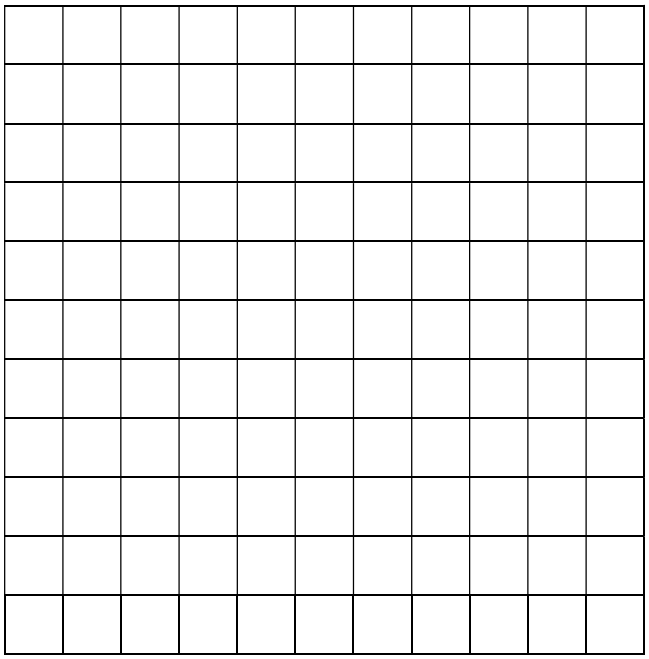
Help!

Guess the words defined by the following clues. The answers vary in length from three to eleven letters long and of these, 2 are capitalized, 1 is an abbreviation, and 3 are 2 word phrases. The punctuation in the clues mayor may not help the solver.

Enter the answers in the grid one after the other starting in the top left corner and in the same order as the clues. Across words that don't end at the rightmost square of the row will continue on the leftmost square of the next row. Similarly, down words that do not end in the bottom square will continue at the top of the next column.

Based on 2 rules, 4 across words and 5 down words will have to be shortened to other valid words before they are entered in the grid. The 9 removed parts, taken in order from the across and then the down clues, will indicate how the mystery entry is commonly communicated.



Across

1. Steamship covers many time periods (5)
2. Shelter you, or too lacking of nothings (4)
3. Set-up forest, characteristic without right (4)
4. Subscribe to *"Insider"* to put money on (3)
5. Of the east, a territory! (5)
6. No action word that is, includes the first toothy misalignment (8)
7. Grass piece leads somewhere - or doesn't (3)
8. Tepid or boiling gemstone (7)
9. Beginnings once, removed each rock (3)
10. Occupant will come back in if given energy (6)
11. Title of *"The Pagan"* (3)
12. Bring back salad without final oh (4)
13. Least shortened part of abomination (3)
14. *Mystery Entry* (11)
15. He is a seaman going to the east (3)
16. Challenges seed if scattered (6)
17. Stylized colorer will do it over! (6)
18. The Sudan has a western custom (3)
19. Period belongs to man to complete a specific objective .... (3,3)
20. .... or the other period with topper (3,4)
21. Physical unit for example goes back to Nebraska (4)
22. Edge sent back to a red giant (4)
23. Blasted lab with color! (6)
24. Damper brakes - hot pads (7)
25. Gathered a gathering for the news guy (7)
26. Extremely modest good woman follows English beverage (6)

Down

1. Reverse without last and right cut! (5)
2. Apiece of a piece, a challenge (4)
3. Adds herbal mixture and gets trash (10)
4. Desk of a nabob marching westwards (4)
5. A learner will say *"darn"* and ... (4)
6. ... be first to outfit the prison (4)
7. Bruce comes back for the fish (3)
8. Gallery with sculptures - first for style (5)
9. Dad abhors complicated instrument panel (9)
10. Demon is somewhat better going up! (4)
11. Agitate good man I rescued initially (4)
12. A point for a period of weakness (6)
13. Gangling animal came home, yes (5)
14. Monument made of burnished steel (5)
15. Goodness debunked initially to patronize (4)
16. More charming copper, termite lacking a biter (5)
17. Going insane lacking northern vegetable (5)
18. Pass her expressions! (7)
19. Letter of France, escapee (3)
20. Initials mostly off all the surrounding water (4)
21. One hundred bits of serotonin (3)
22. Initial medium is hydrogen and it's bad slugging (7)
23. Return cadet to detail somewhat randomly scattered (6)
24. Require it to drop in, coming back crazier (7)
25. Angry at myself, the god and the heartless (5)
26. Sense a poem magically remove barrier! (4,6)