

Performing (solution)

by Ong Kah Kien

The first step is to solve the 16 given word clues with the help of the provided answer enumerations, and that the answers are in alphabetical order. Most of the answers are not common words/phrases, which is a hint that their letter composition is important. The flavortext hints the next step which is a transposal of the letters in the answers, using the crossword-style anagram indicators “go off” and “travel around to different places”. The flavortext also clues that the result should be a “band”, but there is an extra letter in each answer that needs to be deleted. Hence the aha is that a transdeletion (transposal/anagram and delete a letter) can be performed (pun intended) on each answer to yield the name of a performing band. Specifically, the commonality is that they are all UK bands, which serves as a confirmation to this step, and potentially helps in the identification of some of the bands hidden within these answers. The table below summarizes the clue answers (in the given alphabetical order), band names and deleted letters:

Given clue	Clue answer	Band	Deleted letter
The pool of sportsmen and sportswomen that a national federation has as a foundation, and seeks to grow or develop	ATHLETE BASE	THE BEATLES	A
One of two access levels in Microsoft Management Console, this one permits full control of the environment	AUTHOR MODE	MOTÖRHEAD	U
Children hand toy in the form of a senior Aboriginal Australian	ELDER PUPPET	DEEP PURPLE	T
Horse	EQUINE	QUEEN	I
The result of Origami	FOLDED PAPER	DEF LEPPARD	O
Jang Dong-min, Lee Sang-min and Hong Jin-ho could be regarded as these	GENIUSES	GENESIS	U
Permanently open-top container ship	HATCHLESS	THE CLASH	S
To compulsively stash away potential puzzles, for instance	HOARD IDEAS	RADIOHEAD	S
A category of routing protocols that deals with routing between Autonomous Systems, as opposed to within a single Autonomous System	INTERDOMAIN	IRON MAIDEN	T
Roger who played Barty Crouch	LLOYD-PACK	COLDPLAY	K
Animated children shows headlined by Disney's iconic mouse character	MICKY CARTOONS	ARCTIC MONKEYS	O
Fans at a soccer match often try to do this to each other	OUTCHEER	THE CURE	O
What a Singaporean might call the stamp on a receipt after using it to claim a free gift	REDEEMED CHOP	DEPECHE MODE	R
An impolite AirBNB host, for instance	RUDE OWNER	NEW ORDER	U
Female directors Coppola and Djama	SOFIAS	OASIS	F
Relating to, or conveyed by a system such as mobiles, used to transmit sound between points	TELEPHONIC	THE POLICE	N

Note that while the letter O in Motörhead has an umlaut, this is purely the band’s design choice and not a linguistic feature of their name, hence the letter has been treated like a standard O as intended.

The next step is to use the given cities, which can now be mapped to each of the UK bands. Besides being an anagram indicator, the flavortext phrase “travel around to different places” also describes how bands go overseas on concert tours to perform at different cities/stops. And each of these bands has performed at their corresponding given city exactly once (and for one show/night only). The dates of the performances can be found through an online search or using a concert archive website like [Guestpectacular](https://www.guestspectacular.com/). The earlier extracted/deleted letters dates, when reordered in chronological order using the corresponding performance dates, give ANS IS OUT OF UK TOUR, hence the thematic answer to this puzzle **OUT OF UK TOUR**. The table below summarizes the clue answers (in the given alphabetical order), band names and deleted letters:

Band	Given city	Concert date	Extracted letter
THE BEATLES	Manila, Philippines	4 July 1966	A
THE POLICE	Poughkeepsie, USA	23 October 1978	N
THE CLASH	Turku, Finland	4 August 1979	S
QUEEN	Monterrey, Mexico	9 October 1981	I
RADIOHEAD	Göteborg, Sweden	4 June 1993	S
THE CURE	Forlì, Italy	22 October 1996	O
MOTÖRHEAD	Dinxperlo, Netherlands	13 June 1999	U
DEEP PURPLE	Bali, Indonesia	14 April 2004	T
ARCTIC MONKEYS	Bordeaux, France	8 November 2005	O
OASIS	Winterthur, Switzerland	2 February 2006	F
GENESIS	Chorzów, Poland	21 June 2007	U
COLDPLAY	Porto, Portugal	18 May 2012	K
IRON MAIDEN	Beijing, China	24 April 2016	T
DEF LEPPARD	Porto Alegre, Brazil	26 September 2017	O
NEW ORDER	Prague, Czech Republic	3 October 2019	U
DEPECHE MODE	Klagenfurt, Austria	21 July 2023	R

Constructor’s notes:

The answer for this puzzle required some contextualizing with the aid of the puzzle and its theme, so I took the opportunity (and challenge) to come up with an idea to write a puzzle around the answer. The idea to include the element of band tours into the theme was quite clear, but it was only some time later that I realized that the tour theme could also be thematically used for the wordplay solving portion of the puzzle as an anagram indicator. Using the performance date as an ordering gave the final layer to the puzzle, although it was very difficult to find suitable unique cities within the date range that a particular band only visited once. The bands had hundreds of concerts, and often revisited the same cities on subsequent tours. The UK bands picked are all famous ones, and 10 of them have even played in Singapore, so hopefully should be easier and satisfying to identify. Still, there were other iconic ones that were omitted due to the puzzle constraints and deserved a shout-out, such as The Rolling Stones, Pink Floyd, The Who, Sex Pistols, Black Sabbath, Led Zeppelin, Blur and Joy Division (though I already included Oasis).