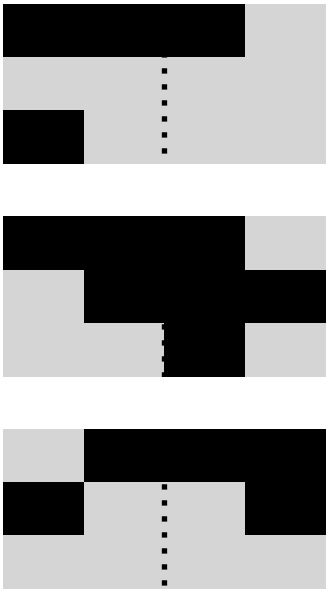
Nighttime Burglary [SOLUTION]

The flavor text hints at a connecting to braille. The keypad is also structured in two 3x2 grids, indicating braille again. By considering each set of space delimited number chains within each row and shading in appropriate numbers, braille letters are found. Then shading in the numbers gives braille letters, spelling **MADRID**.



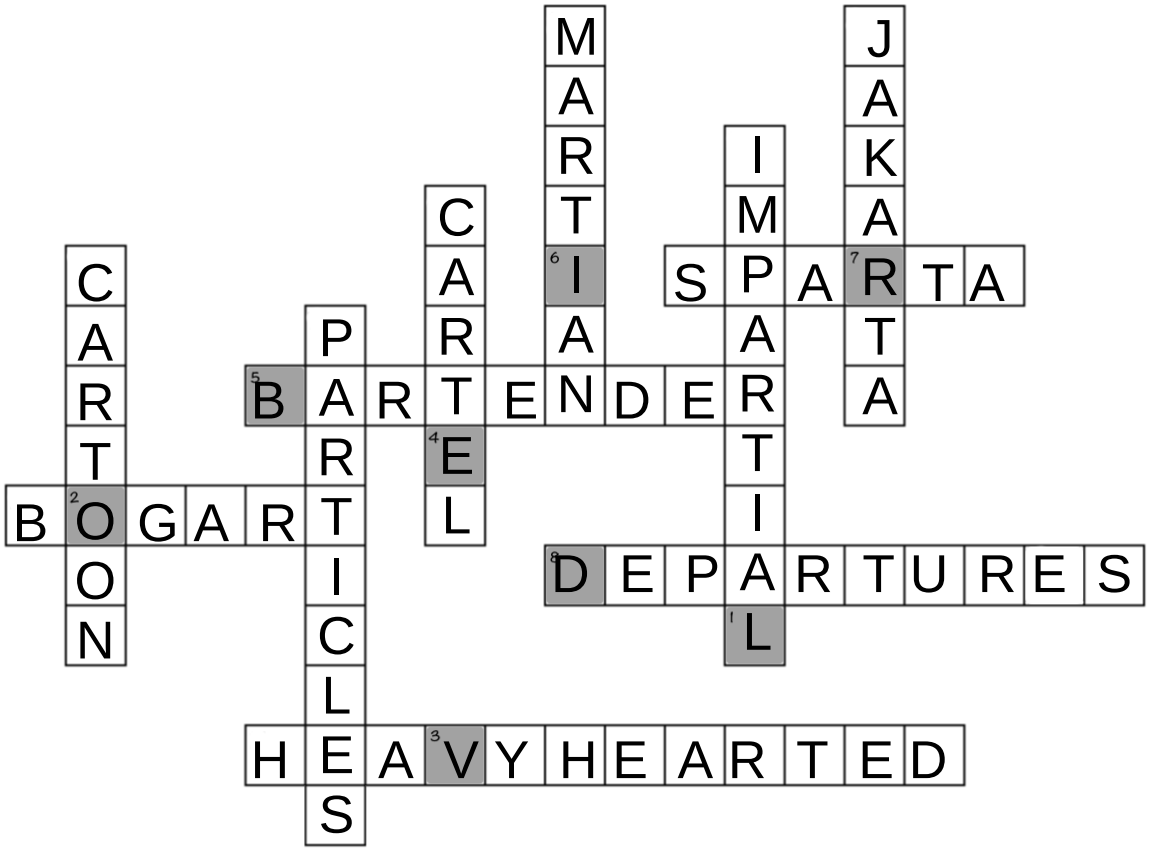
★★☆☆☆

Puzzled Pint

February 2019

Martingale

FINAL ANSWER: LOVEBIRD



Martini concocter — bARTender

Humphrey — bogART

A drug coalition — cARTel

Spongebob or Bugs Bunny, for example — cARToons

Usually the upper level of an airport — depARTures

Depressed or melancholic — heavyheARTed

Quality of a fair judge — impARTial

South East Asian capital — jakARTa

Inhabitant of a nearby planet — mARTian

Atoms and dust are examples of these — pARTicles

Ancient Greek city state — spARTa

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Just Add Half a Scam [SOLUTION]

Adding either “sc” or “am” (half of scam) to each situation being described, will result in a word that the situation is describing. The second number in the situation descriptor is the value to index into that word, and the number in parentheses is the length of the word.

