

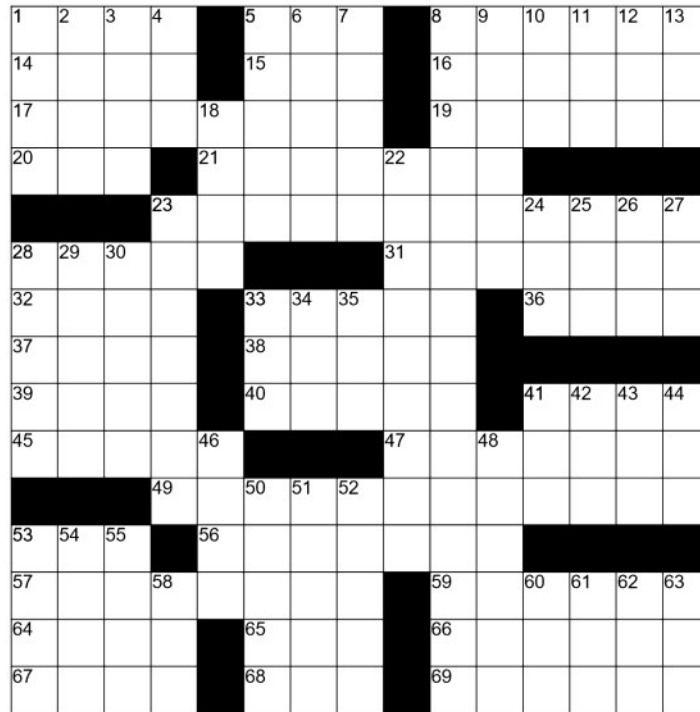
## Multiple Choice

Will P.

Welcome to a good, old fashioned game of Clue! Except instead of waiting for other people to roll dice, you have everything you need to solve the murder right in front of you. As a reminder, in order to solve this whodunnit, you need to figure out which character committed the murder, in which room, with which weapon.

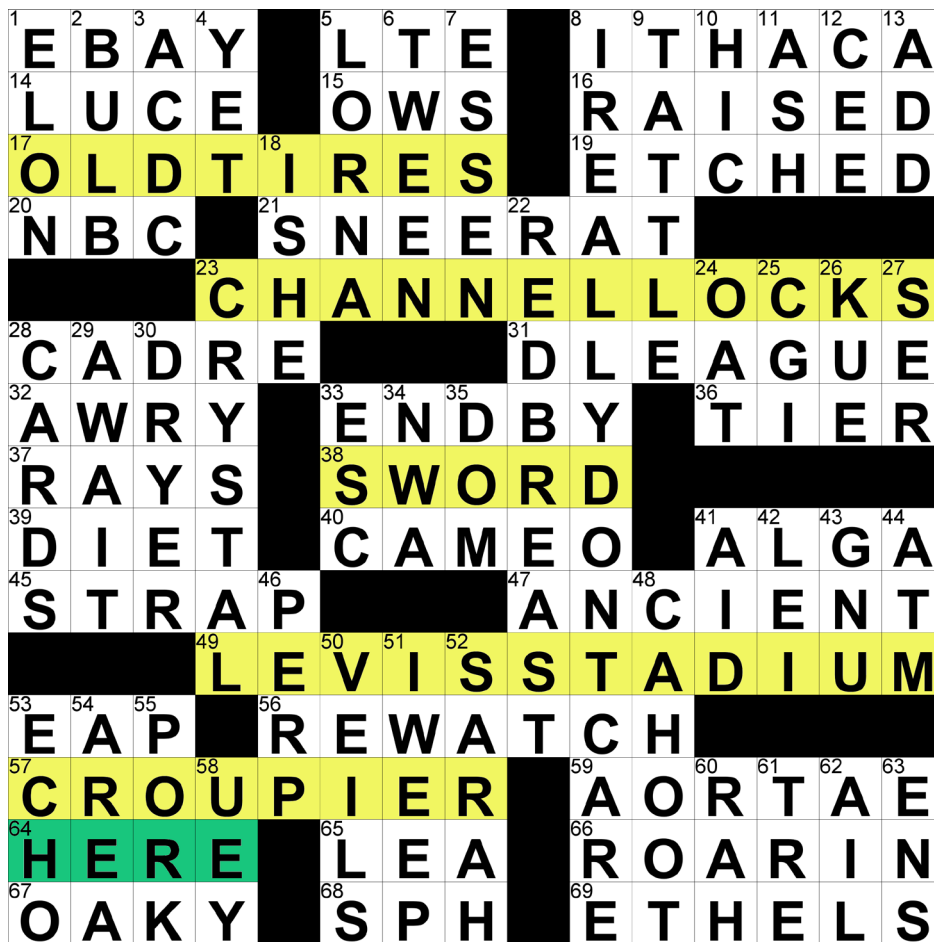
### ACROSS

1. Online marketplace
5. 4G \_\_\_\_
8. New York city whose city hall is on East Green Street
14. 2019 Drama directed by Tim Roth
15. Cries of pain
16. Elevated, as garden beds
17. What many swings over rivers are made with
19. Scratched (into)
20. Peacock streaming service provider
21. Mock with a smile
23. Quintessential handheld tool for someone fixing a sink
28. Small group
31. Previous name of the basketball org. with the Mad Ants
32. Off course
33. Not continue past
36. Level
37. Tampa baseballers
38. Weapon with a metal blade
39. Health kick
40. Brief celebrity appearance
41. Seaweed
45. \_\_\_\_\_ in (Put on a seat belt)
47. Like the origins of the Parable of the Mustard Seed
49. Home of the San Francisco 49ers
53. "The Raven" initials
56. View again
57. Thing needed for a game of roulette
59. Large blood vessels
64. You are \_\_\_\_\_ (note on a map)
65. Grassy field



