

Azed No. 2,664 'Eightsome Reels'

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Each numbered square in the diagram is surrounded by eight blank squares. All clues lead to answers of eight letters, and these are to be entered around their appropriate numbers, clockwise or anticlockwise, beginning anywhere. Solvers must determine where each begins and the direction in which it is to go. The four unchecked groups of three letters at the corners of the completed diagram, read anticlockwise, are words that may be found in *Chambers*.

- 1 Matched? I did so, admitted sexual attraction
- 2 Standoffishness displayed by some Methodist ancestors
- 3 Hardy types showing interest in bar?
- 4 Arguing, being frugal about rand
- 5 Stag maybe? Try venison, each cut then cooked
- 6 See His Excellency flanked by escort shuffling feet
- 7 Downplay gambling stake – no longer finger one held
- 8 Agent in being kept inside merits being punished
- 9 Old portraits: place pictures beside former queen, retiring
- 10 Notches miss the mark cutting stuffs
- 11 Makes good roster changes with beginnings of each semester
- 12 Inflorescence of e.g. hops to plunder in wall crossing
- 13 Dietary programmes, stewed greens I'm stuck into
- 14 Shield carriers are protecting fighter, last in former wars
- 15 Fine silk tears badly clothing nurse
- 16 Wretched quality, without a hint of excellence, in singer
- 17 Lists arrived in components of cortège
- 18 Don't hurry, I mean to say in store department?
- 19 Hints for dogs
- 20 Wilfully plotting in secret
- 21 Scot's painful twinge of the ears, being constipated

- 22 Sleuth, amateur, has sniff around for wallet
- 23 Rows of housing, short, unfinished, for accommodating people
- 24 Set cutting plant in pond freeze again
- 25 Putin too devious to beat in contest
- 26 About to perish, love hillside, yielding
- 27 Uncle maybe rewound record in which it appears
- 28 Lampadary, a monster, put in yonder
- 29 A boon for asthmatics, indeed when taken in disturbed rest
- 30 E.g. Chinese relation getting relocated
- 31 Half of us not drinking in wooden bar, old-fashioned
- 32 Wherein fossils may be found I missed shattered bovine, one back inside
- 33 Crack vessel with head of spoon during boil
- 34 She once dressed with line in V-shaped arrangements?
- 35 Aperture rodent has then refashioned inside
- 36 Loosener I repeat bowling with last of eleven in

Every word is in The Chambers Dictionary (2016). See also preamble.

Azed No. 2,661 solution & notes

1	S	P	O	N	D	O	O	L	I	C	K	S
10	C	R	I	E	R	A	L	A	G	O	O	P
13	R	O	S	T	E	R	I	N	G	T	K	R
	A	B	S	C	A	E	V	I	C	T	E	E
16	T	O	T	A	R	A	E	N	T	E	R	A
18	C	H	A	F	E	R	T	A	R	R	Y	D
	H	P	R	E	M	S	C	H	A	P	E	S
26	T	I	S	S	U	E	L	A	T	I	S	H
29	E	N	T	I	T	L	E	U	A	N	U	E
	S	C	O	P	E	D	A	N	T	I	S	E
32	T	U	N	A	S	O	T	T	A	C	E	T
34	S	T	E	N	T	M	A	S	T	E	R	S

Across 1, pond 00 in slicks; 15, etc I've (rev.) + e; 21, (i)mpres(s) (anag.); 29, entit(y) + le; 34, anag. + Rs.
Down 3, fact in e'en (all rev.); 7, prett(y) (rev.) in coin; 8, OK in ker(b); 20, ta-ta in rat; 22, set in tum (all rev.); 24, (cir)cle a T; 30, cf. rusé.

Rules and requests

Send your solution to Azed No. 2,664, The Observer, Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU. Entries must be postmarked no later than the Saturday following publication of the puzzle and must reach us within 10 days of publication of the puzzle (ie by Wednesday week following publication). Three readers' solutions will be selected at random from all those received by the Observer by that date. Entries will continue to be selected at random until three correct solutions have been found. A £25 book token will be awarded for each of the three correct solutions selected. The book token will be sent by post.

For further information visit: theguardian.com/crosswords/2014/dec/30/azed-faq

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