Situation	Key word	Resulting Word	Letter
1.6	fine	famine	F
9.11	continent	containment	E
5.5	pie	spice	E
2.6	dire	admire	D
3.8	bushes	ambushes	B
3.5	oat	coats	A
1.6	loud	clouds	C
5.6	reek	creeks	K

This resulted in the word **FEEDBACK**.

Fencing [SOLUTION]

Each clue has been encrypted by applying some transformation. Finding this transformation and solving the clue gives a place name. Reapplying the transformation gives another place name, which when indexed into gives the answer, **OVERCAST**.

ACROSS THIS BODY OF WATER MEANS ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN (2)

SCOOBY DOO GANG MYSTERY MACHINE VEHICLE TYPE (3)

GOOFY ROWAN ATKINSON CHARACTER LAST NAME (2)

FINAL LOCATION ANSWER TO FIRST MESSAGE ON PAGE (3)

LESS TALL LESS STEEP MORE GREEN COUSIN OF THE MOUNTAIN (1)

BELOW GROUND SITE FOR EXTRACTING COAL OR OTHER MINERALS (2)

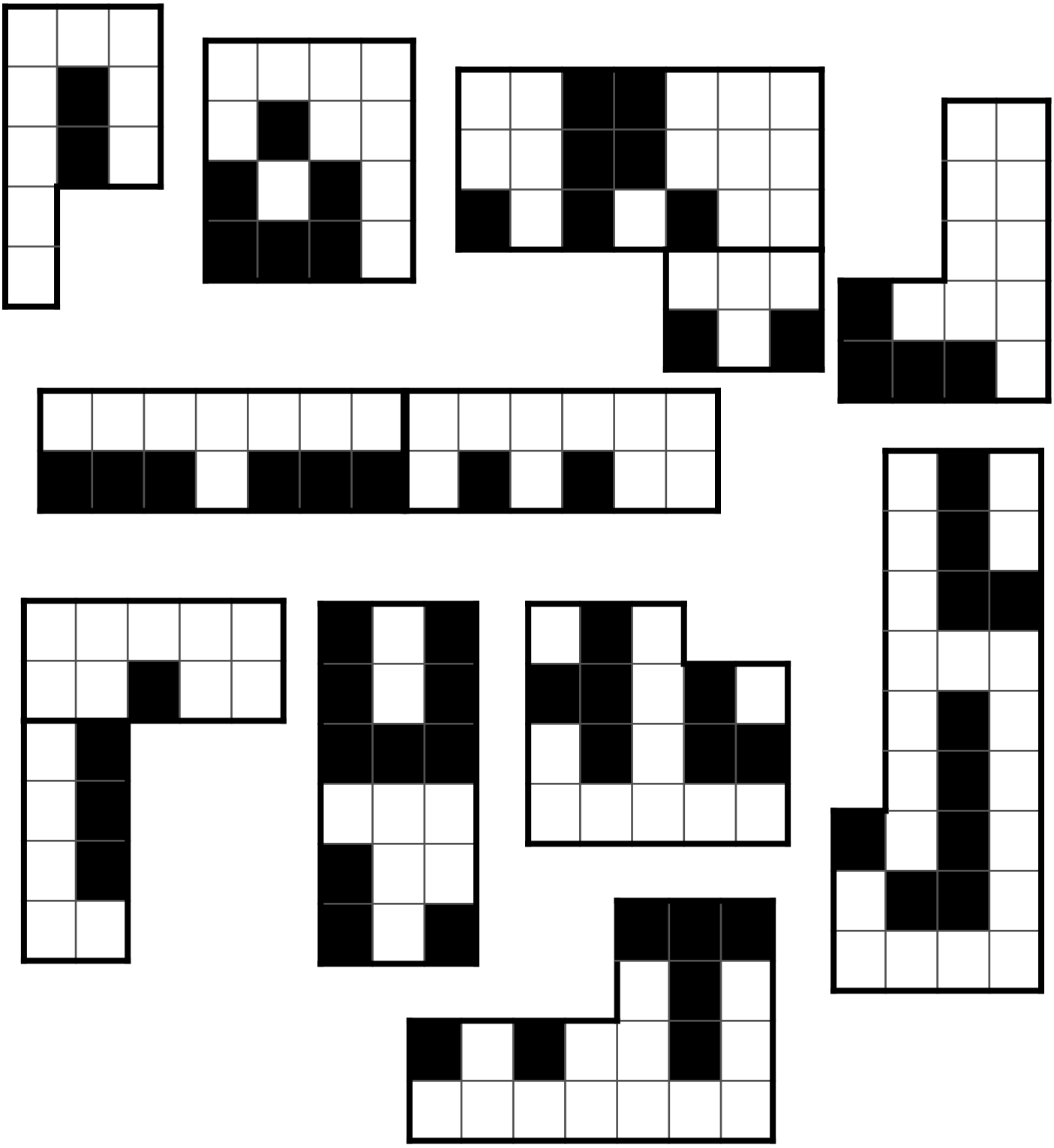
OUTDOOR PAVED DINING SPACE CONNECTING HOUSE WITH BACKYARD (5)

