



Thinking Outside the Box | a cryptic puzzle by Emily Cox & Henry Rathvon

Twelve words begin somewhere within the central four-by-four box and go straight out of it, up, down, left, or right, ending at a heavy bar or the grid's border. Eleven of those words are clued in no special order under the Box heading. The unclued twelfth word accounts for the opening of the box. Reading clockwise from the top left in the finished box, the shaded squares show what goes outside, while the four interior letters show what remains inside. All other grid entries are clued normally as Acrosses and Downs.

Across

- 1 Put in a box with an estimated worth of \$100? (6)
- 4 At first, boys toss shapeless lump (4)
- 7 Pay attention to kid clutching small wild pansy (10)
- 10 Ties up 50 experts (5)
- 11 A young fox and a large dog (5)
- 12 Sketched moist droplets on either side of river (4)
- 19 Bring about the demise of wrong king (4)
- 21 Plague remedy including sunshine, foremost (5)

- 23 Melancholy liberal seen in entryway (5)
- 24 Waterfowl hunters at the rear wielded garden tools (10)
- 25 Delicacy changed course in a pronounced way (4)
- 26 Platter containing one pastry (6)

Down

- 1 Far from hot, spicy stew for the audience (6)
- 2 Get back in gear, shifting (6)
- 3 Having depth but not height out on a limb (5)
- 4 Portray a \$1000 bill (4)
- 5 Casual about container for cookies of Hispanic origin (6)
- 6 Still swirling Malbec (6)
- 8 Series of seven steps to cave destroyed (6)
- 9 Listened to direct channel (6)
- 13 Vehicle taken by one American flier who met a sad end (6)
- 14 Bird of prey following lead of basset hound (6)
- 15 Insect at sea ingesting copper (6)

- 16 Analyze the speed of light over 19 trillion miles (6)
- 17 Head of state, with puffs of pot, gets excited (6)
- 18 French-speaking hub, center of the Cajun county (6)
- 20 Lay out published sacred text (5)
- 22 Last traveling season (4)

Box

- a So far, one topic for a cryptozoologist (4)
- b Group circling a chair (4)
- c German art song told a tale (4)
- d Bad experience in recession (4)
- e Birthstone ring and bud (4)
- f Test in complex amortization (4)
- g Express surprise when introduced to family doctor (4)
- h Loads of 1000...whatever (4)
- i Build Crete in a novel way (5)
- j Revolutionary path or comic routine (5)
- k That woman's outfit sounded woolly (7)

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