

Hitori

Shade some squares in the grid so that there are no two unshaded squares with the same character in the same row or column.

Shaded cells may not share an edge and all unshaded squares must be connected by shared edges.

W	E	L	C	O	M	E	T	O
T	H	E	S	E	C	O	N	D
E	D	I	T	I	O	N	O	F
B	L	A	C	K	-	O	U	T
F	R	I	D	A	Y	!	!	!
T	R	Y	O	U	T	T	H	E
Q	U	I	C	K	-	I	S	H
P	U	Z	Z	L	E	S	O	F
E	Q	U	A	L	R	I	S	K

By Teal

<https://l.puz.fun/0952hitori>

Hinge

Shade some cells in the grid to form orthogonally connected blocks. Each block is cut exactly once by a straight border segment to form two halves with reflectional symmetry. Numbers represent the number of shaded cells within their regions.

The shading in the grid at right is for cosmetic purposes only.

1	1	4				1		
						5		
						2		5
1								

By edderiofer

<https://l.puz.fun/0952hinge>

Throwing Shade

Shade some squares in each row and column so that the letters in the remaining unshaded squares spell answers to the provided clues.

The clues are listed in alphabetical order by corresponding answer.

G	O	T	O	L	W	E	H	L
R	I	R	P	M	L	S	I	P
A	C	R	E	E	A	L	G	E
B	M	A	E	T	E	U	H	R
B	E	G	H	E	R	S	E	T
B	A	M	I	T	N	C	H	T
I	M	I	N	C	D	H	C	H
F	E	D	O	R	M	O	E	A
T	E	N	E	O	F	H	E	Z

By David Millar

<https://l.puz.fun/0952shade>

Happy Black-Out Friday

Instead of partaking in Black Friday shopping, here are a set of puzzles involving blacking out squares for your puzzling enjoyment. Huge thanks to all of the puzzlers that joined the puzzle-construction efforts this year.

Bruce Leban
Craig Kasper
DireKrow
dohz
dpad
edderiofer
Jamie Hargrove
Martin Ender
penzo
Polman Poppins
Stef
Teal
Walker

<https://dailykrownundrum.blogspot.com>
<https://twitter.com/dohzzles>
<https://dpadawer.github.io>
<http://edderiofer.blogspot.com>
<http://deceptivepuzzles.wordpress.com>
<https://brokensign.com/blog>

<https://twitter.com/TealsPuzzles>

Clues

Across

An area of land
Method of cleaning
Uncommon hat
Rock subgenre
Unit of length
Singer's tool, inf.
Tear
Short-sleeved shirt
Object for drying

Down

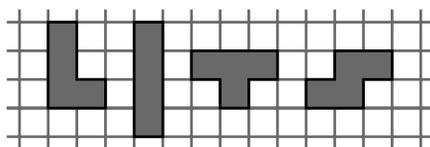
Repeat
And so forth, abbr.
A cooking oil
Frozen beverage brand
Allow out
Express a judgment
Hopping animal
Transit vehicle
Not quite hot

LITS

Shade cells to form an L, I, T, or S tetromino in each boldly-outlined region in the grid. Examples of the shapes are provided below and may be rotated and/or reflected. All tetrominoes must connect to one another via shared edges. No two of the same tetromino may share an edge, even if they are rotated or reflected, and no 2x2 region may be fully shaded.

By Craig Kasper

<https://l.puz.fun/0952lits>

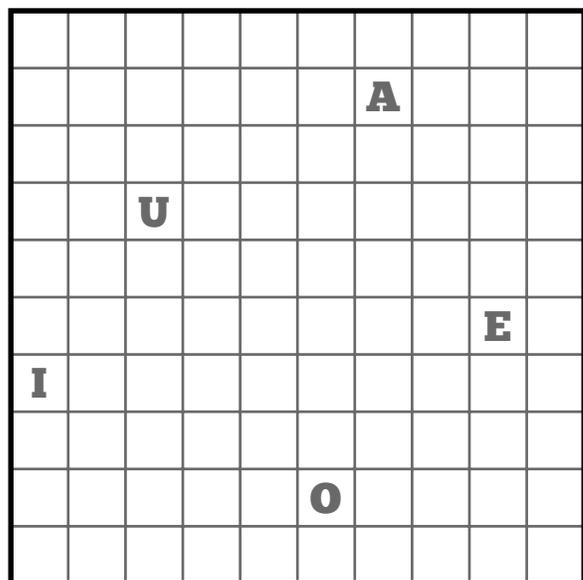


L I T S

Crossword

You will need to fill in 38 black squares to construct the grid for this crossword. The grid has 180-degree rotational symmetry, and all the unshaded squares are connected orthogonally and are checked (used in both across and down entries). Clues are listed in alphabetical order by answer rather than in grid order.