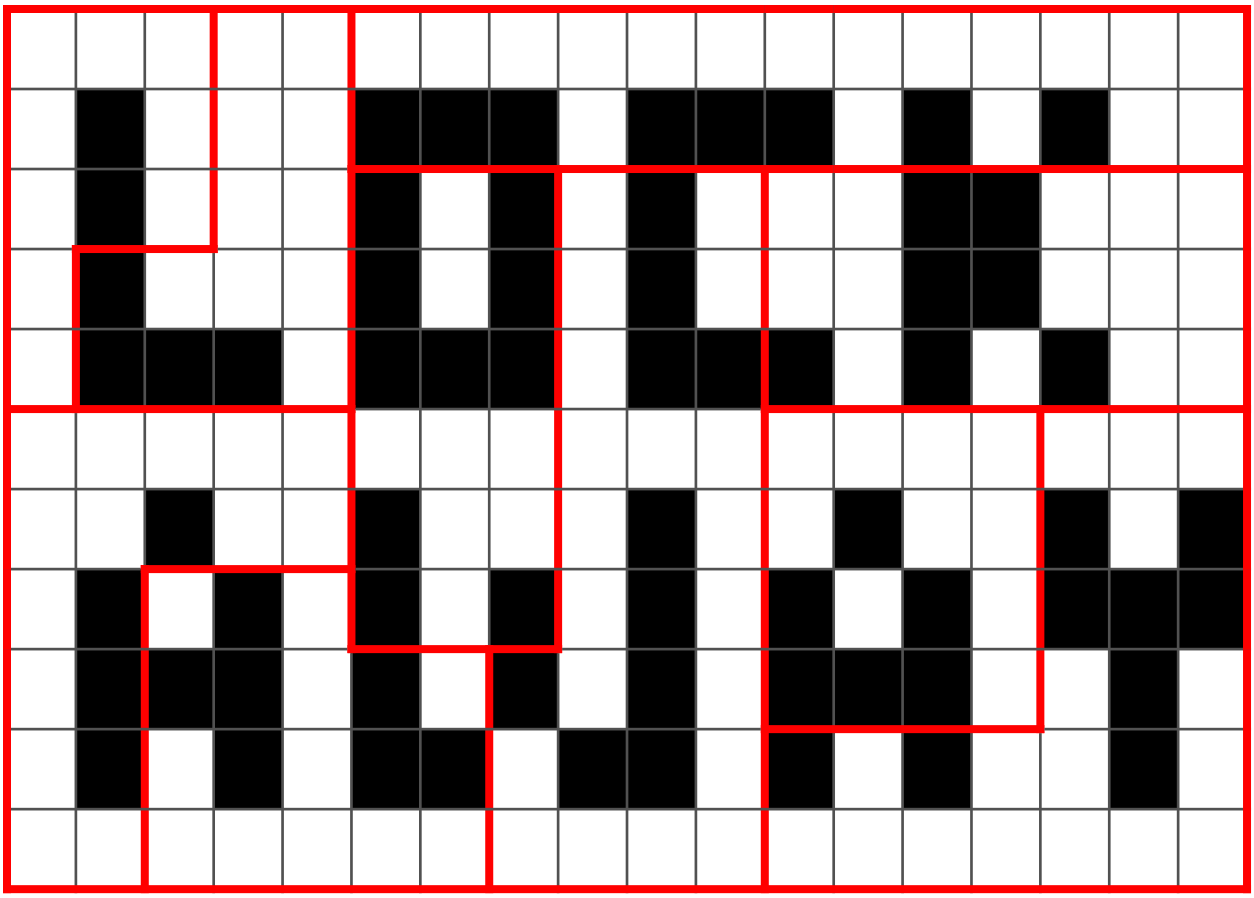
HOST CITY OF THE TWENTY TWENTY SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES (4)

