

Charades

You think this is hard, just try acting out "James and the Giant Peach".

Each of the clues below leads to a single word whose enumeration (number of letters) is given. After solving the clues, group together some adjacent words to form the name of a movie. This will be done Charades-style using "sounds like" clues; the words will rhyme with consecutive syllables (in two cases, two syllables) from the film's title. For example, if four consecutive answers were SCAR, BEES, MAIN, BELLS, the title would be **Charlie's Angels**. You can form seven movie titles from the answers, using all but three of the words. These three words must be sounded out as is to get the puzzle's one-word final answer. (Note that two of the movies begin with the word "the"; that word is not "sounded out" in the answers. As a small hint, the movies were released in the following years: 1941, 1964, 1991, 1992, 1999, 2001, 2002.)

- "Age of Aquarius" musical (4)
- Police informant (6)
- Post-skiing rendezvous site (5)
- Extreme religious group (4)
- Long-shouted word at soccer matches (4)
- British apartment (4)
- Title for Paul McCartney (3)
- Porcupine's pointy part (5)
- Unwanted email (4)
- Hot sauce (for a cold dessert!) (5)
- One might end with QED (5)
- Substance on month-old bread (4)
- Jay Leno's most prominent feature (4)
- Winter exclamation (3)
- Like a fairy-tale piper (4)
- Golden Globe winner Charlie (5)
- Brag (like a bird?) (4)
- Do Buffy's job (4)
- Selected (5)
- Stallone was Oscar-nominated for it (5)
- Voodoo doll accessory (3)
- "One Night in Bangkok" musical (5)
- Who "caveat emptor" is directed at (5)
- They may be confused with a forest (5)
- Baseball equipment with webbing (4)
- Gotten up (5)
- Extend (one's neck) (5)
- Ms. Heche (4)
- Toilet paper layer (3)
- Bee's noise (4)
- Sloth, for one (3)
- Can composition (3)
- It's under the patella (4)

Dessert Run

A trip to Bennigan's? What a great idea!

Each of the tasty treats below has had all but two of its letters shifted either one letter forward or one letter backwards in the alphabet. So the word TWINKIE may appear as SXIOJJE where the T was shifted forward to S, the W was moved back to X, and the I remained where it was. (Hint: There is no wraparound in this puzzle, so A can only be shifted to B, and Z can only be shifted to Y.)

DHNBPMBUD BIJO BPNJJET

RUQAVADSQZ TINSTDBLD

FIMFDS TNBOT

NSBOGD KEMKN

OHODBOQLD TORHEECNXO DBLD

KDMNO RPTBSET

SIHN LGOTR

WBOIMKB OTECHNH

HSBOE EJZY

BBLDE BMATLB

KFX MHNE OHD

QOOQZTFDE STSOPVDST

HDE BQFBL RBNEVHDI

Games

Not all the best games are German.

Match the games on the right to the pieces on the left, and you'll be on your way to determining this cryptic puzzle's seven-letter answer.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Orgy card | A. A Dog's Life |
| 2. Civil War Cannon card | B. Aladdin's Dragons |
| 3. Top hat piece | C. Backgammon |
| 4. Wooden rack | D. Before I Kill You, Mr. Bond |
| 5. Remote control | E. Buffy the Vampire Slayer |
| 6. Blue and pink pins | F. Caesar and Cleopatra |
| 7. Proxy bid card | G. Candy Land |
| 8. 20-sided die with letters | H. Castle |
| 9. Brown wedge | I. Clue: Alfred Hitchcock Edition |
| 10. Doubling cube | J. Ebay |
| 11. Wishbone | K. Evo |
| 12. Piddle marker | L. Halloween Party |
| 13. Jesse James poster | M. Harry Potter & The Sorceror's Stone |
| 14. Rubicon Reticle | N. Hera and Zeus |
| 15. Thief piece | O. Kill Doctor Lucky |
| 16. Siege Engine cards | P. Lord of the Rings |
| 17. Necktie piece | Q. Monopoly |
| 18. Argus card | R. Operation |
| 19. Gingerbread Man piece | S. Plunder |
| 20. Mummy Mask card | T. Scattergories |
| 21. Willow piece | U. Scrabble |
| 22. Magic lamp token | V. The Game of Life |
| 23. Gandalf cards | W. Trivial Pursuit |
| 24. Tail gene | X. TV Guide: The Game |
| 25. Hermione token | Y. Ubi |
| 26. Cavern of Woe lair card | Z. Wyatt Earp |

Jeopardy!

No Clue Crew appearances in this game; they're out on a field trip.

You don't have to phrase your responses in the form of a question for this game; however, if a question asks for a person's name, please give the last name only. (Note to purists: I know that Jeopardy! changed its point values this season. Maybe I'm just old-fashioned.)

U.S. Presidents

100. This President's middle initial G stood for Gamaliel.
200. He was the third President to die on July 4; he did so in 1831, six years after leaving office.
300. Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution gives the President this military title.
400. Before becoming President, he was president of Columbia University and commander of NATO; we like him!
500. The last name of this one-term President from New Hampshire is the same as Barbara Bush's maiden name.

