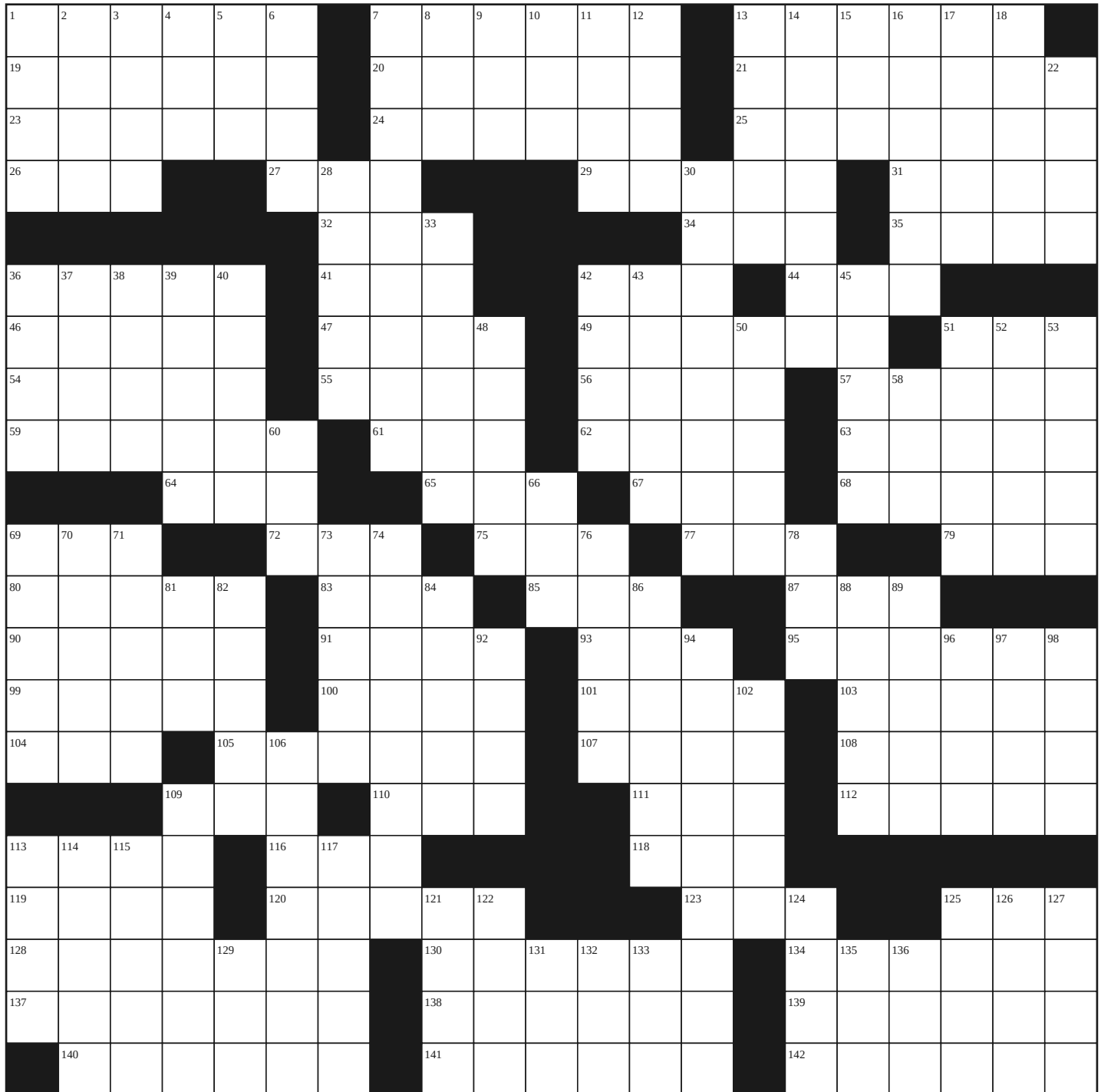


2026-09-27

**Across**

1. Hard-shelled critter you might flip a log to find on a bug hunt
7. Buzzing stinger to steer clear of on your creepy-crawly safari
13. Summer buzzer that hides underground for years before its noisy debut
19. Hearty soup meat from the back end of a steer
20. Iroquois nation of central New York
21. Charm, in London spelling

Down

1. ___ Raton, Florida
2. Test at school
3. Online shop for handmade crafts
4. Greek letter that looks like a T
5. Girl's name that rhymes with "Mia"
6. Fashion magazine with a French name