Location Word	Traformation	New Location	Letter
POND	Add LA after second letter	POLAND	O
VAN	Add HA before first letter and A after last letter	HAVANA	V
BEAN	Replace third letter with R	BERN	E
POLAND	Add RT after second letter	PORTLAND	R
HILL	Add C before first letter and make the last letter an E	CHILE	C
MINE	Add A after first letter	MAINE	A
PATIO	Replace third letter with R and last letter with S	PARIS	S
TOKYO	Move last three letter to beginning	KYOTO	T

Sewer Maps [Solution]

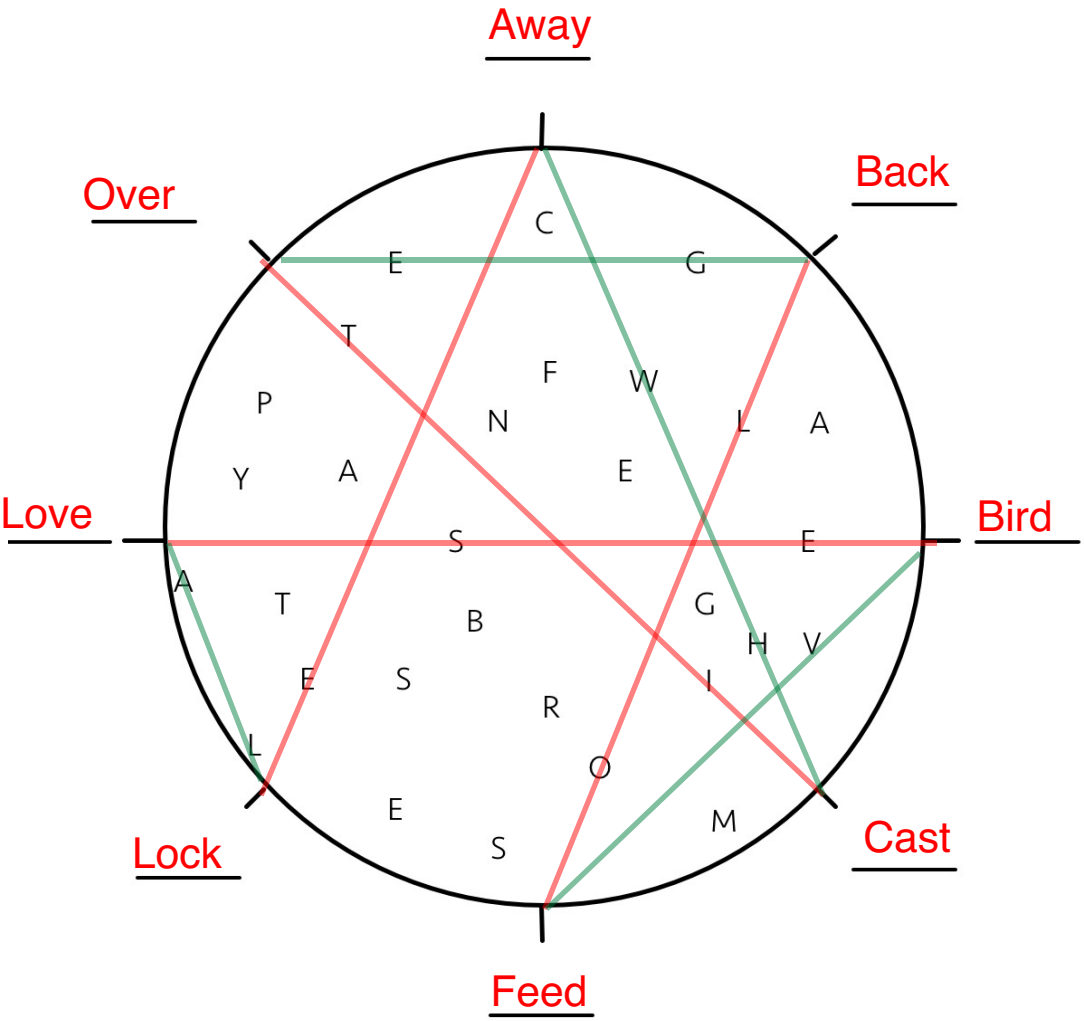
Filling out the blocks according to the rules gives the following squares with traps in them. Then placing these blocks onto the map, gives words **LOCK AWAY.**





