

## VERBECTOMY

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12							
D	O	T		B	A	S	I	C	S		S	N	O							
13	E	C	O		14	F	R	O	T	H	Y		15	K	I	T				
16	G	E	T	17	O	F	F	Y	O	U	R	H	I	G	H		HORSE			
19	A	A	A	S					20	F	R	I	O		21	H	E	R	22	
23	S	N	L	H	24	O	S	T		26		27	R	A	P		28	T	R	U
				29	A	F	T	E	30	R	O	N	E	31	S	O	W	N		HEART
32	S	A	C		35	F	A	R	E				36	S	E	W	I	N		
37	O	I	L	S		39	Y	I	E	L	D		42	E	L	S	E			
43	C	R	O	S	44	S				45	S	U	R	E		47	S	E	R	
48	U	P	S	E	T	49	T	H	E	50	C	A	R	T	51					APPLE
52	T	I	E		53	E	R	A		54	A	C	R	O	55	B	A	T	57	
58	E	S	S		59	N	O	V	A	60				61	T	A	S	E		
	62	T	H	R	O	63	W	A	M	64	O	N	K	E	65	Y	I	N		WRENCH
	67	O	U	I		68	E	N	T	R	A	P		69	O	C	D			
	70	L	T	D		71	L	A	S	S	E	S		72	U	S	S			

© 2021 [a popular table top game that looks like it's been played here](#)

The theme answers (longest across entries) in last week's puzzle were common phrases/idioms that each had a word missing. Those missing words were: HORSE, HEART, APPLE, and WRENCH, which are all pieces that are removed from the body during the game **Operation**, which was our meta answer. The title of the puzzle, "Verbectomy" was supposed to get you thinking about the medical aspect of the game, but many folks had questions about it, since the mechanism had nothing to do with verbs. However, "verb" used as a prefix simply refers to all words (e.g. "verbiage"), so the title just meant "the surgical removal of words", which I thought was a good descriptor of what was happening.