

Azed No. 2,699 Plain

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | 5 | 6 | | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | | | | 12 | | | 13 | | | | |
| 14 | | | | | 15 | | | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 17 | | | 18 | | | | |
| 19 | | | | | | | 20 | 21 | | | |
| 22 | | | | | 23 | 24 | | | | | |
| | 25 | | | | | | | | 26 | | |
| 27 | | 28 | | | 29 | | | | | | |
| 30 | | | | | | | 31 | | | | |
| 32 | | | | | | | 33 | | | | |
| | | | 34 | | | | | | | | |

Name _____

Address _____

Post code _____

Across

- 1 Leaving vessel for a quick break? (9)
 11 Cobras dead in water plant (5)
 13 Kitchen essential maiden kept in range down under (5)
 14 Pub device next to Scotch, we hear (4)
 15 A hydrous sulphate, one found in Morocco? (7)
 16 Naughty surprise upset p-priest – take pulse! (12)
 17 Tedious talk to make clumsy progress after time (7)
 19 Two measures (large then small), component of stiffeners (6)
 20 Volume to fail thus will make one sick (4)
 22 Threshold that's not well thought out, yard short (4)
 24 Last of tail, I'm out bowled, in the last period (6)
 25 Woman with inner passion to keep under wraps? (7)
 27 Here's cardi styled, about time ... thus? (12)
 30 Parody kept within limit, a tease (7)
 31 Local ruler, king attending university (4)
 32 Cork, a teaser to twist (5)
 33 To eat carefully, I avoided beef and cut out unhealthy stuff (5)
 34 Led sire out in run, second unmounted (9)

Down

- 2 One of biblical trio, I'll be welcomed by padre without hesitation (5)
 3 Teatime treat for Gill when spoiled (7, 2 words)
 4 Ancient tele needs adjusting with this – it makes a grumbling sound (12, 2 words)
 5 Gin and tonic's starter before chat (4)
 6 Position of first in field, not second notice phoned in (6)
 7 Plover trod green 'til flying (12, 2 words)
 8 Prince making mark in broadcast (4)
 9 Tease playfully making one bristle more than once (5)
 10 Mourn about a term sadly, Dido's end in pyre? (9)
 12 Insects sank (so it's said) with age (7)
 16 Junior journo is in team, to help with grant (9)
 18 Cancelled tenancy in legal document (7)
 21 Master that is holding children up for history error maybe (7)
 23 Regular tried a little, second (or third) coming first (6)
 25 In chess I'm ultra displaying grandmaster's stunt (5)
 26 Section of choir also unusually including tenor (5)
 28 Walter's brother is brought up with young chaps' organization (4)
 29 Eye up European badgers as a group (4)

The Chambers Dictionary (2016) is recommended, but does not give 3.

Azed No. 2,696 solution & notes

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | E | N | G | U | L | P | H | S | C | O | P | S |
| 12 | A | A | A | L | O | H | A | S | H | I | R | T |
| 14 | S | C | R | I | M | U | R | E | O | D | O | A |
| 15 | T | E | A | D | E | T | M | C | L | I | F | T |
| | I | L | G | I | N | S | A | T | I | A | T | E |
| 19 | G | L | E | I | T | U | L | Y | C | E | U | M |
| 23 | M | E | S | S | U | P | I | A | E | R | N | E |
| 27 | A | P | P | E | T | E | N | C | E | I | V | N |
| 29 | T | R | O | P | E | R | U | C | A | N | I | T |
| | I | O | U | M | M | I | N | O | R | I | T | E |
| 34 | S | T | R | A | T | O | C | R | A | T | A | D |
| 36 | M | I | S | G | O | R | E | D | C | E | L | L |

Across 13, hash in anag.; 19, alternate letters; 27, pet e in anag.; 29, cf. toper.
Down 5, p + hut; 9, o + l + aid (rev.); 12, asti + anag.; 18, perio(d) in sur; 22, v in unital; 24, p in games (rev.); 25, accord(ion); 30, (B)rot i(n); 31, (d)unce; ref. d's cap.

Rules and requests

Send your entry to Azed No. 2,699, *The Observer*, Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU. Entries must be postmarked no later than the Saturday following publication of the puzzle and must reach us within 10 days of publication of the puzzle (ie by Wednesday week following publication). Readers' solutions will be selected at random from all those received by the Observer by that date until three correct solutions have been found. A £25 book token will be awarded for each of the three correct solutions selected. The book token will be sent by post. For further information visit theguardian.com/crosswords/2014/dec/30/azed-faq