

Bridges

By Ben Coukos-Wiley

Clubs are trump, West has the lead on the first trick, and the game is decided after 12. The dummy's partner knows more than the rest. A copy of the deck can be found on the last page.

The puzzle consists of four 11x11 grids arranged around a central geometric structure. Each grid contains numbers 1 through 58 and various playing cards (clubs, diamonds, hearts, spades). The central structure is a complex geometric pattern of lines forming a diamond shape with internal connections. The grids are arranged in a 2x2 pattern around the center. The top-left grid shows a partial solution with cards like 6♣, 10♦, 13♣, 16♦, 19♣, 22♣, 25♣, 31♣, 34♣, 37♦, 40♠, 43♣, 46♠, 49♠, 52♠, 55♠, and 57♠. The top-right grid shows a partial solution with cards like 11♦, 12♣, 19♥, 23♦, 24♥, 28♠, 31♥, 37♥, 41♦, 42♣, 45♥, 49♠, 53♥, and 57♥. The bottom-left grid shows a partial solution with cards like 12♦, 19♦, 24♣, 31♣, 36♠, 38♠, 41♦, 42♣, 43♣, 44♣, 49♥, 50♦, 51♦, 54♥, and 57♠. The bottom-right grid shows a partial solution with cards like 7♣, 10♥, 19♥, 24♣, 25♣, 31♣, 34♣, 36♠, 38♠, 39♠, 40♠, 41♦, 42♣, 43♣, 46♠, 49♥, 50♠, 51♠, 54♣, and 57♣.

NORTH

ACROSS

1. Popular H.S. activity for aspiring engineers
4. +/- 0, in golf
8. Cries of dismay
12. 😊 alternative
13. _____ blanche
14. Shortened term for small cave
15. "___ live and breathe!"
16. Arab noble (var.)
17. More intense
18. "Neon Genesis Evangelion" protagonist
20. Chili spice
22. Himalayan creature of legend
23. Commonly broken bone
24. Divine being
27. Toll road (abbr.)
29. Amount of resistance
31. Fantabulous
34. Video game series with entries "Fusion" and "Evolution"
35. Double-ended data structure (abbr.)
36. Rust, e.g.
37. Talking tree from the Zelda series
38. Grp. that still needs more representation in media
40. Some U.S. legislators
44. Run _____ of
46. Balkan region
47. Fiona's former fiancée's fiefdom
49. Certain plastic surgery procedure, for short
51. Retiarius' implement
52. Parallel org. of the EU
53. OWCA operative
54. Israeli firearm
55. Sheep shearing spoils
56. Biological hand-me-downs

57. Non-neutral one

DOWN

1. Ostentatious
2. Renowned riveter
3. Agent Barton
4. Berry rich in antioxidants
5. Marin County peak
6. Fermion or boson
7. Old TV episode
8. Prefix with "-culture"
9. Meal for the big bad wolf
10. Mr. Hockey's real surname
11. Brawniness (abbr.)
19. Jiu _____
21. Tahitic language
23. Guitar's baby cousin, informally
25. Teacher review (abbr.)
26. Stone, bronze, and iron, e.g.
28. Big citrus fruit
30. All but one in a stealthy kid's game
31. Compute a sum
32. Half a fortnight
33. The same as, mathematically
34. Notepad file format
36. Compel or comply
39. Where the KGB might send you
41. Pervasive weariness
42. Electricity-related prefix that means "squeeze"
43. Shiny silk
45. Central
46. Monkey friend of Backpack and Map
47. Morning moisture
48. Centerpiece of the "I Want to Believe" poster
50. Tubular pasta

EAST

ACROSS

1. Org. founded by Nixon
4. Reciprocal of sec
7. Stephanie's "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" character
10. Texter's possessive pronouns
11. Place where Constantine and Licinius did battle
13. It's the word
14. Workout unit
15. Forceful leader?
16. Type of Arabic taught to students (abbr.)
17. One belonging to a certain group of besiegers in 35-across
19. Most sickly
21. Needlework remnant
22. Tongue spoken in Vientiane
24. Soccer player Lalas
25. Archipelago contents
27. Ms. Liu's
29. Type of projection
31. Kick 'em while they're down
35. See 17-across
37. Marvel villain portrayed by thematically named actor Jeff
38. Simpler kind of microprocessor (abbr.)
41. Electron's heavier cousin
43. Powerful moves, in Esports slang
44. Saruman and Radagast, e.g.
46. Source of opium
48. F***
49. Loquacious to the point of obfuscation
51. Long-lasting Mexican political reign (abbr.)
52. Earthbender featured in the episode "Imprisoned"
53. Spread out
54. Female sheep

