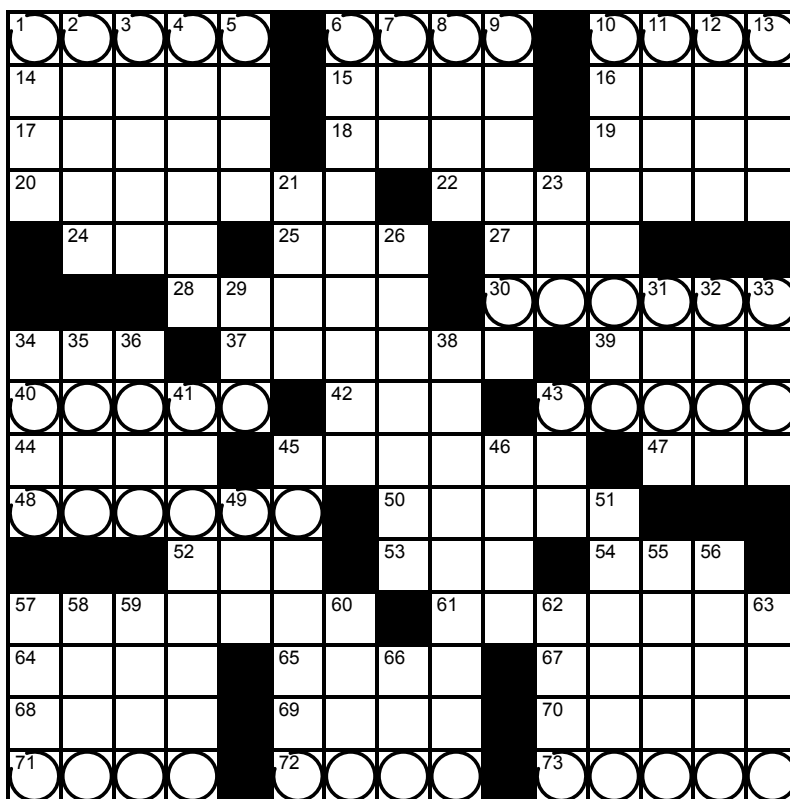


Across

1. *Start of a word chain*
6. *Step 3 in the chain*
10. *Step 7 in the chain*
14. Hill in a 1991 hearing
15. Ireland's best-selling solo artist
16. Swedish furniture retailer
17. Archaeological find
18. Dock
19. The "D" of N.Y.P.D.: Abbr.
20. Source of running water
22. Take position for action
24. Tongue-clicking sound
25. Spelling match
27. Appropriate
28. Laying down the law
30. *Step 4 in the chain*
34. U.K. news source
37. Timepieces
39. "___ Brute?"
40. *Step 5 in the chain*
42. Conjunction usually used with "neither"
43. *Step 2 in the chain*
44. Midrange voice type
45. Hero pilot
47. Syllables sung in "Deck the Halls"
48. *Step 8 in the chain*
50. D sharp equivalent
52. Jennings who dominated on "Jeopardy!"
53. Early Beatle Sutcliffe
54. Small batteries
57. Leader of the band
61. On-line conference
64. Kuwaiti, e.g.
65. Card player's stake
67. "La Bohème," e.g.
68. The euro replaced it in Italy
69. Close at hand
70. Cordelia and



Goneril's sister in "King Lear"

71. *Step 6 in the chain*
72. *Step 9 in the chain*
73. *End of the word chain*

Down

1. Card game with the 13 spades laid out
2. Like a butterfingers
3. Stirs (up)
4. Is really bad
5. Boor's lack
6. Popular pizza topping
7. Black cuckoo of crosswords
8. Loaves with seeds
9. Golden Horde members
10. Failed to comprehend, as a joke
11. Approved, for short
12. Turned on the waterworks

13. Alliance acronym

21. Cain's victim

23. Orangutan or gibbon, e.g.

26. Concert extenders

29. Cable chan. for old movies

31. Leaning type: abbr.

32. Other, in Spain

33. Pecans and pistachios, e.g.

34. Speak highly of oneself

35. Church-tower item

36. Roman statesman called "The Elder"

38. Pioneering German electronic band

41. "The situation appears to be getting worse"

43. Pirate's home, with "the"

45. "The Fountainhead" novelist

46. Crossword hint

49. "Have we ___?"

51. Chiang Kai-shek's capital

55. Lay ___ (fail miserably)

56. Mama grizzly Palin

57. Washington locale, with "the"

58. Opera house highlight

59. Make, as money

60. First subclause

62. Brought into the world

63. Get hot under the collar

66. Driveway surface