

COMPOSITION - SOLUTION

When completing a composition, clutter should be eliminated, and well-chosen details used instead.

Some Across entries will be one letter too long for the grid squares allotted, and will extend one space into the entry either before or after. Letters thus overlapping will not match. This is clutter, so in each case both letters should be eliminated, and a different letter (a "well-chosen detail") should be used in that space instead.

To help determine what those details should be, the initial letters of the clues for the over-long entries will describe, read in clue order, the nature of the composition.

When properly entered, the new letters, read from the top of the grid down, will form an appropriate exclamation, the final answer to this puzzle.

SOLUTION

Unaltered grid entries are shown in the top diagram, with double letters showing in squares to be emptied.

The initial letters of the overlong clues spell out MILLINERY WORK. This phrase, plus the context of the puzzle, suggests that new letters should be chosen in order to "finish the hat" in each line. Hats are shown in red in the lower diagram. The letters added to the empty boxes spell, in order, LOOK, I MADE A HAT.

1	E	L	2	B	O	3	W	4	S	5	E	R	6	A	7	H	8	A	9	G	10	I	11	S
X	12	S	A	13	F	E	14	K	15	S	16	T	R	I	C	17	T	E	R	N	E			
18	P	H	R	A	S	E	S	19	A	C	R	O	20	W	I	D	E							
O	21	I	C	I	C	L	22	E	A	C	H	E	23	R	E	D	O	S						
24	S	P	O	R	T	S	25	P	26	I	E	L	27	I	N	G	I	N	A					
E	S	D	Y	28	M	I	S	T	I	M	29	E	S	30	T	R	E	W						
31	S	H	E	32	L	F	V	33	E	T	34	E	35	R	A	N	36	H	O	S	E			
37	G	A	38	B	O	39	N	40	T	E	R	I	N	E	41	E	N	I	D					
42	E	P	E	E	43	C	A	R	A	F	44	E	45	S	C	O	46	R	A	47	L			
48	S	E	R	B	S	P	49	R	E	50	T	E	N	S	51	E	I	N	E					
T	52	I	L	53	D	54	I	S	55	T	U	R	B	56	S	I	N	D	57	I	A			
58	A	N	I	T	A	59	M	O	S	T	L	60	A	61	N	T	E	R	N					
62	P	A	N	G	O	63	M	A	R	K	64	U	N	C	A	S	E	D						
65	O	P	E	N	66	S	T	R	E	P	67	C	A	I	R	N	E							
68	S	T	R	I	D	E	69	E	R	S	E	W	70	A	L	K	E	R						

1	E	L	2	B	O	3	W	4	L	5	E	R	6	A	7	H	8	A	9	G	10	I	11	S
X	12	S	A	13	F	E	14	K	15	S	16	T	R	I	C	17	O	R	N	E				
18	P	H	R	A	S	E	S	19	A	C	R	O	20	W	I	D	E							
O	21	I	C	I	C	L	22	O	C	H	E	23	R	E	D	O	S							
24	S	P	O	R	K	25	P	26	I	E	L	27	I	N	G	I	N	A						
E	S	D	Y	28	M	I	S	T	I	M	29	I	30	T	R	E	W							
31	S	H	E	32	M	33	E	T	34	E	35	R	A	N	36	H	O	S	E					
37	G	A	38	B	O	39	A	40	T	E	R	I	N	E	41	E	N	I	D					
42	E	P	E	E	43	C	A	R	A	F	44	E	45	D	46	R	A	47	L					
48	S	E	R	B	E	49	R	E	50	T	E	N	S	51	E	I	N	E						
T	52	I	L	53	D	54	I	S	55	T	U	R	B	56	A	N	D	57	I	A				
58	A	N	I	T	A	59	M	O	S	H	60	A	61	N	T	E	R	N						
62	P	A	N	A	63	M	A	R	K	64	U	N	C	A	S	E	D							
65	O	P	E	N	66	S	T	R	E	P	67	C	A	I	R	N	E							
68	S	T	R	I	D	E	69	E	R	S	T	70	A	L	K	E	R							