2026-09-27

Across

23. Like a jeans-and-sneakers dress code
24. Like a clementine after you take its jacket off
25. Subway in the nation's capital (2 wds.)
26. "Little Women" sister who dreams of being an artist
27. Mind-reading power, briefly
29. Like your voice when your nose is stuffed up
31. Be first in line, or the gray stuff in your pencil
32. Was out in front
34. "So ____!" (texter's way of agreeing)
35. Tiny bit of land surrounded by water
36. Believing everything, like that "gullible" is written on the ceiling
41. Dwarf in Bilbo's company in "The Hobbit"
42. League of the Lakers and the Warriors, briefly
44. Genetic code in your cells, briefly
46. Santa's workshop crew
47. Trick that sounds too good to be true
49. Paris palace where France's president lives
51. Gingerbread ____ (holiday cookies)
54. Glides high, like a kite on a windy day
55. Glowing ring over an angel's head
56. "No running in the halls," for one
57. Like a sheep before its big haircut
59. "Where the Wild Things Are" author Maurice
61. Same-old routine you get stuck in
62. Girl's name that rhymes with "Stan"
63. Salesperson's long pitch
64. Potato part that can't see a thing
65. Spanish word for "by"
67. K-pop group with a devoted ARMY of fans
68. Kind of question with only two possible answers (hyph.)
69. School lunchroom, casually
72. Guy's or gal's name that rhymes with "pal"
75. Steal from
77. Squeal when a mouse scurries by
79. Beach-day skin shade
80. Long deli sandwiches, in some cities
83. Ate for dinner, say
85. Catch in the act
87. Bear, in Spanish class
90. Garlicky mayo for dunking fries
91. Green pod in a pot of gumbo
93. Hospital scan inside a big humming tube, briefly
95. Mom's parents, to Dad (hyph.)
99. Hawkeye State resident
100. One trip around the sun
101. Treat a dog might bury in the backyard
103. The Potato State
104. Sister in a convent
105. Agreement, formally
107. Teeny-tiny bit
108. Pied ____ of Hamelin
109. Korean carmaker
110. Boy's name that sounds like the French word for king
111. Pediatricians, e.g.: Abbr.

Down

7. Train car that dumps grain from the bottom (2 wds.)
8. Number of noses on your face
9. Drummond who's TV's Pioneer Woman
10. Zero, in a soccer score
11. Garden in Genesis
12. "Look what I did!"
13. Sweet-smelling wood for closets
14. Let join the game, say
15. Doorbell ____ (porch watcher)
16. Earhart who flew solo across the Atlantic
17. Fussing lovingly (on)
18. Having to do with the ears
22. Took the bus, say
28. Splash around in a puddle
30. What you beg to do at a sleepover (2 wds.)
33. Screechy old way to get online (hyph.)
36. Loch ____ (monster's supposed home)
37. Soothing gel for a sunburn
38. Russian name that's like John
39. Green, in Spanish class
40. Five-paragraph school assignment
42. Brand of foam darts
43. Short bit of praise on a book's back cover
45. Full of updates
48. Engine
50. Touch or taste
51. Like a really good cake
52. Princess of Avalon
53. Stretchy fabric in a backpack
58. Midwest "oops" when bumping into someone
60. The "Home Alone" kid, to his pals
66. Harry Potter's red-haired best friend
69. Bike part that can pop off
70. The main vowels, in order
71. An upside-down smile
73. Sailors' hellos
74. Great body of water along Cleveland's shore (2 wds.)
76. Disney fawn who meets Thumper
78. Colorful pond fish
81. Crayon brand ending
82. Mount where Moses got the tablets
84. Clog-busting brand
86. Sulks silently
88. Cuts with scissors
89. Golden song from long ago
92. Like a gallery crowd
94. Kid who recharges alone with a good book
96. Heritage month in May, for short
97. "Say ____!" (enough pouring!)
98. Achy after gym class
102. Class where good grades come without a fight (2 wds.)
106. Japanese sword-wielding warrior
109. Test-prep company for the SAT
113. Young fellows

I'm Sarah. I have three boys who are too smart for their own good, and I wanted to share real crosswords with them: a pencil, a little spite, a grid that requires some sweat. Non-trivial means there's no obscure trivia in them. My boys might find out who Brian Eno and Yoko Ono are someday, but they won't need to know to solve these puzzles.

<https://nontrivialcrosswords.com>

2026-09-27

Across

- 112. River that flows through Paris
- 113. Tibetan Buddhist monk
- 116. "Who, me?" to Miss Piggy
- 118. ___ sauce (sushi dip)
- 119. Perched on
- 120. Flip over, like a turtle you gently help back up
- 123. Carpet cleaner, for short
- 125. ___ Moines, Iowa
- 128. Announce officially
- 130. Cute word after a small spill
- 134. Buzz who was the second person to walk on the moon
- 137. Like the dunes of Africa's biggest desert
- 138. Person who catches typos before a book is printed
- 139. State home to Las Vegas
- 140. Green bug hunter that looks like it's saying its prayers
- 141. Grasshopper cousin that travels in hungry swarms
- 142. Pincered creepy-crawly kids find hiding under damp rocks

Down

- 114. Best players on the roster (hyph.)
- 115. Chocolate coffee drink
- 117. Unwraps, like birthday gifts
- 121. Christmas carol word
- 122. Extinct flightless bird
- 124. Candy ___ (striped treat)
- 125. Tie game
- 126. Gift of money for kids at Eid
- 127. Catch, as a sweater on a nail
- 129. Class with paint and glue
- 131. Snapshot
- 132. Boy's nickname that rhymes with "blue"
- 133. Apple's iPhone software
- 135. Grassy meadow
- 136. TV recorder, briefly