

Cryptic Classroom #9: Final Exam

By Games Magazine Enthusiasts

In this closing installment of the Cryptic Classroom, we present your final exam. Use your knowledge of the word-play styles presented in this column over the last year to complete this variety cryptic, which was crowd-created by the members of our Facebook group, Games Magazine Enthusiasts.

The authors of this puzzle have many reasons to celebrate—one thousand, to be exact! The Facebook group recently admitted its 1000th member. To that end, 15 answers in this puzzle need to be honored in a grand way before being entered in the grid. Answer lengths have been withheld. When the grid is complete, the unclued entry at 29-Across will reveal the grand finale, a literal and figurative description of our membership.

ACROSS

1. Asp writhes in Belgian resort town
5. "Naomi's Windows" precedes alias
9. Tavern starts to provide unpasteurized beer
11. Bear child with elongated head
12. Audibly speak nothing to game show host
13. Weighs down Tinseltown studies
14. Lance fish
16. Softly ring and ring, gazing intently
18. Returning tax collectors arrive at Indian address
20. Making of an army meal, including bit of egg
23. Endless cruise disrupted by a boy who fell and drowned
27. To cut corners, fat-free milk first priority
29. See *instructions*
31. Smart group means to mingle
32. U.S. Post mangled? Anything could happen!
33. Before start of tournament, intense, shaken, and aware
37. I'm a confused friend of Henri
39. Scrap inside for each hotel worker
42. Revolutionary actress Wilson
43. More slippery, more uncertain without Head of Detectives
44. Lorenz edges around Beehive State in skating maneuver
45. Control engineer reverted, oddly
46. Barely make a living in the Keys
47. Perpetually iconic, ecclesiastically themed artwork from the start!
48. Girl's noggin holds more than a peck

DOWN

1. Visits among nation's top singers
2. Loop around, Marco
3. Console a sailor and me
4. Doctor Lo walks out of musical
5. Disney fish swimming backward? That's a bad sign
6. Evil energy wave
7. A northern church service for an Indian state
8. "Greek Hero" sounds like a children's game
9. Cornish tradition where history overlaps neckwear?
10. Buffalo Bill's debut is airing
15. "It's the latest hit music, dad"
17. A-ha! Single without yours truly—face it!
19. Your camera comes with a multi-colored cable
21. Red state airs broadcast about America
22. Endless drunk gives gratuities
24. End of prayer can be accommodating
25. Torn lease
26. Jamaican strains from Rasta's kazoo
27. Locked soundstage
28. Over-the-counter drug chewed in pairs
30. Our umpire has a drink
31. Internet clip seen in New England state, repeatedly
33. Twisted ruse, certainly
34. Corn labyrinth is discussed
35. Disney park shrouded in deep cotton
36. Attempts rugby scores
37. Had a home-cooked meal (a can full of sauce, ultimately)
38. Enlist again? Pure madness!
40. Singer Rita is endlessly verbal
41. Mother Goose reveals a logical conclusion

