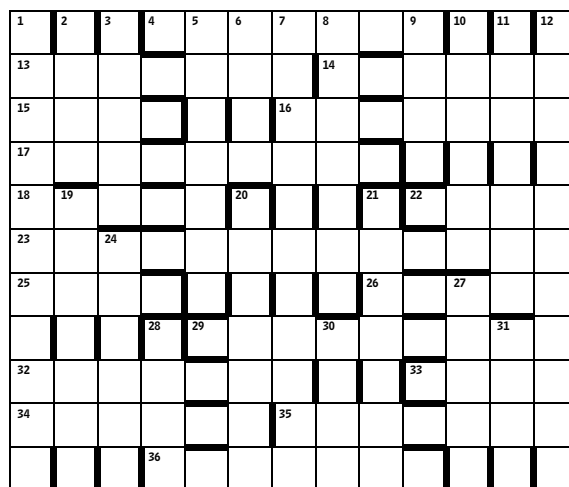


Azed No. 2,690 Plain



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Across

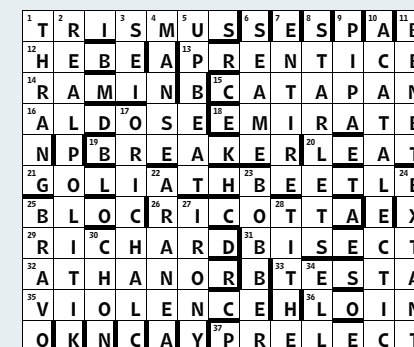
- 4** Paper-making machine enveloping craftsman's head in choking dust (7)
- 13** Chinese house (in Sydney?) creating a stink beside magnolia cham removed (7)
- 14** Spiny spot on cactus, one with end of prickle in part (6)
- 15** Nippy sailing vessel turned up with senior naval officer on board (4)
- 16** Servile rustic to call up beforehand? (7)
- 17** Piece of Venetian glass showing Latin citation, translated (9)
- 18** Earl opening activity to raise money? (5)
- 22** Unattractive expression one pulled? (4)
- 23** Waist and leg been adjusted, volume taken in? Tailored feature shrinking from end to end (13, 2 words)
- 25** Dodge, mostly half-hearted, taking king in (4)
- 26** Singers rarely get beyond these shrines (5)
- 29** Those working in capitals maybe give power to muscle? About right (9)
- 32** I go so coy, endlessly turning whimsical (7)
- 33** Alas, having to miss final piece in such as the Albert Hall? (4)
- *34** Knowledgeable jazz fan (6)
- 35** Runny organ's bunged by one ultimately? (7)
- 36** It grows on knee of horse, curiously toeless (7)

Down

- 1** Dad called up boor, cheerful, for what's afflicting orchard? (11)
- 2** Tailless lizard, variable length (4)
- 3** Special girl? Bob may be attached to one in the US (5)
- 5** Love film including shot of snake-worshippers (7)
- 6** Floor lamp? Here goes – it's made of twisted metal (4)
- 7** Managing with old mirror that's skew (11)
- 8** Tackle degree lacking in difficulty? (7)
- 9** Further attempt to clear up that's over (4)
- 10** Swelling having blood round it (6)
- 11** Kinsman not opening case (common in Helsinki?) (7)
- 12** Legatee confused about obfuscation in cable? (11)
- 19** Ne'er-do-well that is confined to jug having gone after Virginia (7)
- 20** Disturbs fitness exercises (7)
- 21** Foreign highness sets out in October as before (7)
- 24** Army track uphill after end of fight (6)
- 27** Trump's last East will have to provide taking partner's last lowish trump (5)
- 28** Here is dry in Rome without sun overhead (4)
- 30** Pawn, raising swag (4)
- 31** Old-fashioned prank eccentric female initially ditched (4)

The Chambers Dictionary (2016) is recommended.

Azed No. 2,687 solution & notes



Across 12, he(r) be(d); 20, leat(her); see Russia; 21, bee in anag.; 35, anag. incl. l in vice; 36, Fr. = far.
Down 3, sel(f); 7, l in entré(e); 8, cf startles; 24, (s)extant (qv); 28, it in the; 30, ch(it)on.

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. 2,690, 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