By Bruce Leban

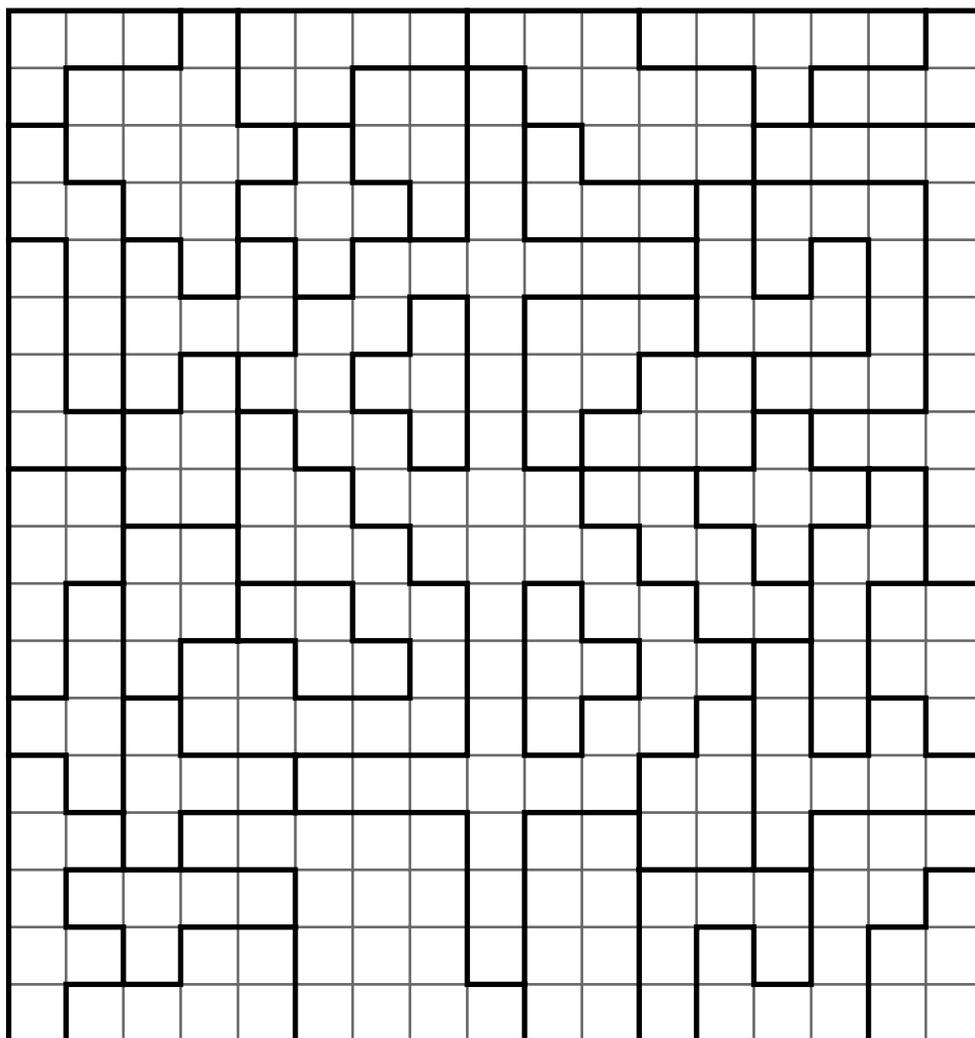


Across

- Italian "aloha" (4)
- Apple juice (5)
- "_____ New York" (2022 TV show) (4)
- Stars and Stripes, e.g. (4)
- Significant sequence of DNA (4)
- Vow usually heard in pairs (3)
- "Filthy" money (5)
- Subatomic particle (4)
- A B vitamin (6)
- Black and white whale (4)
- Item in "Bartlett's" (5)
- Wanders (5)
- Half of a November holiday (6)
- Pursue romantically (3)

Down

- Cause of teen angst (4)
- Drink often served with marshmallows (5)
- Peer group (6)
- Half of a November holiday (6)
- UN financial agency (3)
- Angry (5)
- Garland offered with an "aloha" (3)
- Acorn producer (3)
- Above, poetically (3)
- Singles (4)
- College square (4)
- "The Addams Family" star Julia (4)
- Country that applied for NATO membership in 2022 (6)
- University of Arizona city (6)



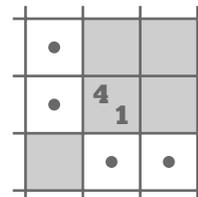
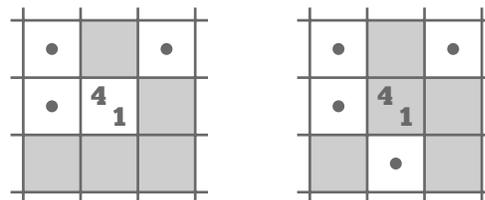
Tapa (Transparent)

Shade some cells so that all shaded cells form one orthogonally connected area. Clues may or may not be shaded. Each represents the sizes of the groups of orthogonally connected shaded cells in the (up to) 3x3 area surrounding the clue. No 2x2 region may be entirely shaded.

		2 ₂				1 ₂	
1 ₃			1 ₃				1 ₂
	4			2 ₃			5
1 ₁					2 ₃		1 ₁
		4			4		

By DireKrow

<https://l.puz.fun/0952tapa>



Smullyanic Dynasty

Shade some cells such that no shaded cells share an edge and all of the unshaded cells connect orthogonally in a single group. Each numbered cell counts the shaded cells in the 3x3 area centered on it: unshaded numbers are correct, and shaded numbers are incorrect.