Science

100. This colored part of the eye surrounds the pupil.
200. A unit of pressure equal to 101325 newtons per square meter, or the mass of air surrounding Earth
300. This branch of physics dealing with low temperatures got put to use in films such as "Demolition Man".
400. This element, atomic number 16, is also called brimstone.
500. You figure out an element's atomic number by counting these.

Comedians

100. "Everybody loves" him for donating profits from his recent album "Live at Carnegie Hall" to Sept. 11 victims.
200. With his shorter partner, his routine where he manages an oddly-named team got him into Cooperstown.
300. This author of "Naked Pictures of Famous People" is the current host of "The Daily Show".
400. Members of this funny family brought us "Scary Movie", "My Wife And Kids", and "In Living Color".
500. His movie career includes "Superman III", "The Toy", "Silver Streak", and numerous concert films.

Literature

100. Shakespeare began his twelfth of these poems with "When do I count the clock that tells the time".
200. This novelist and poet with a cool last name gave the world Ivanhoe.
300. This Peter Shaffer play deals with a boy who puts horses' eyes out with needles; yuck!
400. This "manxome" beast was slain with a "vorpel sword" in a poem interpreted by Humpty Dumpty.
500. Maybe this character's religious principles led him to go against Bligh in the book "Mutiny on the Bounty".

Geography

100. This South American country's coastline stretches 4603 miles; Chile's is only 2650 miles.
200. This small river in north central Italy was famously crossed by Julius Caesar.
300. [Daily Double] Add "City" to this state's name, and you'll get its capital.
400. This 3230-square-mile bay has its upper section in Virginia and its lower section in Maryland.
500. This country extends farther north than any other European land.

Before & After

100. This TV/film crossover features Dennis Franz as a cop vacationing in Honolulu with Elvis.
200. How many bad movies could this bad movie director make if this bad movie director could make bad movies?
300. Swanson product that you eat while watching "Friends", "Seinfeld" or "ER"
400. Film where Lily Tomlin (in Steve Martin's body) goes "strolling down the avenue"
500. Like Kentucky Fried Chicken that you point with

Mafia

Provide your own humming.

This puzzle represents seven games of Mafia, each played by a different group of seven distinct letters. For each game, determine the letters by solving one of the “Starting Words” clues. [For example, the clue “Charming and Charles” would lead you to PRINCES, a seven-letter word with no repeated letters.] Then kill off (i.e. delete) one of the letters, and rearrange the remaining letters to form a new word. [So, for example, you could first delete the S from PRINCES and anagram the rest to get PINCER.] You can form a two-word clue for this new word using two of the words from the “Clue Words” section. (Cross off the clue words as you use them.) [So, for our example, you might find the words CLAW and LOBSTER in the “Clue Words” list, which combine to form the clue LOBSTER CLAW.] Continue killing off letters and forming new words until three letters are left. Two of these are Mafia, and the third is the Knight Commandant. It turns out that two letters are so good at being the Mafia that they win every game. Determine the Knights Commandant, and you’ll find the answer to this puzzle.

Starting Words:

1. Given the headgear signifying kingship
2. Seats of kings
3. Drug that cures baldness
4. “Day” or “dollar” preceder in a trite phrase
5. Last word in famously telegraphed phrase
6. Used Brillo pads
7. Let out of jail early

Clue Words:

- ACTOR
- AGED
- APART
- APPLE
- BEEF
- BIRDS
- CAGER
- CAMELS
- CENTER
- CHARLOTTE
- CHURCH
- CONJUNCTION
- CRACK
- CREWMAN’S
- DESIGN
- DINAH
- EARNED
- FALL
- FEEDER
- FILLER
- FISHING
- FRUIT
- GREEK
- HAG
- HEAD
- HEBREW
- HORSE
- HOSTESS
- IMPLEMENT
- INSTRUMENT
- INTERIOR
- JASON’S
- JOURNEY
- LADY’S
- LETTER
- MATE
- METAL
- MONSTER
- MORE
- MYTHICAL
- NEGATIVE
- OLD
- OPPOSITE
- PADDLE
- POINTS
- PRECIOUS
- RIP
- SEVERE
- SHIP
- SOUTH’S
- TOOK
- TRIAL
- TYPE
- UNRHYMABLE
- VISITOR’S
- WADING

Pyramid

Don't worry; you don't need to know where Egypt is.

The categories clued below (a la the bonus round of **The \$25,000 Pyramid**) were suggested by three people, each contributing seven. Unfortunately, I've forgotten who suggested what. If you can sort things out, you'll probably discern this puzzle's three-word answer.

