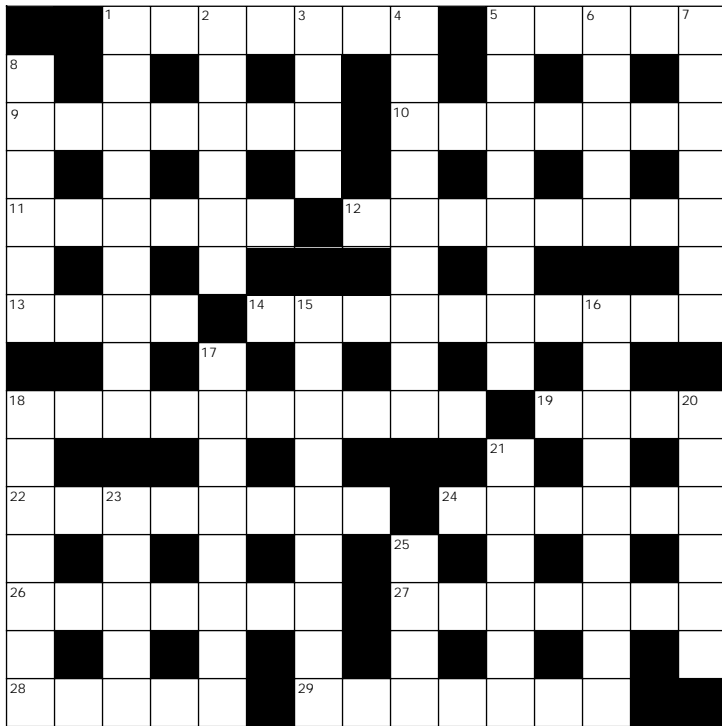


Cryptic Crossword

By Brit Ray



DIRECTIONS

Anagrammatically speaking, *April showers* bring *Paris howlers*—but the April cryptic brings you lots of flowers. Let me hand you a few. At 1-across, *mix* is an anagram indicator. In 8-down, the question mark suggests a pun; a way to clue the same word as an anagram might be *Gives out succor to small plant*.

5-across is a hidden word clue, indicated by *through*.

16-down is a sound-alike.

Abbreviations can be clues if they are the standard ones at the beginning of each letter in the dictionary. 18-across is a combination clue—with both a container and two charades. If you are a beginner, these tips should help get you started.

But when it comes to 4-down—can you trust me? Answer to last month's puzzle appears on page 61.



ACROSS

1. Mix a nut pie for pig (7)
5. Leaf strengthens tomato through every pore (5)
9. Train bowlegs to reduce arch (7)
10. Perform again on ten-acre plot (7)
11. Not quite rich as directors (6)
12. Female engineer on trial at New York building (8)
13. Hold back source (4)
14. Manipulating more pins, so let me sew you to your sheet—as an example (10)
18. Fly around scrap next to insect smelling sweetly (10)
19. Imitates peas stewing (4)
22. Shrinking violet turns green beside loud painting of thin lady (5,3)
24. Tutor loses head over flower (6)
26. At end of life, unexpectedly alit on happiness (7)
27. Amy aced test at college (7)
28. Mix pears and asparagus (5)
29. Glee abandoned, that is, at first sign of sad songs (7)

DOWN

1. Repair vim: a salad in springtime (9)
2. Buster cut up potatoes (6)
3. North, south, east, west—initially redistribute the latest information (4)
4. A dunce in the spring? Just kidding! (5,4)
5. Sailor's child is a wee pest, needs changing (8)
6. Still floating from radio broadcast? (2-3)
7. Not many use opposite word (7)
8. First flower of spring can make a black bird swear? (6)
15. Confine and arrange any ten for poker game (5,4)
16. Flower can't wait, sounds like (9)
17. Hungrier after end of spring, Bambi returns, with renewed ire (8)
18. First frost reduces blossoms (7)
20. Street with sunlight has lost cats (6)
21. Far as I travel, it's an expedition (6)
23. One wizard in picture (5)
25. Walk back and forth in swirling cape (4)