

Jeff Prugpchailers made this puzzle, and it was titled "Before and After". What were the theme entries? Four long across entries had bracketed clues:

- [Former AMC drama that is an undeserved reputation]: BREAKING RAP
- [Pigmented nasal filaments that are plastic coils used for perms]: NOSE CURLERS
- [Dermal hygiene practice that is a box of treats mailed to a loved one]: SKIN PACKAGE
- [Computer systems building that is the position played by Mike Trout]: DATA FIELDER

Those four clues were written in the style of the *Jeopardy!* category that is also called Before and After. The questions in that category combine two phrases that share a common word. If you looked closely at the theme entries, the same thing was happening here, only the shared word was removed.

- BREAKING BAD (Former AMC Drama) combined with BAD RAP (undeserved reputation).
- NOSE HAIR combined with HAIR CURLERS
- SKIN CARE combined with CARE PACKAGE
- and DATA CENTER combined with CENTER FIELDER.

That leaves us with BAD, HAIR, CARE, and CENTER. Using the same mechanism one more time gives us the answer. BAD HAIR **DAY** combined with **DAY** CARE CENTER. Since the answer was a three-letter word, DAY fits! And it also works nicely with the title, since "day before" and "day after" are both valid phrases too.

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
H	A	S	T	A		A	S	S	E	S		D	E	C
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
U	B	E	R	S		N	A	I	V	E		E	R	A
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
B	R	E	A	K	I	N	G	R	A	P		C	A	R
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
S	A	N	S		N	E	E				W	I	S	E
			23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
			H	U	T		T	E	D		I	D	E	S
29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43
M	E	H		N	O	S	E	C	U	R	L	E	R	S
35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
A	S	I	C	S		K	A	Z	O	O	S			
38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
I	T	S	A	T	I	E		E	S	C	O	R	T	S
			44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55
			T	O	M	T	O	M		K	N	E	E	L
47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61
S	K	I	N	P	A	C	K	A	G	E		F	E	Y
52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66
T	O	N	I		C	H	I		S	I	R	S		
56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
R	S	V	P				N	A	G		P	E	N	T
63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77
A	H	A		D	A	T	A	F	I	E	L	D	E	R
68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82
N	E	D		I	N	A	W	E		R	I	N	S	E
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85
D	R	E		M	A	C	A	W		S	T	A	T	E

BAD HAIR - DAY - CARE CENTER														
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