

A1: Logical Layovers

Six passengers (Arthur, Benson, Carole, Dalton, Esther, and Farouk) were travelling with connections in Louisville and visited the exclusive Frequent Fliers' Bar for their whole time at the airport. Using the clues below, order the travelers from shortest to longest layover, then examine the list of names to determine this puzzle's answer. (Note: Carole and Esther are female; the other four are male.)

1. Every half-hour between noon and 5:30, exactly one traveler either arrived or left.
2. No two layovers were the same length.
3. The layovers of Dalton and Esther were mutually exclusive.
4. The bar did not serve drinks between 2 PM and 3 PM, so Dalton was never able to get a martini.
5. Arthur, Benson, and Carole were the last three to depart, not necessarily in that order.
6. Arthur arrived before Carole arrived.
7. Exactly two people arrived before Farouk did.
8. A woman was the first to arrive; a man was the last to arrive.
9. Carole either arrived or left at 3:00 PM.
10. Carole's layover time was twice that of Benson's.
11. The longest layover was five hours; the second-longest was three.
12. Esther's departing flight did not leave on the hour.

A2: Concealed Characters

Each of the master strings below hides a familiar name appropriate to this reading. To find it, extract a series of string parts from the master. Parts appear within the master in order. They may be found entirely in a single word or may cross one or more word boundaries. Lengths of those parts are given in parentheses. Once you've found the name, take the *n*th letter from each, where *n* is the number following the slash, to find your final answer.

So, for example, if the string were "I had a very nice education" with the numbers (5, 3 / 5) following it, you would take the parts DAVER (from "had a **v**ery") and EED (from "nice **e**ducation") to get the name DAVE REED, and then take the 5th letter (i.e. R).

1. Tables stack up between card players. (2, 3, 2, 3 / 3)
2. Adjacent trunks are packed tomorrow. (3, 2, 2, 4 / 8)
3. Afraid of pencils? Draw with markers. (3, 3, 4, 2 / 8)
4. Wear long johns in twelve rooms. (10, 4 / 13)
5. Reject *Swan Lake* if it tears you up. (2, 4, 5 / 4)
6. To capture data in Holland, look around. (4, 5, 2 – 4)

A3: Playing Possum

Each of the clues in column A leads to a seven-letter word. One of the letters in each word is an opossum. If that opossum “plays dead” (i.e. is removed), you get a new six-letter word that is the answer to one of the clues in column B. Clues in that column are given in alphabetical order by their answer. If you take the opossums in order of their appearance in the column-A words, you’ll get a four-word clue to this puzzle’s final answer.

Column A

1. Wrap up, as a baby
2. Rental of a boat
3. Impolite looking
4. Place to see a show
5. Connecting, as with chains
6. Change one’s religion
7. Jolly Roger wavers
8. Chore for a maid
9. It might soothe a crying baby
10. Most serious
11. You might get one when you remarry
12. Pancake maker’s necessity
13. Adult Swim component
14. Delivery from Obama, perhaps
15. Like italic type

Column B

- A. President from Plains
- B. Milk container
- C. Secret
- D. Tom’s *Rain Man* costar
- E. Cemeteries have them
- F. Radiator, for example
- G. Your winter coat has one
- H. Goes on and on and on
- I. Portion
- J. “Why did the chicken cross the road?”, for example
- K. It’s between you and the horse
- L. On the agenda
- M. ___ the gas (2 wds.)
- N. Common Java datatype
- O. Be about to topple

A4: Choosy Checkers

I've given you information on six different checkers below. For each, you are given four words that are accepted by the checker and four words that are rejected. Your task is to determine the specific rule for acceptance of each checker and then determine which one of the four "possible" words would also be accepted. Examine those words to get your final answer.

1. Accepted: ARKS, CODE, GAME, MANY
Rejected: ASKS, FORE, TIME, ZEAL
Possibles: FAIL, GAZE, INKY, PROD
2. Accepted: FLUE, GRANGE, MELLOW, PREEN
Rejected: COLON, PEOPLE, REUSE, REX
Possibles: BACK, HOE, PASTED, TRAY
3. Accepted: ANDREW, GEORGE, RONALD, WARREN
Rejected: ALBERT, DAVID, MATTHEW, SCOTT
Possibles: CHESTER, DANIEL, ROBERT, WALTER
4. Accepted: CHECKERS, EDUCATION, FREQUENT, OPOSSUM
Rejected: CHESS, CRITTER, KENTUCKY, MISTRESS
Possibles: AIDES, BIDES, HIDES, TIDES
5. Accepted: ESTUARIES, MAXIMA, PERISCOPE, STERNEST
Rejected: CONCH, NOON, STARLETS, TARANTULA
Possibles: ALCOHOL, CARACAS, EMBLEM, OMINOUS
6. Accepted: ALLEY, GUTTER, SPLIT, TURKEY
Rejected: HOME, HOOP, PUCK, VAULT
Possibles: APRES, PARES, REAPS, SPARE

AB1: Anagram Antics

I've given clues to words in six anagram sets. Each set consists of three six-letter words. Two of those words are anagrams of each other, but one is off by a letter from the other pair. For example, the answers to the three clues could be PLEASE, ELAPSE, and SLEEPY. PLEASE and ELAPSE are anagrams; if you changed the Y in SLEEPY to an A, it would be an anagram of the other two. Clues for the words in a set are given in random order; it's up to you to figure out which word is the odd one out. When you're done, take the "incorrect" letters from the words in each set (for the example, that letter would be Y) to spell your answer.

