

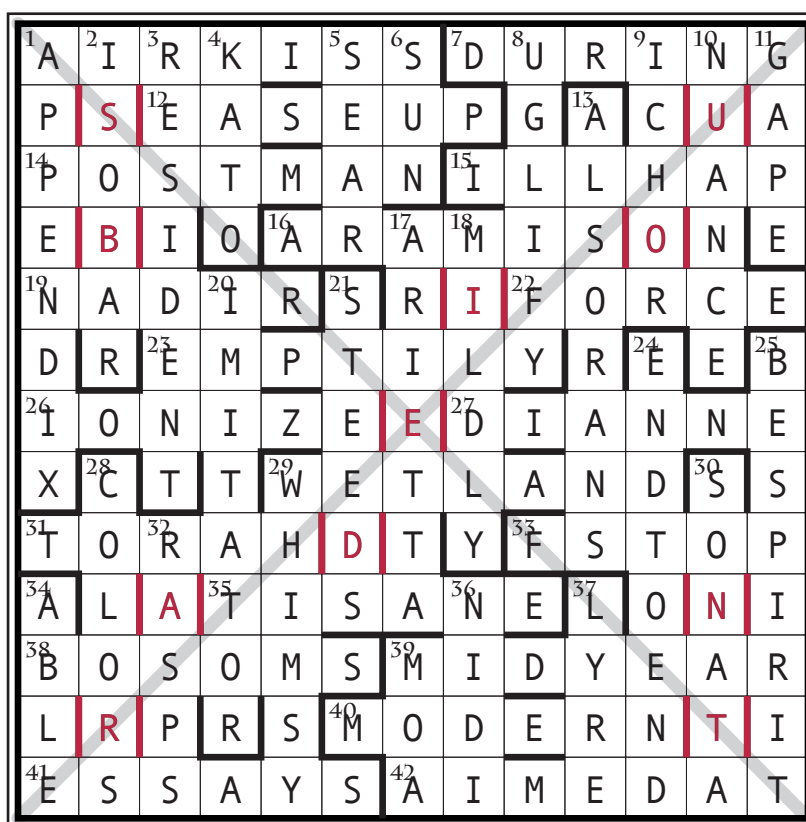
ALFHEIM SOLUTION - SUBORDINATE

The grid may be filled as shown below.

A third of the clues are normal. The Nth letters of the Nth clue in this set spell out a description of a set of impostors in another third of the clues: ALL FALSE FRIENDS. This term refers to foreign words (in the case of this puzzle all Germanic) which look like English words, but which actually have different meanings. Note that in German all nouns are capitalized, and this has been preserved in the cluing. In the clue explanations these will be bolded.

The remaining third of the clues contain English translations of the German False Friends; these must be ignored to solve the clues.

The diagonals in the completed grid yield the message ASSORT ELF LETTERS THE ELFS HUG. The word ELF is also a False Friend; it's the German word for "eleven". So ASSORT ELEVEN LETTERS ELEVENS HUG. The intro suggests that this will help you find a final answer in the grid "barring complications". Note that the grid contains eleven "11"s made from vertical bars. The letters therein can be sorted to get the final answer SUBORDINATE (as in elves are sometimes referred to as "subordinate Clauses"...).



Clue Explanations (* = anagram; " " = homophone)

ACROSS 1. A + IRK + IS + S 7. DUNG (**MIST**) holding RI 12. USE PEAS* 14. NO STAMP* 15. PHIL + AL* 16. cIARA MISguidedly 19. RAIN* around D for "dead" (**TOT**) 22. FOR + EC reversed 23. EMILY around P(-er)T 26. (-)IONIZE 27. AID to the left (**LINKS**) + NNE 29. WAND (**STAB**) holding LET* 31. HAR(-)OT rev. 33. FOP holding ST 35. IN TEAS* 38. BO(S)OMS 39. I'M READY* 40. MORE* holding D followed by (poiso)N (**GIFT**) 41. double definition 42. MAINTAINED* - INN

DOWN 1. APP + END + I + X 2. IS + O + BAR 3. (-p)RESIDENT 4. cocKATOOs 5. "seer" 6. NUS rev. 8. GUY* holding L + IF (**FALLS**) 9. malefIC HORror 10. ACE (**ASS**) with NUN around head 11. G for good (**GUT**) + APE 13. A + SNARL SO* 17. (-m)ARIETTA 18. MIL(D)L + Y 20. A RIOT TIM* 21. S(T)EEDS 24. NEED NOT* + D 25. RIP TIRES* 28. CO(L)ORS; def. is "red" etc. (**ROT**) 29. W + H + IS MY*; def. is "fancy" (**GRILLE**) 30. SON (**KIND** = child) + A + TA 32. RS holding ASP (**NATTER**) 34. "Abel" 36. I + DIN rev. 37. sally REplacement 39. MOA(-t); (**FAST** = almost)