



MINISAMPLE

guest editors: G Natural & Tahnan

Welcome! You hold in your hands a special introductory edition of *The ENIGMA*, the monthly publication of The National Puzzlers' League. We hope this "minisample" will be your ticket to joining us in a world of enigmatic artistry and brain-teasing entertainment.

The NPL offers many opportunities for puzzling camaraderie. The league holds a four-day summer convention, while individual members organize regional gatherings and participate in online activities, including a chat room and mailing list. And in the pages of *The ENIGMA* we strive to outwit each other with new conundrums and spur each other to greater heights of ingenuity, cleverness and wit.

Each issue of *The ENIGMA* (usually 20 or more pages) overflows with a variety of puzzles designed to challenge both newbie and veteran. Created by our members, these puzzles include cryptic crosswords, cryptograms, anagrams, word squares (and more complex geometrical forms) and a panoply of other linguistic inventions. But what makes *The ENIGMA* unique is its collection of what we call "flats," puzzles in verse form that have proven over our 130-plus years to provide endless opportunities for creativity and continuous solving enjoyment.

Flats might seem odd at first—they're not the sort of puzzle you're likely to have stumbled across, since ours is the only English-language publication to feature them—but once you know the basic structure, we think you'll love them. In each verse, one or more words are missing, replaced by words like "ONE" and "TWO". Your task is to figure out the missing words, using hints provided by the verse. Here's an example:

**title** ————— LAST-LETTER CHANGE (7) ————— **enumeration**  
"Holy Orthodonture!" Robin cried,  
Beholding Joker's SECOND leering rictus. ————— **cuewords**  
"We've tracked you to your FIRSTY but, now inside,  
The Joke's on us! It seems, you fiend, you've tricked us!"  
**byline** ————— =G NATURAL, New York NY

First, check out the **title**; it tells you what kind of words you need. In this case, you're looking to transform one word into another by changing its last letter (like turning "barn" to "bard" or "routing" to "routine"). The **enumeration**, in parentheses, tells you that both answer words are seven letters long. The capitalized **cuewords** act as placeholders, showing you where the answer words belong, though keep in mind that the *answer words* need not rhyme or scan the way the cuewords do—they only have to make sense in context.

(Flats also include a **byline** identifying the author, not by name but by nom de plume. This use of pseudonyms dates back centuries, and can be seen in British cryptic construction to this day.)

So, here are the two answer words: "hideout" and "hideous"—they tracked Joker to his HIDEOUT, there beholding his HIDEOUS leer. If this example piques your interest, then you're ready to turn the page and solve some more flats, along with a cryptic crossword and other goodies. And if you enjoy this minisample *ENIGMA*, we hope you'll join us in the NPL! For more information and sample puzzles, you can visit [www.puzzlers.org](http://www.puzzlers.org).

### JOIN US!

Annual membership in the National Puzzlers' League is \$30 per year (in North America, receiving *The ENIGMA* in print); \$35 for International (outside North America, receiving *The ENIGMA* in print); \$35 for LARGE PRINT (in North America, receiving the large-print *ENIGMA*); and \$20 for online-only. Send your check, made out to the National Puzzlers' League, to the treasurer, \$8.90: Katie Hamill, 27 Lanark Rd, Arlington, MA 02476, or pay via PayPal on our website: [www.puzzlers.org/joining](http://www.puzzlers.org/joining).

For additional copies of this minisample, download the PDF from [enigma.puzzlers.org](http://enigma.puzzlers.org), or send a SASE to the editor, BTNIRN: Sandy Kutin, 16 Magnolia Ln, Princeton, NJ 08540, [editor@puzzlers.org](mailto:editor@puzzlers.org).