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66. Like some ragin' rapids
67. Like some whiskey
68. Orb (abbrev.)
69. Roosevelt Derby and Kennedy, for two
18. \_\_\_\_\_ for real? ("This guy's gotta be joking")
22. Scarlet-colored feature of some nuthatches
23. Feature of some fancy watches and rings
24. Part of a healthy breakfast
25. Like some animation (abbrev.)
26. Letter after pee
27. To be, in Mexico City
28. What hands are made up of
29. Sit in anticipation
30. It goes next to a washer
33. Abort key
34. "Straight Outta Compton" group
35. \_\_\_\_\_ Perignon
41. First \_\_\_\_\_
42. Luau necklace
43. Antelope
44. Absent minded banker? (abbrev.)
46. Victim's opposite (abbrev.)
48. When pluralized, something you can "be in" with someone else
50. White pieces of wedding attire
51. "\_\_\_\_\_ for the future." (Ferris Bueller's Day Off quote)
52. \_\_\_\_\_ Lawrence College
53. Repeated sound
54. Neck of the woods
55. It can be pulled apart but not picked apart
58. 180 degree turn, slangily
60. Cheer from the stands
61. Uno + due
62. Come down with
63. Lowest naval officer rank (abbrev.)



Solution: **Meta #1, Person:** This was hopefully the easiest one (the one that was supposed to be a 2 for difficulty). You could've solved it without filling in a single letter, and it seemed like every single submitted answer had this right. Five of the characters' names appeared in the clues for the puzzle:

- 8-Across: New York city whose city hall is on East Green Street
- 20-Across: Peacock streaming service provider
- 47-Across: Like the origins of the Parable of the Mustard Seed
- 22-Down: Scarlet-colored feature of some nuthatches
- 50-Down: White pieces of wedding attire

The odd man out is **PROFESSOR PLUM**, who is the PERP. One down, two to go.

**Meta #2, Room:** This one was also supposed to be pretty simple. Some solvers said they got it immediately, others said they never would have noticed without help from a friend. Hopefully you noticed that this puzzle had horizontal, rather than rotational, symmetry (a break in standard crossword conventions). The reason for this was because I wanted the grid to look like the Clue board. I separated the

perimeter into 9 "rooms", and put a U-shaped "staircase" in the middle. Comparing this design to the original Clue board (be careful, the variations have different boards) would reveal that the word **HERE** is located in the **LOUNGE**. Some solvers noticed that the themed answers from the other mechanisms ran through most of the rooms, and submitted **STUDY**. While this makes sense as using process of elimination, the reason I ultimately decided against counting **STUDY** as an alternate correct answer is because themed words also don't go through the **DINING ROOM**, and having two of such rooms should have **CLUED** you that there was a different mechanism. Two down, one to go.

**Meta #3, Weapon:** This is the one that I thought might be the kicker. And because I thought it was more difficult, I tossed in a clue in the title. Multiple choice didn't just refer to your limited number of options for each of the three categories, it also referred to 5 of the clues that had two possible answers. One of the answers was included in the grid, the other answer was a murder weapon from the game. The answers in the grid were supposed to stand out as themed entries - 4 out of the 5 were the longest Across answers, and those were symmetrically placed.

17-Across: What many swings over rivers are made with. Grid answer: **OLD TIRES**, Other possible choice: **ROPE**.

23-Across: Quintessential handheld tool for someone fixing a sink. Grid answer: **CHANNELLOCKS**, Other possible answer: **PIPE WRENCH**. (Note my exclusion of the word "plumber" in the clue to avoid confusion about the character.)

38-Across: Weapon with a metal blade. Grid answer: **SWORD**. Other possible choice: **KNIFE** (or **DAGGER**). I thought this might be the first one you found that tipped you off to the others, given the same length of possible answers.

49-Across: Home of the San Francisco 49ers. Grid answer: **LEVISSTADIUM**. Other possible choice: **CANDLESTICKPARK**.

57-Across: Thing needed for a game of roulette. Grid answer: **CROUPIER**. Other possible answer (for Russian roulette): **REVOLVER**.

That leaves **LEAD PIPE** as the murder weapon. I was slightly concerned some people might've thought lead pipe was the other option for 23-Across, but I hardly consider a piece of pipe a tool. Some people did say **ROPE**, thinking **LEAD PIPE** was the alternative for **DRYER** (Something next to a washer), however, the other 5 alternate items are symmetrical across entries, which should have confirmed that those were the right ones to use, since **DRYER** is vertical.