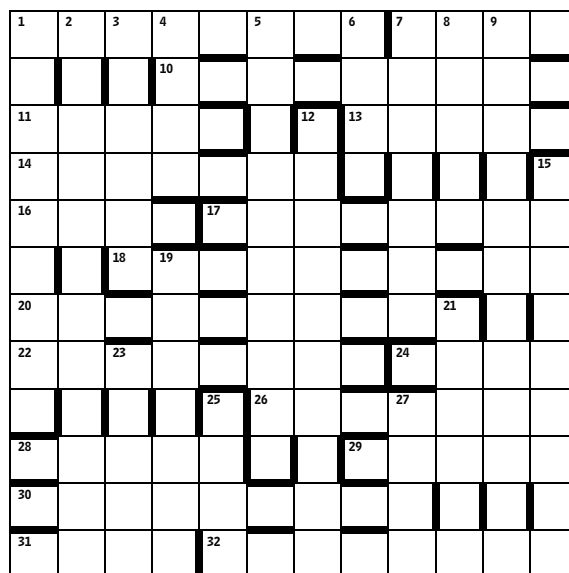


Azed No. 2,668 - Competition Puzzle



Name _____

Address _____

Post code _____

Across

- 1 Unkind comments will contain trouble for island (8)
- 7 Part of tribe, group retaining power (4)
- 10 Shiftily move and score wins (9)
- 11 Student gaining qualification, part of reading list unfinished, only partly educated (5)
- 13 Fashionable idols I embarrass leaving train (5)
- 14 Mime urbanites? Mixing in a — set possibly (7)
- 16 Lose head in sin — hateful (4)
- 17 In trail, running with little energy, sluggish? (8)
- 18 Israelite maybe chopping tree, half tubular in shape (10)
- 20 Neckband securing fidgety mule, touching on small ear bone (10)
- 22 Flowering bulbs, for instance fringing seascape (8)
- 24 Dry lake surrounded by the opposite thereof (4)
- 26 Vandal turned bloodshot going round snack bar (7)
- 28 Pit? It may be precious (5)
- 29 Some hate to mention retiring, or to make feelings plain (5)
- 30 Idles, very out of sorts in various ways (9)
- 31 A straw for Scotch? That's funny, and foreign (4)
- 32 Sits idly round scrub, typical of lakes? (8)

Down

- 1 Form of blue cab seen in Britain, very small vehicle (9, 2 words)
- 2 Aroma coalta'd spread around, wherein mites flourish? (12)
- 3 Disproves puzzle, including short form of it (6)
- 4 Chest without central square beam (4)
- *5 Headwords (10)
- 6 Deficiency in immune system causing slipped disc (4)
- 7 ME island dwelling (small) protected by rail (7)
- 8 Jem and I, besotted about love pictogram? (5)
- 9 Writer on that steel that's activated versatile sports competitors (12)
- 12 Scuttled round mine entrance, unable to see (10)
- 15 Kay's neighbour sitting on strange secrets — she has voting rights (9)
- 19 Link between databanks, true one possibly (7)
- 21 Change characters in company appearing in old tale (6)
- 23 A member of the herd has dropped in as mentioned before (5)
- 25 Saucy ex not appearing in buff (4)
- 27 Radical may when confused with Liberal (4)

The Chambers Dictionary (2016) is recommended, but does not give 8 (a familiar recent coinage) or 22 (verifiable on the Internet). One other entry is given as an abbreviation.

Azed No. 2,665 solution & notes



Across 12, ret E + anag. + red; 15, ROV + eat; 29, ref. Beckett play, *Waiting for G.*; 33, unc(aged) in rah; 34, anag. incl. p less d.
Down 5, C in exited; 10, v + anag. in graced; 11, Torie(s) in not y; 25, Exe + ret (rev.); 31, see erg².

Rules and requests

Send correct solution (one only) and clue as indicated (on separate sheet also bearing name and address, securely attached) to Azed No. 2,668, PO Box 518, Oxford, OX2 6WX. Entries must be received by Monday week following publication at the latest and be postmarked no later than the Saturday following publication. Please include a brief explanation of your clue. Emailed entries will be accepted for overseas submissions only, addressed to jcrowther2000@hotmail.com and must reach Azed by no later than the Saturday following publication of the relevant competition puzzle.

£35, £30 and £25 book tokens will be awarded to the three clues judged best (which accompany correct solutions to the puzzle) respectively. The three winners will also each receive an Azed bookplate. The prizes will be sent by post.

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 a stamped, self-addressed envelope to this address. Subscriptions may also be paid via online bank transfer to The Crossword Club, a/c no. 31020250, sort code 40-39-05.

For further information visit theguardian.com/crosswords/2014/dec/30/azed-faq