

Christmas Games

by Ucaoimhu

As you've probably heard, games parties at the North Pole have occasionally not been as inclusive as desired. Fortunately, that particular incident has not been repeated, and all of Santa's employees are now welcome to participate in any games they want to. In fact, two previously-excluded employees are participating in this very puzzle:

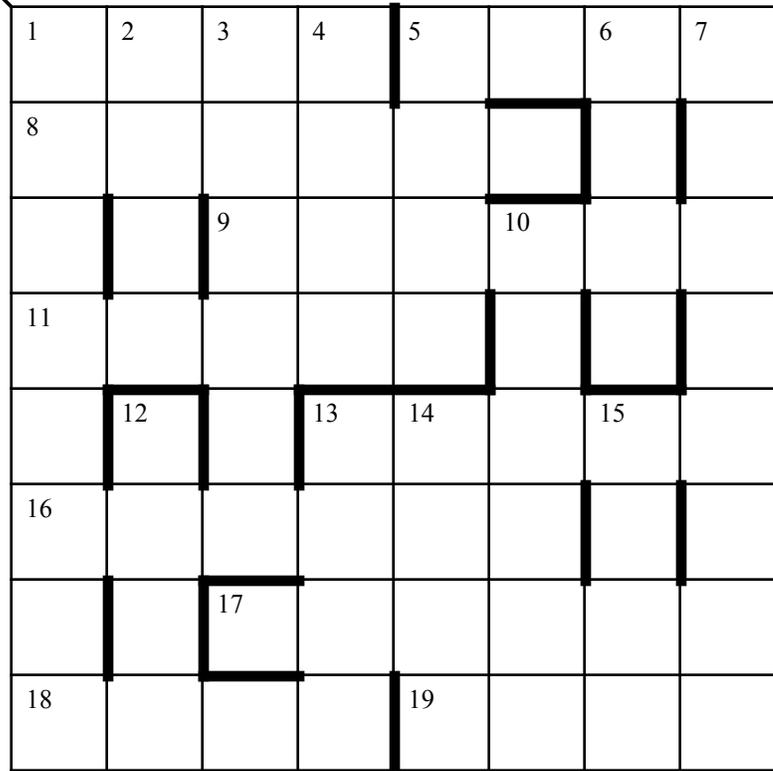
(1) Some answers in this puzzle must be entered with one letter on a thin line segment rather than in a square. When all of these segments have been found, draw a diagonal line in each of four squares (through the letter in each square) so that all these segments (horizontal, vertical, and diagonal) along with the dashed lines form a connected path. The letters on all the diagonal and *vertical* segments will form one word, and the letters on all the diagonal and *horizontal* segments will form another word; these two words together will describe one (well-known) formerly excluded employee.

(2) In some other clues, the wordplay part fails to indicate one of the letters in the answer; these letters in the grid, left to right, will name another employee who (less famously) has also often been excluded.

In the remaining clues, the wordplay part yields one extraneous letter; in clue order, these give a description of employee 1 (which you probably could have deduced already). If you apply, to the grid, the direction given by the letters on the diagonal segments, using the connected path, and in the resulting items read the letters found in (2) top to bottom, you will get a slightly incomplete description of employee 2. (What, you never knew this?)

ACROSS

1. Pitcher Nolan's mysterious ray
5. Mother reversed in a Dodge car
8. One carried-around organism that breathes oxygen
9. Pertaining to glands that are near the kidneys, remarkable, and real
11. It turned a monastic copyist's heart metallic



13. About to consume half of roasts in large vessels
16. Region around Al's brackish Asian lake (2 wds.)
17. Nose contains €151 ornament (2 wds.)
18. Brown liquid's finally spilt right on the map
19. I have to submerge

DOWN

1. Fashion industry fad has upset Mr. Carney (2 wds.)
2. Snowman that might frighten you and Juan's aunt
3. Columnist Huffington and dancer Miller bursting into song
4. Norse goddess that controls fate or one's heart
5. Heed old Ben at the end of January
6. Not far from Nebraska and east of Montana
7. Bad disposition of couple carrying 50 pounds apiece (2 wds.)
10. Actress Portman is initially nettled by a fib
12. Killer whale destroyed car
13. Tilt-A-Whirls came off a plane, perhaps
14. 50% of cereal turned up, and we got it, as stated on an invoice (*abbr.*)
15. Four swimming in beer like yeast