		2		2				
	2	0	1				3	
		1				3	1	2
2				3			2	
			1	2	3			
	2			1				2
2	3	1				3		
	1				3	4	2	
			2			2		

By dohz

<https://l.puz.fun/0952sd>

Choco Banana

Each number represents the size of the unshaded or shaded region that overlaps it. Each region may contain zero, one, or multiple clues.

A group of shaded cells must form a rectangle or square. A group of unshaded cells must not form a rectangle or square.

	1	7		1			
7							
9							
							8
				6			
6							
							2
							2
			7		6	4	

By Walker

<https://l.puz.fun/0952choco>

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank software developer Martin Owens (<https://www.patreon.com/doctormo>) who works on Inkscape (<https://inkscape.org>), the open-source program I use for puzzle sheets and packets. Martin has been working hard on adding and enhancing multi-page support, which has dramatically reduced the effort required for composing puzzle packets like this one.

Additional thanks to the folks building, extending, and maintaining the web apps which are linked below many of the puzzles in this packet for interactive solving:

pzprjs and its forks

Daisuke Kobayashi, Robert Vollmert, & Lennard Sprong

<https://github.com/sabo2/pzprjs>

<https://github.com/robx/pzprjs>

<https://github.com/x-sheep/pzprjs>

Penpa+

Tomoya Kimura & Swaroop Guggilam

<https://github.com/swaroopg92/penpa-edit>

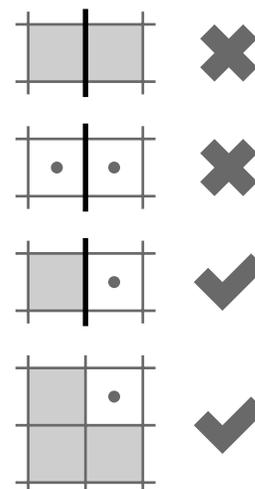
Chiaroscuro

Shade some cells so that each group of shaded or unshaded cells is a unique shape, including reflections and rotations.

All shaded groups have an even number of cells, and all unshaded groups have an odd number of cells.

Number clues represent the size of the region they occupy and a bold border separates a shaded and an unshaded cell.

	4			4			5
	7			11			9
	8			7			8



By Polman Poppins <https://l.puz.fun/0952co>

Twilight Cave

Shade some cells so that each shaded cell is connected orthogonally by other shaded cells to the edge of the grid, and the remaining unshaded cells form one orthogonally connected area.

An unshaded clue represents the total number of unshaded cells that can be seen from the clue in a straight line vertically or horizontally, including the clue itself.

A shaded clue represents the total number of shaded cells that can be seen from the clue in a straight line vertically or horizontally, including the clue itself.

			5				3	4
								4
	2							
				2	3			
	2	2			4			
			8					2
		4		3				
2				3		6		
3	2							

By Martin Ender <https://l.puz.fun/0952cave>

Context

Shade some squares in the grid. Shaded cells may not share an edge. All of the unshaded cells must be connected by shared edges to form a single, contiguous group.

Unshaded numbers must show how many orthogonally adjacent cells are shaded. Shaded numbers must show how many diagonally adjacent cells are shaded.

				2	1		1	
1	3						2	
					2			
		3						2
1				1				1
1						3		
			2					
	2						1	1
1		1	1					

By penzo <https://l.puz.fun/0952context>

Yajisan-Kazusan

Shade some squares in the grid so that all unshaded clues accurately display the number of shaded squares in the direction of the arrow. No two shaded squares may share a side, and all unshaded squares must form a contiguous region within the grid.

	1↓		1↓		1↓	1↓
2→			1↓		1↓	4←
2→	2→					
					4←	4←
			1↓			
2→	2→					
					4←	4←
2→		3↑		3↑		4←
	3↑	3↑		3↑	3↑	

By Jamie Hargrove <https://l.puz.fun/0952yk>

Look-Air

Shade some cells to form shaded squares of size 1 x 1 or larger. There may not be an entirely unshaded line of cells between two squares of the same size.

Clues display the number of shaded cells required in the four orthogonally adjacent cells plus itself.

	2	1	2	3		
	3	1	1	1		
	2	3	3	2		
	3	3	2	2		

By Stef <https://l.puz.fun/0952lookair>

Aqreven

In Aqreven, shade an even number of squares in each boldly-outlined room. All of the shaded squares must form a contiguous region.

There may not be more than three unshaded squares in a line, nor more than three shaded squares in a line.

By dpad <https://l.puz.fun/0952aqre>

Zone of Spiciness

The puzzles on this page are a bit spicier than the rest of the packet. Take your time and don't feel bad if you need a break in the middle of any of these.

Thanks for solving!

If you enjoyed this packet of puzzles, check out the links on the first page where you can follow many of the setters that contributed to this pack; they're a prolific bunch and are sure to be making something fun to solve.

Also, if you printed this packet to solve on paper, don't forget to recycle it when you're finished.

Happy holidays!


and friends