**DELETION:** A word becomes a new word when an interior letter is removed. Example: simile→smile

1. DELETION (7, 6) (A, B)  
The profs won't help me do my work.  
TAs object, but I just smirk.  
I got two F's, but don't blame *me*—  
It's obvious the A is B!  
=JEFFURRY, New York NY

2. DELETION (8, 7) (ONE, TWO)  
He's really a farmer, not much of a doctor,  
Alas, though, the only one near.  
TWO surgery means that you'll get a ONE  
poultice  
And leave with an eyeful of ear.  
=TINHORN, Los Angeles CA

**TERMINAL DELETION:** A word becomes a new word when its first and last letters are removed. (Asterisks are used to indicate capitalized words.) Example: scribe→crib

3. TERMINAL DELETION (8, \*6)  
Portlanders say, to avoid all confusion:  
"In SHORTER there's rain. It's a LONGER  
conclusion."  
=MR. TEX, Los Angeles CA

4. TERMINAL DELETION (7, 5)  
Throwing furry critters is my favorite  
avocation;  
Clay sea SHORTER LONGER is my very best  
creation.  
=AMALGAM, San Antonio TX

**WORD DELETION:** A word (IN) is removed from inside a longer word (TOTAL), leaving a third word (OUT). (Here the asterisked word is part of a proper noun phrase.) Example: performance—man =perforce

5. WORD DELETION (9; 4, \*5) (TOTAL; IN, OUT)  
From St. OUT's IN, the long way 'round,  
Past papal pelf to Sistine suite,  
My TOTAL measures five-plus miles:  
Exalt the soul, exhaust the feet.  
=MONA, Pebble Beach CA

**BEHEADMENT:** A word becomes a new word when its first letter is removed. Example: slaughter→laughter

6. BEHEADMENT (7, 6)  
As "William Tell" was finishing, the FIRST  
WORD dropped his bow.  
I picked it up and gave it back: an OTHER  
WORD, you know.  
=ULLY BYRD, Grand Chicken IC

(When two members collaborate in the writing of a flat, as in the previous example, they often combine their noms and cities, leading to fanciful constructions like Grand Chicken IC, a portmanteau of Grand Chain IL and Aiken SC.)

**LETTER CHANGE:** One letter is changed in a word to produce a new word. Example: a third-letter change: pastry→pantry

7. FOURTH-LETTER CHANGE (6)  
You must pay the ONE, or else your baby will  
die! die! die!  
The amount will be TWO, determined by  
rolling a die! die! die!  
=ELF MCCAY, TexasCon TX

**REPEATED-LETTER CHANGE:** All instances of a given letter in a word or phrase are changed to produce a new word or phrase. Example: porpoise→tortoise

8. REPEATED-LETTER CHANGE (7 2, \*3 \*3  
\*3) (can be sung to the tune of "Auld Lang  
Syne")  
You'll shepherd out the old at last,  
But while you're ONE the new,  
Resound those bells for Shepherds past,  
For movie stars like TWO.  
For wonder dogs like TWO, my friend,  
For wonder dogs like TWO.  
We'll raise a cup of kibble yet  
For movie stars like TWO.  
=JAHNAN, Nashomerville TA

**CHARADE:** A word is broken into two or more shorter words. Example: TOTAL = scarcity; ONE = scar, TWO = city

9. CHARADE (6; 3, 3) (COMBINE; A, B)  
My love for you I long to show;  
I want to B you something fine.  
Alas, a lack: I'm poor, sans dough.  
A rose is not in my COMBINE.  
But to the garden I will go;  
A new-formed A will make you mine.  
=BADIR, Princeton NJ

**TRANSPOSAL:** A word becomes a different one when its letters are rearranged (commonly called an "anagram"). Example: sleuth→hustle

(In the first example, the cuewords are themselves transposals.)

