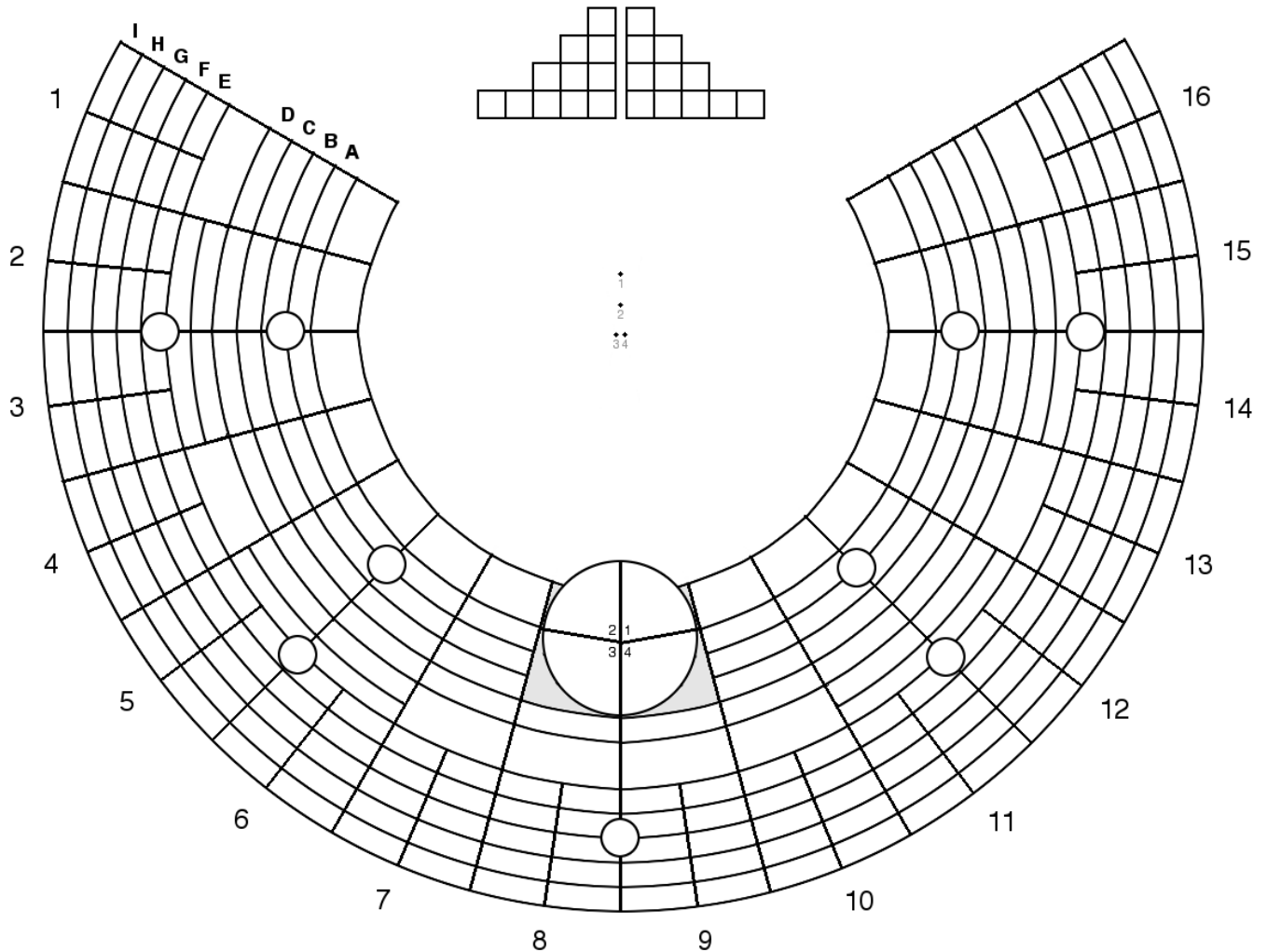


Transformations

By Negroni



Answers for the radial sections go from the outside in, and are listed in any order within sections. Most sections have three answers, two on the outside split by a vertical line, and one more on the inside. The shorter sections 8 and 9 have only two answers; one is five letters, entered normally, and one is seven letters, entered normally up to the large circle, including depositing a letter at its correct position into the larger square. In sections 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, and 16, the two outside answers are six letters long, and one letter (the same letter in both) gets skipped and is deposited into the first larger square. This is also the first letter of the inside answer, which is also six letters long, and again, one letter gets skipped and deposited into the larger square in the innermost ring. In sections 2, 3, 5, 6, 11, 12, 14, and 15, the two outside answers are five letters long and entered normally, while the inside answer is seven letters long, again skipping and depositing one letter into the larger square in the innermost ring.

The radial answers are checked by rings A through I, with multiple answers entered one after the other starting at the left side and going counterclockwise. Rings A and B are interrupted periodically by small circles, where an answer from either ring A or ring B deposits a letter, at its correct position. Answers in ring E similarly deposit letters in each small circle along the way. Lastly, there is a small circle that interrupts rings F and G; an answer from each ring deposits a letter, leaving 2 letters deposited there. Rings A, B, and C are interrupted by a larger circle, but they simply ignore that and continue with their answers on the other side.

Four clues undergo a transformation, with a single word needing to be anagrammed before solving (one new word is a proper noun). If this word is the *n*th word in the clue, take the *n*th letter of the clue and drop it into a quadrant in the large circle (the first such clue to appear drops the letter into the quadrant marked 1, after which they go counterclockwise). Thirteen other clues also undergo a transformation, with one word swapping one letter for another letter before solving (one new word is a proper noun). The new letters, in clue order, will tell you where we are, and the letters you replaced give you the types of transformations we are concerned with, which will also give you a clue to the year.

