

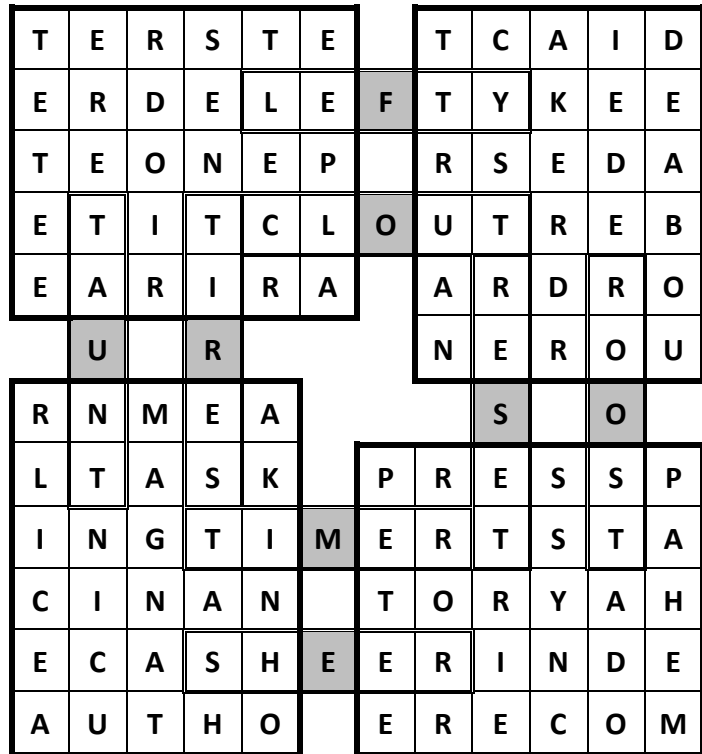
## Connections

Guess the words defined by the clues below. The answers vary in length from 3 to 8 letters long and of these, 3 are capitalized, 2 are acronyms, 2 are foreign and 2 are archaic.

This puzzle consists of 4 connected grids of 30 squares each; 2 are a 5x6 shape and the other 2 are 6x5. The grid clues are presented in 4 groups, each group is for one of the 4 grids but it is the solvers responsibility to determine which group is for which grid.

For each grouping, the first answer will start somewhere in the first row of the appropriate grid and then the other clues will be entered in order starting with the across entries. When you reach the rightmost square of a row, continue at the first square of the next row. When the bottom right corner is reached, the next letter will be in the top left and the words will proceed down the columns. Finally, the end letters of the last down clue will fill in the top row as needed.

The grids are connected by eight 5 letter 'connector' words clued in alphabetical order below. When the puzzle is completed correctly the 8 shaded squares from those 'connectors', reading from top to bottom and left to right will provide an appropriate title for the puzzle.



1. I take some alum powder - **meal**
  2. Assigning to initially and enquiring! - **tasking**
  3. The jerk is a heretic, but not here - **tic**
  4. To train an elephant is somewhat harebrained - **inane**
  5. Bits and bobs for example - **cash**
  6. Maybe King is also a golden god - **author**
  7. Liechtenstein church for contemptible ones - **lice**
  8. And not the first soldier - **ant**
  9. Manicured part of the hospital - **NICU**
  10. Incorrectly tag and name the industrialist - **magnate**
  11. Set there and set here, first set aside - **stash**
  12. Corresponding with a relative - **akin**
  13. The author needn't have an instrument - **horn**
1. Stylish characteristic of hypertext - **pert**
  2. Analytic or machine part - **stator**
  3. Grass is making a comeback, hooray - **yah**
  4. Can I retire back in Ireland - **Erin**
  5. Coming back from there, Edward's part is to be the mower man - **Deere**
  6. Come outside e.g., dog and go after - **compete**
  7. Deviation finally, take your lover too far - **error**
  8. Has more attempts to unclog arteries, first off - **retries**
  9. Ace one, you use no vowels coming home to harmonize - **sync**
  10. Norwegian place of the strangest adherents - **stad**
  11. Soapy baths, every other one is for the swimmer - **opah**
  12. Measure the media for ruler - **empress**

1. African official is from America, I doubt it - **caid**
  2. Take away a yes instead for child - **tyke**
  3. Gaelic Prophet is confused - **Erse**
  4. Caress in Scotland and Canada, utilitarian - **daut**
  5. About barium for the last rod - **rebar**
  6. Finished with first real missile - **drone**
  7. Decompose turn, inside extreme vanquishment - **rout**
  8. Of being away without approval of aunt, cry rape - **truancy**
  9. Bare looper is a good man about the mischievous rake - **streaker**
  10. Dehydrated doctor that is doctored initially - **dried**
  11. Inhaled or exhaled? Partly return and wear - **erode**
  12. Sailor isn't in or nearby - **about**
1. Take control of female, saint going before the English queen - **steer**
  2. Remove and rework, elevated without the core - **delete**
  3. Half of a pair and of nonets - **one**
  4. A hamster for example, it is minor in Marseilles... - **petit**
  5. ...the Marseilles, that has a vehicle about it being unobstructed - **clear**
  6. Being exasperated, author will provide a grade - **irate**
  7. Peg these alternatively - **tee**
  8. Before the other three finally - **ere**
  9. Sailor first, then do be slow - **tardo**

10. First bit for the revenue group - IRS
11. Two points for the honorific will denominate - entitle
12. Indian person initially will sneak up on you - creep
13. Not before the first inside the real revolutionary - later

#### Connectors

1. Hit Ranger with chlorine instead of scandium - clout
2. Sesame street salesperson felt badly, yes at first - lefty
3. For the endings, the last endings to clear - reset
4. To encircle, first sit or return to seat - roost
5. Like stockings maybe for the female deer finally - sheer
6. Tease first relative! - taunt
7. Bring back forward measuring device - timer
8. Rubber, rings in those rites returning - tires

**The shaded letters spell: FOURSOME**