10. TRANSPOSAL (5)  
A lovely floral centerpiece  
Adorns our dining table.  
It's beautiful, except those times  
A BLEATS falls on your STABLE.  
=EMBANGLER, TexasCon TX

11. **TRANSPOSAL** (11)  
 I have a ghostly girlfriend.  
 We've ethereal relations.  
 The fact, though, that she's **SECOND**  
 Clearly **FIRST** these situations.  
 =**TINHORN**, Los Angeles CA

**LETTER BANK:** A shorter word or phrase with no repeated letters (the "bank") is used to form a longer word or phrase, using all the letters in the bank at least once and as many more times as needed. Example: lens→senselessness

12. **LETTER BANK** (2 3 5, \*4 \*9 \*8)  
 The ugly duckling grew to be a swan,  
 But don't let **LONGER PHRASE** just put you on.  
 Are you a cygnet, baby? No such luck!  
 It's **SHORTER PHRASE** you'll be an ugly duck!  
 =**XEMU**, Bridgewater NJ

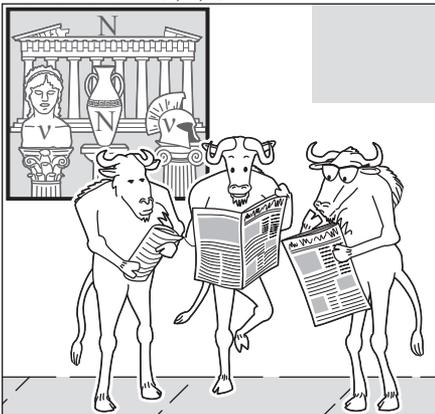
(In the following example the cuewords exemplify the relationship between the basewords, i.e., one is a letter bank of the other.)

13. **LETTER BANK** (\*6, 9)  
 When **DEAN** was lean he ruled the screen.  
 Marlon's work was tough but tender.  
 And you can view his films online:  
 The early ones, when he was slender,  
 And latter work (his fatter work);  
 For that you'll need **ADDENDA**.  
 =**MR. TEX**, Los Angeles CA

**HOMONYM:** Two unrelated words or phrases are pronounced the same but spelled differently. Example: hair→hare

(In the first example, the three parts of the answer are represented pictorially, rather than in verse.)

14. **HOMONYM** (3, 4, 4)



=**TOONHEAD!**, Boston MA

15. **HOMONYM** (7, 2 \*4)  
 A cowboy's career is quite messy, I fear,  
 Too dirty to mention. His **FIRST** needs  
 attention.  
 To Autry this didn't seem strange.  
 "Oh, **SECOND**," said Dale, when he'd come off  
 the trail,  
 "A bath's your connection to get my affection  
 When you're back at our home on the range."  
 =**SOUTH NATURAL**, Holy Ork MY

**HETERONYM:** Two words or phrases have the same spelling but different pronunciations and spacing. Example: notable→not able (In the first flat the underlined words are a title.)

16. **HETERONYM** (9; \*3 \*1. \*1. 4)  
 Iran's imams hate sexy soaps.  
 This Fox show makes them fret.  
 That **ONE WORD** may just have a point.  
 Is **MANY WORDS**? You bet.  
 =**SLIK**, Seattle WA

17. **HETERONYM** (\*6, 2 4)  
 Just **FIRST** the name of Britney Spears;  
 Then you can **SECOND** pix for years.  
 =**MR. TEX**, Los Angeles CA

**REBUS:** A word or phrase is represented by letters. The word "abalone"—read as "a B, alone"—might be represented by

B

while the word "largess"—read as "large SS"—might be represented by

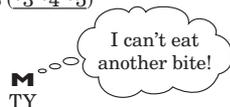
SS

18. **REBUS** (\*6) (can be sung to the tune of "Venus" by Bananarama)

AA

A goddess on the mountain top,  
 The Parthenon her seat of fame,  
 The summit of wisdom and mind,  
 And **ANSWER** was her name.  
 She's thought it.  
 Yeah, baby, she's thought it.  
 She is **ANSWER**; she inspires  
 The brain's desires.  
 =**SPROUT**, Somerville MA

19. **REBUS** (\*3 \*4 \*5)



A film like **ANSWER** shows there's great enjoyment  
 In dancing nude when faced with unemployment.  
 =**MO' NATURAL**, Pebblework CY

**ANAGRAM:** A word or phrase which, when its letters are rearranged, produces the answer word or phrase. One phrase is a description of or allusion to the other. Example: NAME FOR SHIP is an anagram of H.M.S. PINAFORE.