Four ring answers, two on each side of the grid, undergo appropriate transformations before being entered into the grid (one answer is from a transformed clue). The four small circles on each side spell out the source of those transformations for that side. The unlabeled double-width ring between D and E contains four groups spanning three sections comprised of one large square and four smaller squares. There are two of these groups on each side of the four larger central squares. When anagrammed, the letters in these groups spell out, on the left, another source for an instance of these transformations, and on the right, the person being transformed and what they become. The letters in all of the larger squares should be taken one by one, in alphabetical order of the clues that gave the answers from which they were deposited (if there are two such clues, use the first one to appear), and placed into the grid located in the top center, from left to right and top to bottom, to spell where in this place we might experience our own personal transformation.

Now, take the letters in the large circle and transform them into a common code used in environments quite different from this one. Each coded letter is to be placed at its corresponding numbered dot in the center of the grid, with the dot acting as the natural center. The width of each coded letter is similar, about the width of a cell in the central grid above the drawing. Draw the coded letters at 1 and 2 such that they touch, with 2 twice as tall as 1. The letters coded at 3 and 4 should be drawn five times taller than wide. The proper noun made by the letters in the large circle and the two seven-letter answers in sections 8 and 9 combine to give you a (non-cryptic) clue whose answer is what you have drawn. Finally, the two letters from the remaining small circle (row G, then row F) followed by the letters in the four large squares just above it (central letters first, then outer letters) give you a phrase describing what we are going to do with the object you've drawn as a final transformation.

Sections

- 1 Parsimonious girl chases faux fur
Small threads live in Christmas trees
Note endless vermin; noted
- 2 Old is least new
Nomad going after rejected reservation
in ski town
Beer containing bone broth essentially
Mexican beverage
- 3 Displaying certain temper, ranted
incoherently around university
Second person is not available for scene
Summer fruit without pit left mineral
- 4 Appraise keeping strong diamonds
transported on small moat
Employers losing head for fall-blooming
plants
Grumbles start in East, interrupting
police patrols
- 5 Southeast Whiskey Revolution in
medieval courts
Blubber fuel mixture is earth-shaking
Tailless bird that can't fly carried in
European waterway
- 6 Left roof worker drunk again?
Walk at last with fine female pheasant
At start, tries going through large
gathering to eat sumptuously
- 7 Posse penning note adding a barrier
Photography uses this element for moon
down in East
Waste beginning with the third time
fossil fuels reign (2 wds)
- 8 Uneven ear monster is uneven
Recommendation: speak around north
part of Michigan hosting Republican
- 9 War order pause at Notre Dame
Detective in two articles about bees
- 10 Sparrow's father with temperature,
constant fever
Positions worms
Couple with ruby having multiple levels
- 11 Runs Russian River in the countryside
Inspects plently aboard steamship

- Characters of macabre nature in district
of Lima
- 12 Refuge near channel's nadir
Characters who mock soot smasher
Spike behind a large tree-lined courtyard
 - 13 Example of fauna in the ocean or bay
Reserved fashion street
Shortstop interrupts confused Mike with
romantic request (2 wds)
 - 14 Knife Fight star follows sarcastic laugh
to West Hollywood watering hole
Irritating jumpers start to fill meadows
In Britain, measure time dividing Italian
money
 - 15 Oversize wind instruments losing focus
and energy
Timeless season for excessive drinker?
Blade around a junction is something
that turns
 - 16 Singer from Chicago's cold, empty
period acquiring bar
Clear rut containing immune cell for type
of cancer
Superman portrayer Dean holds right to
small stone mounds

Rings

- A Good-looking men lather—about time!
The thirst in Mexico for crooked deals (2
wds)
Resists exotic family members
- B Tube to initially pertain, in hindsight, to
female organ
Born right not once, according to poet
Pass out tin-plated charm
- C Scar tissue's origin at bazaar
Just finish expression
Showed bulb type
Gondola feature: metal rock on the radio
- D Entertain morning employment
Destiny's Child replacing opener with
Lorde's opener
Dull piece of sediment
Mom ate morsel for goddess of death

- E Small hush returns in midnight activity
Louisiana Delta's youngsters
Family branch placed around park
Spanish painter Rafael's characters
from disparate geography
First name in landscape photography's
rooky lanes
Stick to pots in this location
A few peculiar reveals
- F Come back for finale with friend
Earn a perfect score somersaulting
Navy officers sensing shift
Cat starts to purr unusually, meow
actively
Barely perceptible stem is removed from
problem
Glacial ridge of osmium and argon
Flu shots will be in France
- G Self-esteem, or for example, love
Alternately marry either excellence or
virtue
Sanctuary retreats for currency
Higher than oxygen in energy-carrying
molecule
Seat for measuring healthy body's bowel
movement with piece of ice
See eye-to-eye with a nature-lover
before the end
Bad seal cut with light?
Belief going back and forth
- H Excavator trace by tall structure
Heard correct instruction to dog
Repel, expel a language of Papua New
Guinea
Scooby-Doo character returning home
starts to hear noises everywhere
Tiny interest in Oscar-winning 1953 film
Small amount with energy!
- I Tax collector pens top-notch tax shelters
Hair stylist more harsh about bald head
Little swimmer boy at end of earth
One who flees environs of Earl's prank
Inks book cover with deficiency
Drug cop is Stanford University's most
egotistical character