



Letter Dictation | a cryptic puzzle by *Emily Cox & Henry Rathvon*

The grid's 24 exterior squares will contain 24 different letters. The two remaining letters of the alphabet may be said, depending on their order, to be a case of 21-Across or a place of 15-Down.

Across

- 7 A potato's skin left inside light pastry (8)
- 9 Vehicle with alien mark in the shape of a wedge (5)
- 11 Viewed in retrograde, Mars circles northeast star close to Venus (6)
- 12 More than a couple of nuts there (5)
- 13 "Sort of a dwarf," Bond said, coming to no conclusions (6)
- 14 Transposed aria to G, with thanks from Seiji Ozawa (7)
- 15 Retracted story about CIA's first big success (5)
- 18 They're kayaking around town in Siskiyou County (5)
- 20 Operator called "big ape" (5)
- 21 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

- 25 Game birds recoil in fear (5)
- 28 Folk in Pennsylvania like mornings? (5)
- 30 Recite the letters of "hex" (5)
- 32 As an afterthought, change book of hymns (7)
- 33 Arizona meadow occupied by a flowering shrub (6)
- 34 Pass a court east of Central Avenue (5)
- 35 Worse experience again recalled (6)
- 36 Dictated two letters in woman's name (5)
- 37 Green telecom once backing typewriter brand (8)

Down

- 1 Mythical captain Hook while in performance (5)
- 2 Renounce phony, penning choice words? (7)
- 3 Faceless men in Sin City rarely using autos (6)
- 4 Retro art in small square board at a station (7)
- 5 Greater beer having the ultimate in flavor (6)

- 6 Many a connection of mine gets broken (8)
- 8 Brit coins name of a U.S. veep (5)
- 10 Bugs anger a former White House resident (6)
- 15 SEE INSTRUCTIONS
- 16 Jeweler's tool for magnifying ring in a person's ear (5)
- 17 Not reversing itself, American League is concerned with pitches (5)
- 19 Feel sorry for very outspoken French painter (8)
- 22 Empty container of beer into container of wine (6)
- 23 Disrupted power to ski lift (4,3)
- 24 One skewering an albino's boast? (7)
- 26 Like a fancy floor nail I'd hammered (6)
- 27 Cavils translated in Polish or Czech (6)
- 29 Bit of offshore land is rented (5)
- 31 Budget alternative causes pain in speech (5)

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