55. Group of boy scouts (abbr.)

56. OB/____

57. Club owned by Ryan's "La La Land" character

DOWN

1. Earth's largest landmass
2. Change tilt, on a global scale
3. Goopy black stuff
4. Shadowy sect
5. First, second, or third, but not home
6. A bizarre JoJo?
7. The desert fox
8. Region next to Surrey
9. Expensive violin
11. "The Simpsons" bartender
12. Indigo dye
18. What poet Hughes sings, too
20. Does a short putt to set up the next shot
23. The community's
26. Tonight's big loser
28. Winners of the 2015 world series, in a popular cinematic timeline
30. A Hemsworth
32. Birth defect causing twisted feet
33. The net, more quirkily
34. A Scottish cryptid's
36. Coke and Pepsi, in soft drinks
38. "Suuuuuuuure"
39. Patron herald of the Bondsmiths
40. Foment
42. Film's Christopher
45. Rends
47. ____ Stix
50. DnD or FF

SOUTH

ACROSS

1. Subdivision of an eon
4. Synagogue leader
8. Every one
12. Expanded
13. Dying of anticipation
14. Jazz's Fitzgerald
15. First letter of "Η ϕ α ι σ τ ο ς"
16. The US has a huge national one
17. Neeson and Gallagher
18. Clandestine meetings
20. Give a leg up to
22. Not great, not terrible
23. Colorful cheese
24. Pad _____
27. Cousin of the English horn
29. Dusky
31. Language of the opera "'u'"
34. Chopping gadgets
35. Become visible
36. YA author Veronica
37. Sch. with an independent hockey team
38. Treat, as a wound
40. Serpentine Pokémon
44. Accord with one's image
46. Residual amount
47. Hawaiian dance
49. High school class with a TV adaptation
51. Preserve food in metal
52. The way things are
53. Sesame Street resident
54. Human genus
55. Kids, teens, or elders might do it on a YouTube show
56. Cabinet-level agency (abbr.)

57. Bail Organa, e.g. (abbr.)

DOWN

1. Snowy herons
2. Old school cool
3. "We've got _____ to go"
4. Trig units (abbr.)
5. Grow old
6. Fumble
7. Not-so-little piggy?
8. Lanky fishes
9. Not much
10. Chowder component
11. Possesses
19. One of a famous slapstick trio
21. Win a mental victory over
23. ___ Jovi
25. Head covering
26. Word infamous for apostrophe errors
28. Gets on a ship or a plane
30. Godly blood
31. Snake from "The Jungle Book"
32. Records played at 33 1/3 RPM
33. Where others might see
34. "The World's #2 Card Game"
36. "I _____ that remark!"
39. Took, as a soul
41. Cheesy chips
42. The beginning of Caesar's tripartite catchphrase
43. It glows blue when excited
45. Right on the map
46. Sound made by Dr. Doom's horn
47. Homophone of 25-down
48. Where Springsteen was born
50. Little devil

WEST

ACROSS

1. Exp - sinh
4. Ancient marketplace
9. Govt. agency that's popular with seniors
12. El día después de ayer
13. Circus daredevils
14. It enables withdrawals
15. Medical muscle scanner (abbr.)
16. Placid
17. Kin one dines with?
18. Fitting
20. Feral sound
22. Slurpee competitor
23. Aural prefix
25. Wafer
26. "Shots fired!"
28. In footwear
30. "She-Ra" rebooter Stevenson
32. Someone harsh and unyielding
36. Signaling compound similar to eoxamides
38. Contestant on season 7 of "RuPaul's Drag Race"
39. Word Porky struggles with
42. Word in most of the Commandments
44. Stave (off)
45. Eye sockets
47. Fauns
49. Hurricane's calm spot
50. Cyanide and hydroxide, e.g.
52. Verb often shortened in contractions
53. Afternoon prayer
54. Pet
55. Certain football players (abbr.)

56. Pre-loved

57. Combo meal beverages

58. Some popular lubes

DOWN

1. Source of surface tension

2. To such a degree

3. A lack of it really stinks

4. Far from port

5. Actor Greta

6. Reasons to break a few eggs

7. Vader admirer

8. Bums

9. Yemeni city

10. Westeros family

11. Sufficient

19. Most bluish-green

21. Important event for football fans

24. "I get it now!"

27. Jokey way of asking nicely

29. Predecessor of Elm and Birch

31. German article

33. Old-timey timestamp

34. Chemistry

35. Melancholy

37. Futile

39. Walden writer

40. Nietzsche's staring partner

41. Like theater seating

43. Tot's truck

46. Backtalk

48. Simile components

51. How Discord earns money

Duochromatic networks are notorious in hip hop, spit verses before high school

Email contains article that's still unopened

Gifted child hears fuel burn

Half of Asia follows holy man to Sinnoh city

Hilarious! Tolkienian creatures lose vs. tools

Non-white women in London transit begin describing mathematical expression

Pilgrim's foes reverse gender and start electioneering on air

Sick actor Robert loses head, flips out. F.

Singer Trudeau has given name

Stallone character goes around safety agency, ignoring a game of chance

The cavalry distorted her omens

Watch all cereal for kids

Working time sounds like an insipid stupor