

Gossiping (solution)

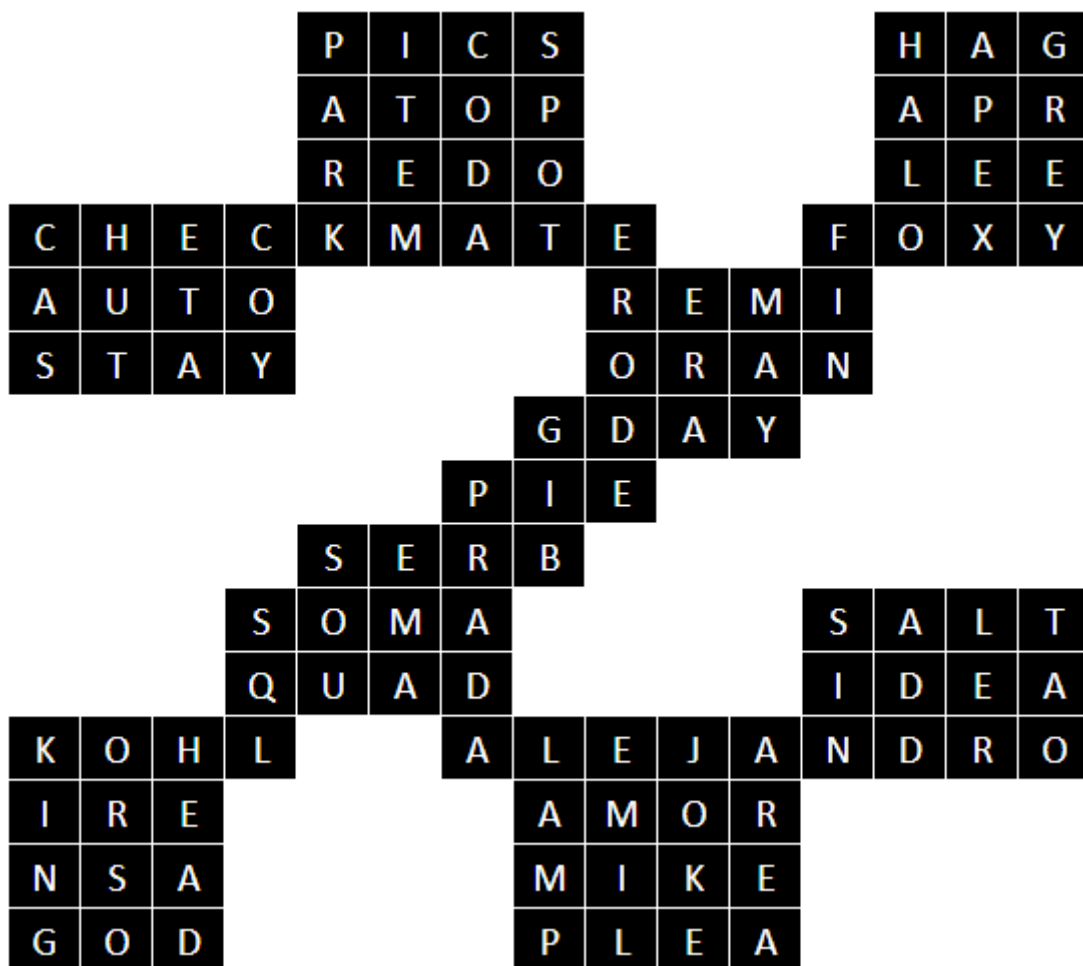
by Celestine Lau

Solvers are presented with two sets of crossword clues, a Day set, and a Night set, which is written with white lettering on a black background. These can be solved independently as diagramless crosswords.

This is the solution to the Day grid.

B	L	A	H					H	E	R	B				
Y	O	G	A					O	A	H	U				
E	W	E	R					G	R	E	Y				
			M	T	L				S	E	A	T			
				A	L	A	S				T	H	U	S	
				P	A	L	O					O	N	T	
R	E	C	T	A	N	G	L	E				M	U	S	A
A	L	O	N	S	O	A		M	A	N	A	G	E	R	
G	I	F	T			E	A	C	H	O	T	H	E	R	
E	T	F					F	E	U	D					
S	E	E	L				T	E	R	A					
		E	T	T	U				A	L	E				
			C	A	S	H					L	A	S	T	
			O	R	E	O					A	R	E	A	
			L	O	R	D					N	E	E	D	

This is the solution to the Night grid. As suggested by the presentation of the clues, the grid should be considered to be inverted in color, such that the squares where letters are filled in are black, with white lettering.



At this point, solvers might notice a few things:

- The answer GREY AREA appears in both grids, suggesting that it is important.
- The shape of the two grids are almost the complement of each other, with the exception of 18 squares that are shared.
- The note below the puzzle, “Grid is 15x15 ...” uses the singular “grid” instead of “grids”. This is intentional and indicates that the two grids should be combined into one.

When combining the two grids, squares that only appear in the Day or Night grids should remain their color, while squares that appear in both grids should be considered “grey”, as suggested by the “GREY AREA” answers and the fact that we are combining black and white.

The resultant grid is shown below:

B	L	A	H	P	I	C	S	H	E	R	B	H	A	G
Y	O	G	A	A	T	O	P	O	A	H	U	A	P	R
E	W	E	R	R	E	D	O	G	R	E	Y	D	R	O
C	H	E	M\C	T\K	L\M	A	T	E	S	E	A\F	T\O	X	Y
A	U	T	O	A	L	A	S	R	E	M	T\I	H	U	S
S	T	A	Y	P	A	L	O	O	R	A	N	O	N	T
R	E	C	T	A	N	G	L\G	E\D	A	Y	M	U	S	A
A	L	O	N	S	O	A\P	I	M\E	A	N	A	G	E	R
G	I	F	T	S	E	E\R	A\B	C	H	O	T	H	E	R
E	T	F	S	O	M	A	F	E	U	D	S	A	L	T
S	E	E	L\Q	U	A	D	T	E	R	A	I	D	E	A
K	O	E\H	T\L	T	U	A	L	E	A\J	L\A	E\N	D	R	O
I	R	E	C	A	S	H	A	M	O	R	L	A	S	T
N	S	A	O	R	E	O	M	I	K	E	A	R	E	A
G	O	D	L	O	R	D	P	L	E	A	N	E	E	D

Note that the Night letters in the grey cells comprise of the letters from A to R exactly once each. This can be used as an ordering over the Day letters in those cells, giving the answer **LAME MALE TATTLETALE**.