- 20. LATTES? IN HASTE, GO NW (\*7, \*10)
- 21. TRUE GENERALS (\*1. \*1. \*5, \*1. \*1. \*3)  
=ULK, Grand Chain IL
- 22. CLAIM: "HECK, I SENT IT (HEH)!" (3 5  
2 2 3 4)  
=WABBIT, Cote St. Luc QC

**CRYPTOGRAM:** A message in cipher, where each letter in the coded message stands for another letter wherever it appears. (No letter stands for itself.) The title provides a hint.

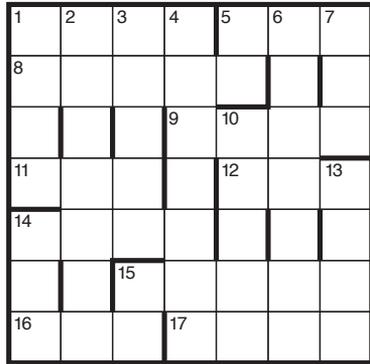
- 23. Biting wit. =ASOBI, Yardley PA
- ZYYXWVU TSS RQPO NYYNM WL YTLR.
- KOWVZ SQNL QJ IWSZ, GOPLM TVK
- JSQLL QJNYV TVK IWVK RQPO QHV
- GPLWVYLL.

**MINISAMPLE CRYPTIC** by G NATURAL, New York NY

This specially designed minisample cryptic is just like a normal cryptic crossword, with this exception: a small piece should be removed from each of six entries before they are placed in the grid. The resulting entries are all words. For help on how to solve cryptic crosswords, go to [www.puzzlers.org](http://www.puzzlers.org).

**ACROSS**

- 1 Gloria Steinem re-edits finite *Ms*.
- 5 South Central: 60% retired
- 8 Bulb is on; I lit
- 9 Care about land area
- 11 Kingdom in Iceland is home to saint
- 12 Primate's homily cut short by a third return of loud noise
- 14 Help a criminal beat badly
- 15 Ringers live with 50-50 success, at first
- 16 Eli redesigned necklace
- 17 Taper giving little light is holding in hydrogen



**DOWN**

- 1 Confused, Frodo loses last piece of Mordor bread
- 2 Raise rebuilt *Le Bonne...*
- 3 ... after Nice's reconstruction
- 4 A sotted, blotto drunk
- 5 Henchman keeps ten hidden in Minnesota
- 6 Reveals United Nations luxury car

- 7 Digit to transcendental number
- 10 Lunch I like includes hot food
- 13 Zip code for T
- 14 Internet company returns 3/4 of loan
- 15 Guarded by Carib, I'm in island part of the Bahamas

**SOLUTIONS**

1. faculty, faulty 2. cormmeal, corneal 3. foregone, Oregon 4. pottery, other 5. pedometer, dome, Peter 6. passist, assist 7. ransom, random 8. ringing in, Rin Tin Tin 9. budge; bud, get 10. petal, plate 11. complicates, ectoplasmic 12. in the cards, Hans Christian Andersen 13. Brandt, broadband 14. nus, news, gnu 15. hygiene, hi Gene 16. theocracy, *The OC*, racy 17. Google, go ogle 18. Athena [A, then A] 19. *The Full Monty* [the full M on TY] 20. Seattle, Washington 21. U.S. Grant, R.E. Lee 22. the check is in the mail 23. Keeping all your teeth is easy. Drink lots of milk, brush and floss often and mind your own bussness.  
 CRYPTIC: Across: feminist, out, onion, acre, Dominic, hominid, abet, bells, jel, diminish. Down: food, ennoble, since, toasted, minion, unroll, toe, dash, AOL, Bimini (The word "mini" is removed—sampled—from the six answers in which it appears.)