

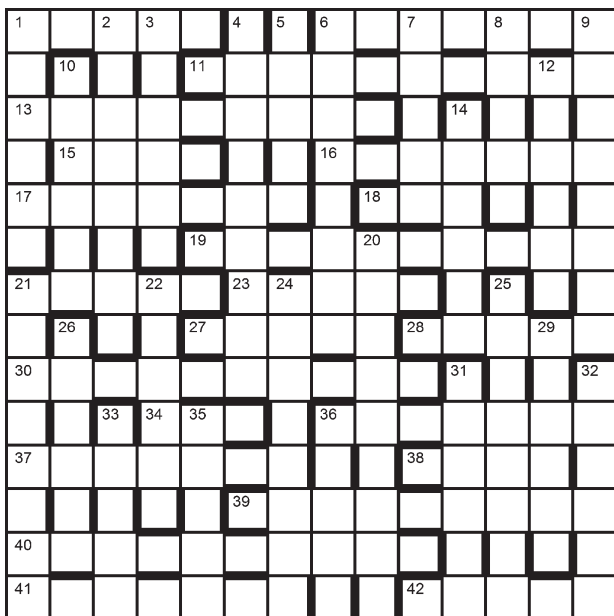
Eight unclued entries comprise four pairs whose thematic ordering is provided by 3, 31, 37 and 41.

### Across

- 1 Deft, dry in denial (5)
- 6 Bitter unit – British back in charge (7)
- 11 Criminal or liar with cult having three cells (10)
- 13 Distress furniture suitable for oils? (9)
- 15 Talks, say, regularly, inanely (4)
- 16 Extremities such as frogs' legs do (7)
- 17 Thought mostly about minor inertia (7)
- 18 American-English custom (3)
- 19 To wit, PI hires corrupt eastern minister (10)
- 21 Put out cats, finally having enough (5)
- 23 Rigorous, way-to-the-right painter (5)
- 27 Acknowledge heron, moving head (5)
- 28 Heed unknown once-prominent primate (5)
- 30 Hotel records the supply (10)
- 34 Miss end of top copy (3)
- 36 Material publication by South Africa (7)
- 38 Ruth is mine, happy at last (4)
- 39 Top Buddhist a short African boy upset (9, two words)
- 40 Fan making us hesitant (10)
- 42 Force unopened lock (5)

### Down

- 1 Old waitress to pinch dish (6)



- 2 UAE currency to go after tense test (8, two words)
- 4 Support I raised in bar (9)
- 5 Stomach good book (5)
- 7 Modified organisms upset small fish (5)
- 9 Angrily checking pressure of a tyre (8, hyphenated)
- 12 Old Ford called perjurer when exposed (6)
- 14 One-time fatties organised party (6)
- 21 Avoid, as hermits do? (8, hyphenated)
- 22 Show several musical notes (6)
- 24 Check new trainers (8)
- 25 Face father acting without son (8)
- 26 Wrap palm in advance (6)
- 29 Enemy arranged to carry variable catalyst (6)
- 32 Caught, sadly, outside island port (6)
- 33 'Animated Dog' gives 'God' (5)
- 35 Javelin of choice around India (5)
- 36 Prison camp with convict (5)

A first prize of £30 for the first correct solution opened on 9 May. There are two runners-up prizes of £20. Please scan or photograph entries and email them (including the crossword number in the subject field) to [crosswords@spectator.co.uk](mailto:crosswords@spectator.co.uk) – the dictionary prize is not available. We will accept postal entries again at some point.

Name .....

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