1. "Check out my funky eyeglasses!"; "Why, yes, red is my favorite color"; "How could you possibly confuse me with Elongated Man???"
2. "Salem, if you want me to check the litter box, just ask!"; "I wish Jill and Kelly didn't hog all of Charlie's time"; "I think Audrey Hepburn did a better job of portraying me than Julia Ormond"
3. "What are the people like in Florida?"; "Aren't you supposed to have, like, tusks or something?"; "How do you go moo underwater?"; "Where did all your hair go?"
4. 0,1,2...; Roy Hobbs; the C major scale; an ace and a face card
5. a camera; a stoplight at 2 AM; a naked guy wearing a coat
6. a cattle rancher; Wonder Woman
7. a diagram of the heart; a description of the alveoli; a medical school logo; the word "Gray"
8. a dormant volcano; a person who pays dues but never goes to meetings; a lion on a hot day; a couch potato
9. a judge's decision; certain resting places; a contestant's answer
10. a life-size statue of Jesus; myrrh; straw; a cow
11. broad flat noodles; ricotta cheese; tomato sauce
12. bus lines; computer networks; batteries
13. car; stag; dam; alter
14. display a hologram; perform eye surgery; cut James Bond in half
15. hale; lane; detroit
16. it gets stuck in my teeth; green is my least favorite color; I always rooted for Bluto
17. money; time; blood; a kidney; used clothing
18. sticky; sweet; dark brown; slow
19. the TV shows "24" or "Just Shoot Me", an Al Hirschfeld drawing; a book about Christopher Columbus
20. you under the poster of Mao; your spouse standing on the Great Wall; you with your arm around a rickshaw driver
21. Zeus; Harry Hamlin; cheesy special effects

Talking

Something we do at any time of day.

Who (or what) is being talked about? [Note: the tone of the quotes herein is not intended to represent the tone of conversations at the crossword tournament!]

1. _E _S NOT R_AL_Y A WRIT_R, BUT A _ONSTO_ TA_KE_ TO WHOM SO_EONE HAS GIVEN A T_PEWRITE_. – Gerald Brennan
2. IT L_OK_ LIK_ A TY_EWRIT_R F_LL OF O_STER _HELLS; LIKE A BR_K_N P_REX CASSE_OLE _IS_ IN A BROW_ CA_DBO_RD BOX. – Clive James
3. _ER _LICKNESS IN WRITING HAS B_INDED MANY R_ADERS T_ THE FACT THAT HER ST_RIES, CONSIDERED AS DETECTIVE STO_IES, _RE VER_ BAD ONES. THEY LACK THE MINIMUM OF PROB_BILITY THAT EVEN A _TECTIVE STOR_ OUGHT TO HAVE, AND THE C_IME IS ALWAYS COMMITTED IN A WAY THAT IS INCREDIBLY _ORTUOUS AND QUITE UNINTERE_TING. – George Orwell
4. IN _ONVERSA_I_N _E IS EV_N DULLE_ TH_N IN _RITI_G, IF THAT IS PO_SI_L_. – Juliana Smith
5. IT'S A _HAME YOU _EVE_ KNEW HER BEFORE SH_ WENT TO PO_. YOU KNOW A FUNNY THIN_, SH_ NEVE_ CO_LD WR_TE _IALOGUE. IT WAS _ERRIBLE. SHE LEARNED HOW _O DO IT FROM M_. – Ernest Hemingway
6. IN _TTE_P_ING TO DEPI_T THE BOR_DOM OF HUMAN EXI_T_NCE, H_ HAS R_N THE VERY GRAVE RIS_ OF _HOROUGH_Y _OR_NG HIS READER. – San Francisco Chronicle
7. _HE TR_UB_E WITH N_DE D_N_ING IS TH_T NOT EVERY_HING STOPS W_EN _HE MUSI_ STOPS. – Robert Helpman
8. SHE TURNE_ DOWN THE ROL_ OF HEL_N _ELLER BECAUSE SHE C_ULDN'T _EMEM_ER THE L_NES. – Joan Rivers
9. HER C_REER HA_ _EEN R_CYCLE_ M_RE OF_EN THAN _HE A_ERAG_ T_RE. – Vincent Canby
10. SHE WAS G_OD _T BEI_G INART_CU_ATEL_ ABST_ACTED FO_ TH_ SA_E REASO_ THAT _IDGETS ARE GOOD AT BEI_G SH_RT. – Clive James
11. _IS MI_D WORKS IN THE RIGHT DI_ECTIONS BUT SE_DOM WORKS _LEARLY AND C_EANLY. HIS BRE_D _S OF U_BOLTED FLOUR, _ND MUCH STR_W, TOO, MIXES IN THE _RAN, AND SO_ETIMES GRAV_L ST_NES. – Henry Ward Beecher
12. WHAT _S OR IS NO_ _RT IS A M_TTER FO_ PE_SONA_ _HOICE. IF S_ME _EOPLE WANT TO L_STEN TO A_ O_ERWEIGHT IT_LIAN SINGING IN HIS OWN LANG_AGE, S_ BE I_. – Terry Dicks

Now What?

Take each of the answers from the other “activities”, match them appropriately to the words below, and solve to get our suggestion for what to do next.

1. GENERAL
2. OLD
3. MANUFACTURER
4. TRANSPORTATION
5. INITIALS
6. DOWN AND RIGHT
7. SYLLABLE