)
- 17** *Stuff hole in tip of scabbard* (7)
- 19** *Primitive creatures? See one twinkling on a bee flying* (7)
- 20** *Lost lingo included in central tenet of Confucianism* (5)
- 23** *Take heed about prime element of baby's rearing* (5)
- 27** *Dad worked with regular features of comical mental state* (8)
- 28** *Neckwear displayed by one north of the border* (5)
- 29** *Aid in forecasting weather without extremes person describes* (5)
- 30** *Chap leading a lesson about one type of rock deformation* (10)
- 31** *Rarely dull, crazy don goes round tub swimming* (6)
- 32** *Church in scattered arrangement* (6)

Down

- 1** *Wee fish that is tailing pike, see* (6)
- 2** *Tumours mum's taken in to treat misshapen one* (10)
- 3** *Acting after tipple? Such a one may be sensational* (5)
- 4** *Monster that's tucked into Asiatic bird, a kind of poultry* (7)
- 5** *Rib involved outlay for Adam, without restraint* (5)
- 6** *Bushman's shield — animal he's flayed to make it* (8)
- 7** *Fellow consuming college recipe for young fish* (5)
- 8** *Make a mess of roll, twisting leg* (6)
- *9** *Lost to view* (5)
- 12** *Eastern cloth (strong) thought appropriate for urchins* (10)
- 14** *Morecambe maybe intercepts diverted call about office work* (8)
- 18** *Second hearing to do with network surrounding queen* (7)
- 19** *Rules for jousting, boring, Earl penned with love* (6)
- 21** *Lives with right leg in chains* (5)
- 22** *Meal avoided in disorganized parties* (6)
- 24** *Keep moist, having firm footing by the sound of it* (5)
- 25** *Who may be seen aboard bottom at Lowestoft?* (5)
- 26** *Composer cutting last slow movement* (5)

The Chambers Dictionary (2016) is recommended.

Azed No. 2,627 solution & notes

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
F	L	A	T	B	A	C	K	W	H
11	R	U	K	H	U	T	H	E	R
13	A	R	C	A	D	Y	A	S	A
15	M	E	A	N	D	E	R	T	M
17	P	X	U	A	H	U	G	U	E
20	L	E	N	T	A	M	E	N	T
22	E	X	S	O	L	F	A	T	A
25	R	O	T	I	F	E	R	A	C
27	M	R	R	D	S	S	C	R	A
30	A	D	U	S	T	C	S	T	R
32	L	I	N	E	O	U	T	A	P
34	M	A	G	G	B	E	F	R	I

Across 1, see back2; 12, the rap + y; 14, to bas(E) (rev.); 15, i.e. me and er = meer; 20, entame in anag.; 22, fat in solar as; 25, r o + a refit (rev.); 29, anag. of alternate letters, & lit.; 31, cf trolls; 4, see posh2.

Down 4, DD in a hub (rev.); 5, 2 meanings, one with accent; 8, H + a ban era; 21, ex + 0 + anag.; 23, cf. rescue; 24, art in anag.; 26, silen(t); 27, Malmö.

Rules and requests

Send correct solution (one only) and clue to replace definition asterisked (on separate sheet also bearing name and address, securely attached) to Azed No. 2,630, PO Box 518, Oxford, OX2 6WX. Entries should be received by Monday week at the latest. Please add a brief explanation of your clue (one entry only). Emailed entries from overseas will be accepted, addressed to jcrowther2000@hotmail.com £35, £30, £25 prizes and Azed bookplates for the three clues judged best. The Azed slip, containing details of successful competition entries and Azed's comments, is available on subscription at £16 a year. Cheques, payable to the Azed Slip, should be sent to The Azed Slip, Coombe Farm, Awbridge, Romsey SO51 0HN. To receive a sample slip, please send an sae to this address.

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