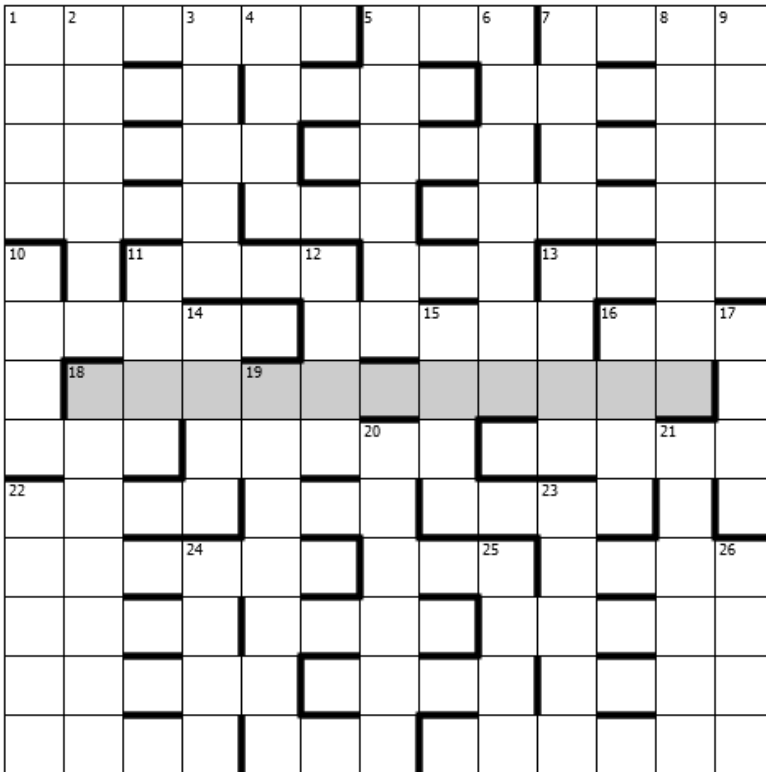


# Something's Up

by Skaldskaparmal



In many endeavors, including puzzles, we try to [unclued shaded entry] even though it can be hard. Nevertheless, you're going to have to do just that six times in this puzzle.

Grid numbers apply to down clues only. Across clues are given in normal order but their grid positions and enumerations have been withheld. They are labeled with letters for convenience of reference.

- X. Back ... .. erm ... .. er ... .. sorry give me a sec ... .. bones
- Y. A dance with Romeo later would make one over the moon
- Z. Collection of bacteria is missing, yes, but you might find it in time?
- AA. Jazz musician acquires vacant building intended for entertainment
- AB. Arab poetry is written from right to left
- AC. Painting and sculpture of Ares from Shakespearean times?
- AD. Revealed new Dune canon

## Across

- A. Evidence of damage on some DnD characters' weapon accessories
- B. Listen for a variety of green birds -- they're usually going on at night
- C. Some are made from artichokes and spinach leaves
- D. Seal was broken by Japanese demon, and Edward paid the price (2 wds.)
- E. Avoid parking lot where car essentially vanished
- F. Almost no right answer for Kobayashi Maru participant
- G. To prevent sales, I mar piece of bric-a-brac resembling a matryoshka doll
- H. He once attended a giant dinner in a beautiful dress with ornate features
- I. Yell "Way to go!"
- J. Story about 1,201 rabbits appeared in his book about numbers
- K. Rhesus monkey in Disney film backs up and starts to regard banana plant
- L. What you absolutely must know how to do before playing your first game of blackjack:  
Double down after an ace is seen
- M. Letter recorded in audio tape
- N. Imitates fencing team leader's fans
- O. Follow Frank
- P. Key to remove last traces of mold, grime, and soil
- Q. What's needed to get to Western Sahara by pack animal?
- R. Low noises reflected by echo
- S. Charlie, exposed, takes cover
- T. Fighters boxing with energy for the audience
- U. One very bright candelabra ruined after tip of candle is cut off
- V. Create a puzzle game involving cards, each of which is associated with a color, shape, number, and shading, where each property has three possibilities, making 81 cards in total
- W. Lose bit of self when rocking out

## Down

- 1. Urge senior to eat up in retirement (4)
- 2. In bed, pulling off the covers is chore for many people (6)
- 3. Delivery ships are directed here using the radio (5)
- 4. Sounding certainly like Beethoven (4)
- 5. Cat, squirrels, bee, and a warhog (6)
- 6. Cruising speed attained on foot (7)
- 7. Figures at a distance heading north (4)
- 8. Monitor corrupt corporation on the rise (7)
- 9. Country beginning to sell light and delicate rolls (5)
- 10. Old men lost in thought (4)
- 11. In retrospect, where could a bear go to get money? (4)
- 12. What adorable pet can display! (4)
- 13. A number of books about antimony you might find cool (4, abbr.)
- 14. Computer components running in little-endian (or in other words, with the bytes in reverse order) hexadecimal (4)
- 15. What's wrong with relatively warm weather? (4)
- 16. Where a speaker might deliver a piercing insult (4)
- 17. Reportedly, Despicable Me's protagonist improved as a person over time (4)
- 18. Who you can talk to if you want to buy a house on a large hill (7)
- 19. Plain South American woman who opens Pat's letters (7)
- 20. After cycling halfway, what feeble beekeeper requires is an unwavering ally (6, hyph.)
- 21. Pass around corn and honey (6)
- 22. Roman assassin's downfall: short pair of detectives (5)
- 23. Hurried to grab myself some noodles (5)
- 24. Prolific mathematician (essentially the Kevin Bacon of math), is, without smidgeon of doubt, a god (4)
- 25. Old Egyptian uniform is something still worn by dancers today (4)
- 26. Ultimately, play area by road! (4)