

Azed No. 2,636 'Christmas Cards' - Competition Puzzle

1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		10					11		
12					13			14	
15									16
17		18		19					
20	21				22	23			
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28					29			30	31
			32			33	34		
35						36			
37					38				
39							40		

Eighteen clues lead to words/phrases from which the letters CARD (in that order but not necessarily consecutively) must be omitted before entry. Each of these clues contains a definition of the full unmutated answer and a cryptic indication of the entry itself (only coincidentally a real word). Every 'card' word/phrase is in *Chambers* except two (one of them being of two words), both of which may be verified on the Internet. Two non-thematic entries are not in *Chambers*, one a common two-word phrase and the other a geographical proper name. Bracketed numbers indicate the length of grid entries throughout.

Competitors should submit with their entries a clue to a word/phrase of their own choice (maximum 12 letters in its unmutated form) following the style of all the other thematic clues.

Across

- 1 Some Christmas fun is entertaining, capturing guest's heart (4)
- 5 Rapport that is following one, reverse of large quantity (7)
- 10 Absorbed by love, enamoured, source of Indian music (5)
- 11 Ship's straight ahead, also circling New England (5)
- 12 Corrode a metal after start of etching (5, 2 words)
- 13 Showing instinct personified (6)
- 15 What's fed to cage-birds some observe (6)
- 17 Pie filling? American's given time (3)
- 19 A neat tie knotted like a ribbon (8)
- 20 Taboos including rule for types of litter (5)
- 22 Strip giving going-over by Michael Atherton? (4)
- 24 Survive cargo: it's popular with NZ players (4)
- 26 Old silver piece: Italian adventurer has one inscribed (5)
- 28 Fable maybe, quite bloody around its denouement (8)
- 30 Horse ran off: cause? (3)
- 33 They perform at extremes, mark and dash around repeatedly (6, 2 words)
- 35 Back away from nettle, receiving first sign of sting? (6)
- 36 The old behaved, having accepted nuisance (5)
- 37 Appear in embroidered sari, eastern (5)
- 38 Love in serious condition – shame (5)
- 39 Cheers, about to abide by lawful financial product (7, 2 words)
- 40 Fitted with wheels exorbitantly, not ply (5)

Down

- 1 Slice of grilled meat I heat with a bun, minced (9)
- 2 Perfect answer for ticks (5)
- 3 Possession in freehold – portion of manse is included (6)
- 4 Eyes Scotch with a dash of Evian ready on the side? (4)
- 5 Toughens English in the records (7)
- 6 I dropped Margaret shortly, professed happy (5)
- 7 Sicilian location? Girl's turned up here (4)
- 8 Anti allergy drug forward injected, taken together (7, 2 words)
- 9 Paradise mostly covered with evergreens (3)
- 11 Navy caught at sea? Against Scots mostly (5)
- 14 Meat substitute, if once topping a record (6)
- 16 Tree cone scattered round heart of Savernake, diagonally (9)
- 18 Whereat partners confront each other, what youngsters can learn? (6)
- 21 Waves, or what'll create them? (7)
- 23 Closure of passage in continent limiting endless journey, long (7)
- 25 Nimble and delicate, frequently being lost (5)
- 27 Materials for boxing, so drab when crumpled? (6)
- 29 Nymph to study, going after love (5)
- 31 American lake, spiritual for poet (5)
- 32 Insurgent succeeded in mounting ambition (4)
- 34 Iberian duck in home of goose (not California) (4)
- 35 Wretch? I should think so, having forsaken her (3)

The Chambers Dictionary (2016) is recommended, but see preamble

Azed No. 2,633 solution & notes

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
U	S	H	A	P	E	D	D	C	A	C
F	L	O	L	A	G	I	R	O	L	L
L	I	V	E	R	Y	M	E	D	L	A
A	M	E	N	T	U	M	A	G	S	T
S	E	R	V	I	C	E	M	E	T	R
H	O	P	I	E	C	S	C	R	A	M
M	O	L	E	C	H	T	A	B	R	I
A	N	A	P	A	E	S	T	I	C	A
N	S	N	H	R	S	A	C	K	F	U
U	T	T	E	R	S	C	H	I	L	D
S	E	A	B	E	E	S	E	N	U	E
B	Y	R	E	E	S	U	R	G	E	N

Across 1, hap in used; 12, i roll in Ge; 14, anag. in mer(it); 21, scramb(ing); 25, a in anag.; 28, anag. incl. Cu; 32, Abe (Lincoln) in sees; 33, redpoll, type of cattle; 34, surge(O)n + (i)t.
Down 3, hove(ring); 8, (lo)co d Ger.; 11, ref. *Tom Brown's Schooldays* character; 19, l in pan + anag.; 26, aud(i)en(t); 29, 'flew'.

Rules and requests

Send correct solution and clue as indicated (on separate sheet bearing name and address, securely attached) to Azed No. 2,636, PO Box 518, Oxford OX2 6WX. Closing date Saturday 31 December 2022. Emailed entries from overseas will be accepted, addressed to jcrowther2000@hotmail.com. Please add a brief explanation of your clue (one entry only). £100, £65, £40 prizes and Azed bookplates to the three clues judged best. Extra prizes for those judged very highly commended. The results will be announced on Sunday 8 January 2023. The Azed Slip, containing details of successful competition entries and Azed's comments, is available on subscription at £16 a year for 13 issues. Cheques, payable to The Azed Slip, should be sent to The Azed Slip, Coombe Farm, Awbridge, Romsey SO51 0HN. To receive a sample slip, please send an sae to this address. For much more information on the Azed Slip, see www.azed.org.uk.

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