1. Cross-country walkers
Workers' protest
Yell from a ghost
2. Chess piece
Like some shy maidens
Soccer player's footwear
3. Christmas tree decoration
Top-level menu in Word 2007
Type of movie or treatment
4. Camel's habitat
Discourages
Placed in a variable
5. Baryshnikov, for example
Move without a particular destination
Stretched, as one's neck
6. Former opposite?
Noisy toy for an infant
What an American Idol contestant has, hopefully

AB2: Buffet Boxes

There are twenty-six APLists in the table below, one in each row. Your task is to fill in the missing list element for each one so that you can find the name of something you eat or drink hidden in the list. Names may or may not start at the beginning of the list; you'll have to figure out where the "remembered Node" is to mark the start of the word. No name uses all list elements. Each name is at least six letters long; one is a two-word phrase. As a further aid to solving, all twenty-six letters of the alphabet will be used to fill in the table. Examine these added letters to find the puzzle's final six-letter answer.

I	N	S	T	R	A		I	O	L	I	D	E
B	E	Q	U	E	S		D	I	L	L	A	D
T	A	C	K	U	M		U	A	T	H	E	L
B	I	C	L	A	C		F	F	E	E	D	S
L	E	A	F	O	N		U	E	L	K	E	D
O	X	A	D	U	M		L	I	N	G	S	T
D	A	S	H	E	R		E	T	E	O	R	S
J	E	T	S	P	A		E	R	I	B	S	E
S	E	A	R	C	H		T	L	I	N	S	D
I	M	O	U	S	S		R	E	A	K	E	R
S	C	H	W	A	F		L	E	S	S	O	N
E	S	T	R	E	U		E	L	D	E	R	S
D	E	V	I	C	H		S	S	O	I	S	E
M	E	N	T	I	O		A	G	G	I	S	T
S	I	M	P	E	G		P	L	A	N	T	Y
T	O	C	R	A	C		E	R	S	A	T	Z
I	M	P	R	E	T		E	L	L	I	S	M
F	L	A	S	A	G		A	S	P	I	N	G
W	I	T	C	H	E		M	I	X	T	A	P
I	L	K	E	C	R		L	L	E	R	D	Y
R	E	G	I	K	E		A	R	T	I	N	I
S	T	A	B	R	O		N	I	E	C	E	S
M	Y	S	O	F	A		I	T	A	L	I	C
A	N	U	B	I	S		U	I	T	C	H	Y
T	E	X	A	C	O		E	S	L	A	W	N
S	P	A	G	H	E		T	I	T	H	E	S

AB3: Mangled Multigrids

Below are three miniature 5x5 crossword puzzles. Fill in the grids under them; note that there are no black squares. Two entries in each puzzle are unclued. To complete those words, you'll need to fill two letters into the square where they intersect. Those pairs spell this puzzle's answer.

Puzzle 1

ACROSS

1. Parts of some 2000 Florida ballots
2. Like Cheerios
3. Type of replay (hyph.)
4. Carreras, Domingo or Pavarotti
5. ???

DOWN

1. ???
2. More healthy
3. Repent for one's sins
4. You might see them when programs are due
5. Indignant noise

Puzzle 2

ACROSS

1. ???
2. Famous Italian opera house (with "la")
3. Printers run low on it
4. Standing up
5. Staff silence symbols

DOWN

1. ???
2. Twenty
3. They're often separated by yellow lines
4. Choose in November
5. Pub game

Puzzle 3

ACROSS

1. ???
2. Illusory painting style (2 wds.)
3. Sleeping problem
4. Frozen rain
5. Short, as speech

DOWN

1. Crow (no, not the bird)
2. Symbol on the lid of some laptops
3. Less likely to claim to be Napoleon?
4. 1-2-3, B, and red-black are types of these
5. ???

AB4: Filter Fun

Each string of characters below is something that uses or has filters. Each has been encoded in the same simple substitution cipher. (So, if S represents W in one line, it represents W in every line.) Also each line has had one letter “filtered out” and replaced by a question mark. Can you restore the original names?

VTJJRR?DLRS

VPO?SRWWR

IPASDS? VTZHXWRS

PBJSDSRE H?TWTOSDHYM

DPS VTBEPWPTB?S

CGPZ?PBO HTTP

The Alternate Exam

Use the answers from the eight previous puzzles to fill in the chart below. A1's answer will go in one of the two slots labeled 1; AB1 will go in the other. It's up to you to figure out which is which. Do the same for the three other pairs. Read the shaded letters to figure out why I'm so obsessed with Java.

4					
2					
3					
1					
1					
4					
2					
3					