



Connections | a cryptic puzzle by Emily Cox & Henry Rathvon

This puzzle has four seemingly separate corners. Each corner's answers are clued together but out of order, so you'll need to deduce exactly where they belong in that corner. Once the grid is filled, you'll see that the corners can be connected to each other by the interlocking letters along their shared borders.

Northwest

- a Mom parked behind Mexican food place in the northwest (6)
- b Message from a computer a mile off (5)
- c Abruptly change course, pointing toward dining guide (5)
- d Pointing the other way, exclude a Middle Easterner (4)
- e Former student contracting agent (4)
- f Fictional mad doctor's request for extra gold (6)
- g Sliced delivery with repeated strokes mimicking Zorro's flair (7)
- h Start up disc inserted in droid (4)
- i Theater award exhibited by Kobi eventually (4)
- j Giving a new order to ban Zima from an African nation (7)
- k General behind crank (5)
- l Rather absorbed by favorite know-it-all (6)

Northeast

- a Tangled ropes puzzle (5)
- b File false story about nation's leader (4)
- c Executed monarch's status (7)
- d Mexican state called in pair of people (7)
- e Couple go overboard in pursuit of a writer (6)
- f Survey Arctic area in the sound (4)
- g Disclaimer about a mistake getting around to patient (5)
- h Material left in back of court (4)
- i Playing F minor, sing (6)
- j Guy eating bagel and beef (4)
- k Brand of watch reversed age by month (5)
- l Goat horn finally found in old marketplace (6)

Southwest

- a Home to some Scandinavians traveling solo (4)
- b Clinton's vice president penning his first name all over the place (6)
- c Vineyard with unknown central point (4)
- d Wine I drink for breakfast in restricted area (5)
- e Devoted ally confused about love (5)
- f Quite well behaved after bit of training (5)

- g African stringed instrument covered by RKO Radio (4)
- h Force chef's hat around last bit of hair (6)
- i Exuberant novel of July (6)
- j Resolution kept by painting and sculpting busts (7)
- k Okay freshly renovated deck (4)
- l Write online posts about a check pileup (7)

Southeast

- a Stone atop climber's spike (5)
- b Spat out start of warning in haste (6)
- c Returned guns for guys only (4)
- d Mate reorganized crew (4)
- e Boat operator surrounded by staff (5)
- f Call for sheet of paper (4)
- g Compete and take first in grand examination (7)
- h Boy who flew coach between Ireland's capital and U.S. (6)
- i Quaint exclamation about gender, primarily, and the male brain (7)
- j Light left by concert gear (4)
- k Party back in Lincoln's quarters (5)
- l Tough wearing a wig? (6)

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