From Start to Finish [SOLUTION]

The four answers to the puzzles were: **lovebird**, **feedback**, **overcast**, and **lockaway**. We notice that each of these words can be split in half, forming two words. Arranging these words in alphabetical order around the circle gives: **away, back, bird, cast, feed, lock, love,** and **over.** Each word can also be joined with one other word to form a common compound word or phrase. These pairs are **backover, bird feed, cast away,** and **lovelock.** Arranging the eight smaller words around the circle in alphabetacially order. We then connect each word to both of words that it can be joined with : away - cast - over - back - feed - bird - love - lock - away. Walking along these lines in that order gives **WH - I - TE - GL - OV - ES - A - LE.** Together this spells **WHITE GLOVE SALE,** an auction where all items are sold.



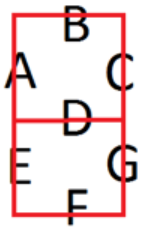
Solution - Bonus - Digital Segments

Hints

1. Since there are 7 midpoints, there must be 7 line segments in total. The line segments form ‘numbers’.
2. As hinted by the title, this puzzle is all about digital numbers rather than analog ones. When you combine the line segments hinted by each part of the answer (separated by hyphens), you should obtain either a one or two-digit answer.
3. For the final part to this puzzle, note that in the examples shown, the first letter corresponds to the LAST number, not the first, hence why the swapping symbol was used. Now, all you have to figure out is how each letter relates to its corresponding number.

Answer

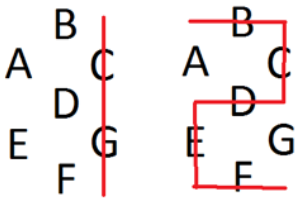
This puzzle utilizes the seven-segment display, an electronic display device for displaying decimal numerals commonly used in digital clocks. Hence, the flavor text references digital clocks and time. Each of the seven letters indicate the midpoint of one segment, as shown.



Poster 1:

For the first part of this puzzle, solvers must convert the line segment code provided in poster 1 into a series of one or two-digit numbers. Digits in a single number are separated by a slash (/), and individual numbers are separated by a hyphen (–).

Example: GC/ECFBD decodes to the number 12.



Continue using this method for the rest of the code, and you get:

12 – 26 – 17 – 21 – 19 – 26

Poster 2

1. For the next step to this puzzle, solvers must use Poster 2 to substitute the numbers they obtained from solving Poster 1 into corresponding letters.
2. Poster 2 provides a substitution guide to allow solvers to determine the pattern for which the letters are encoded.
3. To start off, solvers should know that typically, in substitution ciphers, each number only represents one digit. For example, the digit 7 cannot represent both C and G simultaneously.

4. However, at first glance, the digit 10 seems to decode to ‘E’ in LEVEL and ‘N’ in ANSWER. Clearly, that can’t be correct, and something else needs to be done.
5. Solvers should thus figure out that in order to obtain the right substitution, they need to REVERSE the digits in each substitution guide to form the following:
    - L – E – V – E – L = 17 – 10 – 1 – 10 – 17
    - A – N – S – W – E – R = 6 – 19 – 24 – 28 – 10 – 23
6. This is hinted by the use of the ‘swapping’ symbol rather than an equals sign.
7. The trick is that LEVEL is a palindrome, so reversing the digits in the first line wouldn’t matter at all. However, if the digits for ANSWER is reversed, then the substitution checks out – the digit 10 now represents the letter ‘E’ in both LEVEL and ANSWER.
8. Having corrected the substation cipher, solvers should then realize that this is just a simple Caesar cipher, where A=6, B=7, C=8 and so on.
9. Thus, using this exact method, solvers can decode the code obtained from Poster 1.
10. First, they reverse the numbers obtained to get 26 – 19 – 21 – 17 – 26 – 12.
11. Then, they apply the Caesar cipher to get the answer to this puzzle, UNPLUG, which is what they should do to their VR headset in order to finish the competition!

ANSWER: UNPLUG