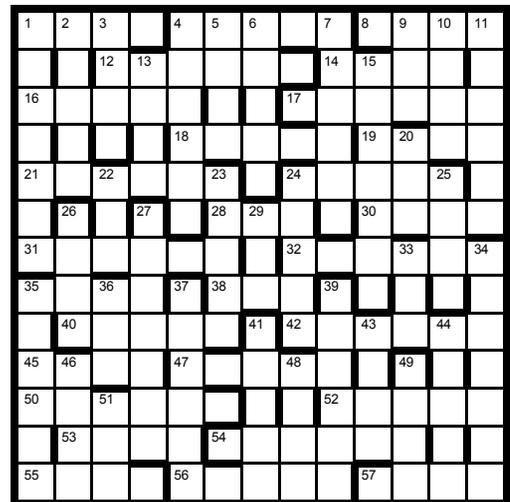


All across clues suggest two possible solutions in the word play and/or the definition. The two solutions in each pair are the same except for the addition of a single letter for one of them. The shorter solutions should be entered into the grid; the extra letters from the longer solutions will spell out the clue for 6 29.

Across

- 1 About war: about worm (4)
- 4 Freedom without honour - confusing for one going against orders (5)
- 8 Give back the water of life, nine missing plunder (4)
- 12 An Olympic hurdler, but an average boy (6)
- 14 Ronin almost smashed his compartmentalised box at the start (4)
- 16 Pure actors at the end (5)
- 17 Atticus, confused and out of uniform, still with colourful dried flowers (6)
- 18 Jessica's rival from Norwegian island drives popular car (5)
- 19 Smell of city is fair (4)
- 21 Detectives investigate river murder of Poseidon, say (6)
- 24 Flavoursome, as Americans would say, or what anyone says? (5)
- 28 Clog up to five games in the series now (3)
- 30 Replenish equipment provided back in alien visualisation (1-3)
- 31 Calabrian municipality mountain volunteers I lost due to mistakes (6)
- 32 Scrambled eggs or huge meals with 6 kings (one more to come?) (6)
- 35 A modern address by the sound of it (1,3)
- 38 Female at Department of Education with a word on each extract (3)
- 40 Poor shots with machetes take to South American evergreens (5)
- 42 Turn down Gilbert, not Sullivan initially as an asylum seeker (6)
- 45 Dance over to bar (4)
- 47 Idiot comes between us and brings us together (5)

- 50 Scandal regarding lack of power is nothing of note - get a good electrician at the outset (6)
 - 52 48 in a state with monarch attending to agreement (5)
 - 53 Honesty leads to mercy in the Bible (4)
 - 54 Marking new books? One up to no good, love (6)
 - 55 Smoker (French): Good, good! Jump to it! (4)
 - 56 Cut drain in the middle by half, flowing to river (5)
 - 57 The French take on the world (and the moon) with a sudden attack (4)
- Down**
- 1 Shrill creatures oddly clinch a dad's half empty start (7)
 - 2 Old Rob, always going on about a return (5)
 - 3 Copies mistakenly at the end of recess (4)
 - 4 Marley's style was to provoke horrors (6)
 - 5 I leave mode of water transport following English rivers (4)



- 6/29 See special instructions (5-3) extreme focus on the centre (7)
- 7 Ever more slowly, sneak up and get clear surroundings (6)
- 9 Pictures from Heat? (3)
- 10 Inside Hello: intimate cut (4)
- 11 Clemency must both be halved and enclosed in a shell (6)
- 13 Alternatively, Thor at 51 (4)
- 15 Catchers helped Bresnan bouncer initially smash North out (7)
- 20 Pensioner getting much louder becomes a lout (3)
- 22 Wow - 20 leave home counties (3)
- 23 Oaths by wise man raised many within (5)
- 24 Hungry to bet on looking the other way at first (5)
- 25 Previously, listener left one in ambush (4)
- 26 Despicable character - b_____ maggot! (4)
- 27 Mean lil' truant regularly hangs out at Westfield, say (7)
- 29 See 6
- 33 Animal going nuts towards the end (3)
- 34 Staff build muscles up -
- 35 Herbert, taken in by open communication with great assurance (6)
- 36 Going on about love, give caviar (3)
- 37 Main branches in areas with no alternative (6)
- 39 Tribes on the move will (6)
- 41 Cocktail spoken of in St Petersburg company (5)
- 43 Cotton broadcast - nonflowering plant (4)
- 44 God entering into the spirit - don't go against it (5)
- 46 Curt instruction to Redgrave and Pinsent overheard? Get money (4)
- 48 In the gallery, take all the expressionists, for starters (4)
- 49 Huge dog ate up rodent (4)
- 51 Nearly lay into drum (3)