

Across

1. *Start of a word chain*

6. *Step 6 in the chain*

10. *Step 7 in the chain*

14. Rest atop

15. Where China is

16. E. Coast highway

17. Commence

18. Nukes

19. Hang around in the shadows

20. Retired star NFL receiver Shannon ____

22. Hard to find

24. *Step 5 in the chain*

27. Ancient alphabet characters

28. Fix, as a pump

31. October ad target

33. Oft-broken promise

34. Clash directly

39. ____ Maria

40. *Step 8 in the chain*

41. *Step 9 in the chain*

42. It has strings attached

43. Pinpoints

46. Spy's org.

47. Unit of petrol

48. Ebert's former partner

51. Taters

54. *End of the word chain*

56. "Spill it!"

58. Ideally

61. Lead-in for boy or girl

62. Bankrolls

65. Shows to a seat, slangily

67. Eggheaded sort

68. Send out

69. Collar and jacket styles

70. *Step 4 in the chain*

71. *Step 2 in the chain*

72. *Step 11 in the chain*

Down

1. "Treasure Island" author's initials.

2. Successes

3. "Awright!"

4. A coach may try to boost it

5. Access

6. In a fog

7. Olympics chant

8. Edge

9. Sweetheart

10. Popular advice-giver Schlessinger

11. About-face

12. Choreographer Cunningham

13. Two-wheelers

21. Line judge?

23. Hardly Mr. Right

25. WALL-E's girlfriend

26. Avoid

28. Ostentatious display

29. Singer Brickell

30. *Step 3 in the chain*

32. Not laid on thick

35. Mideast leaders

36. *Step 10 in the chain*

37. Tom Joad, for one

38. "Hud" Oscar winner

40. Basic religious belief

44. Wife, in the presence of the guys

45. IBM competitor

49. Steeped

50. Takes care of

51. Ford muscle car for short

52. Fizzle, with "out"

53. Ne plus ____

55. Hurry-scurry

57. Still-life piece

59. Not barefoot

60. One-hundredth of a mil, to a hood

63. Pal for Pierre

64. Slow-witted

66. Mariner's dir.

