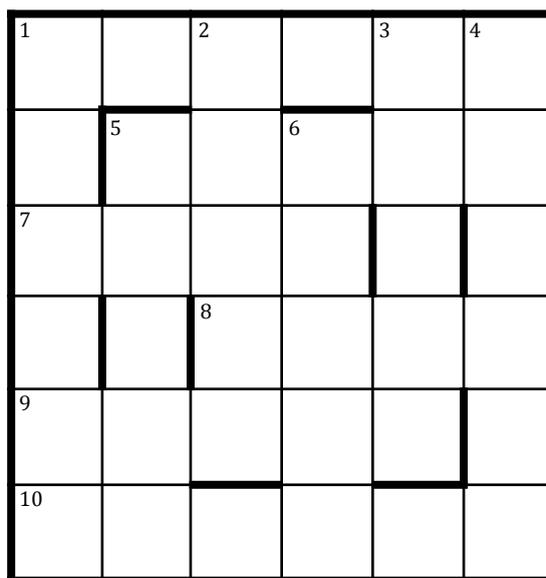


Easter Egg Hunt by Binder

Egads! Everything was lined up neatly awaiting the big hunt, but then there was a bright blur and a rumbling racket ... and suddenly everything disappeared! All the eggs are missing, and I mean ALL the eggs! They'll need replacing, but I'm a bit distressed ...

1. Certain clues' answers must be fixed using symmetric twin rules that rectify the theft - the affected letters must be entered AFTER their respective perpendicular entries, lest we cause extra clashing. (Each such clue includes a term that describes the resultant entry, and enumerated hints reference grid entries rather than clue answers.) Reviewing the eggs in the grid will reveal (in a certain way) the vibrant victim and (in a different way) the clever culprit.
2. If that's a bit baffling, check the remaining clues - in each, a single term abides by a twin rule just like the entries, and needs fixing preceding deciphering. These terms' unaffected first/last letters (in sum) reveal certain empty items, plus the verb that each egg achieves in the grid with its respective clashing character (unfittingly).
3. If, in a single egg's case, these steps create a seemingly absurd discrepancy, it's because there's a time-based irregularity - the entryway used by the culprit! In each entry affected in part #1, if the nth letter implements the verb revealed in part #2, identify the nth-last letter in the matching clue - these letters will describe the initial eggs, sadly. If that string is edited using the twin rules (separately), it will result in a visual/aural summary describing the theft (which was a bit less vivid than first described), and a succinct summary justifying my distress.



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| 1A Animal in a pack, essentially, that breaks pen pal badly | 1D Marches herald these times when team with marketing says "plugs issues" |
| 5A Lines in the pictures say "farewell" (2 wds) | 2D Friends keep extra special gems in the end |
| 7A King Charles III's head held by Isabella VI | 3D Rep's fundamental decree parts are rewritten |
| 8A Cap in hand, island inhabitants are leaving | 4D Tang taken by anti-drinking club lead with speed (3 wds) |
| 9A Middle-class characters catch small, small female | 5D Green, clarified butter per a Brit that rates seaweed |
| 10A Guard with the Spanish missive is dispatched (2 wds) | 6D Business that might lease a vehicle using a six-speed in the beginning |