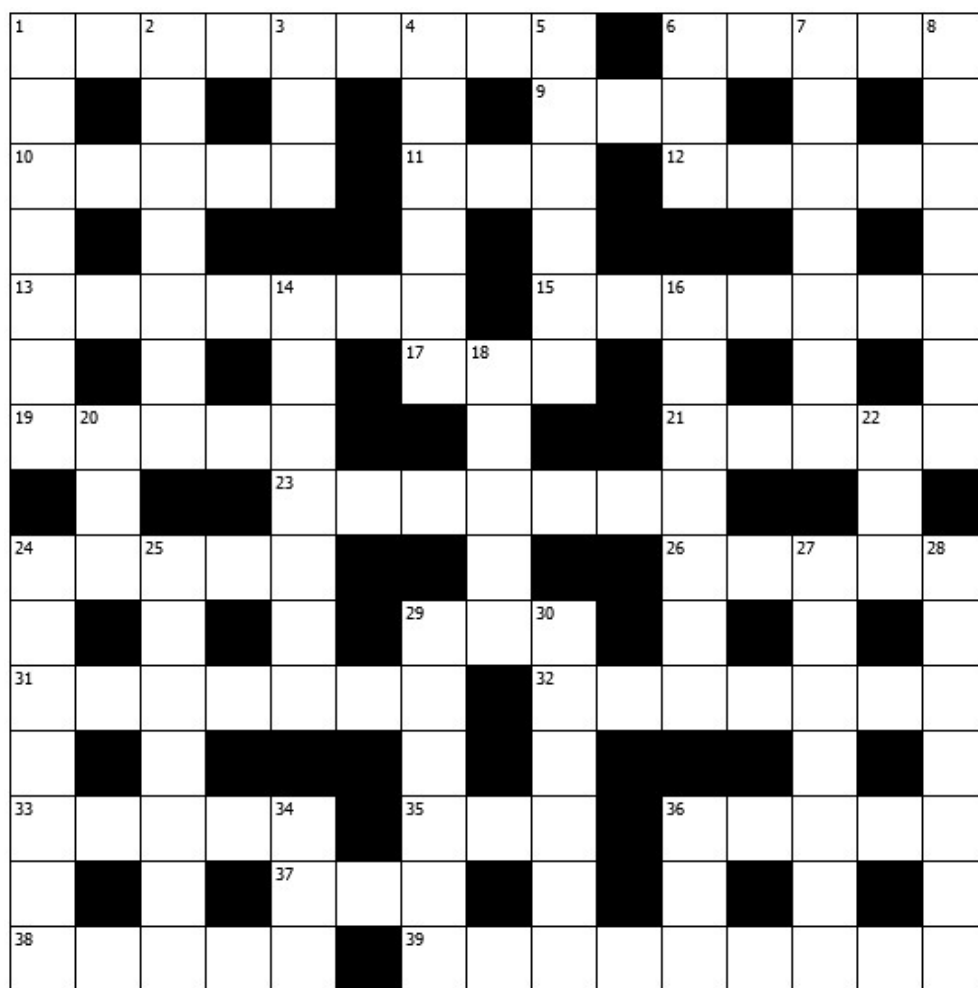




Seven across clues are incomplete. Merry Christmas!

ACROSS

- 1 Gives credit to a learner with nothing but a bonsai core (9)
- 6 Add the last one to just a smidgeon of colour (5)
- 9 Employ American eagle first (3)
- 10 Scan a mess without first sounding malicious (5)
- 11 Fool a party (3)
- 12 Snack that might be a sacred duty held by a swinger? (5)
- 13 Cry surrender, and bury it deep underground (7)
- 15 An achievement measured in iron and astatine (7)
- 17 Thigh eaten at both ends by antipodean (3)
- 19 The Saint, but with choice of gender - perfect (5)
- 21 Where one might hide a series of good or bad ones (5)
- 23 Man who may exist at the boundaries of space and time (7)
- 24 First honourable artform innovation killed unexpectedly! (5)
- 26 An early American private-eye from Arizona? (5)
- 29 To begin with, I stored advances here?! (3)
- 31 May be dug up in the middle of a forest (7)
- 32 Seen on stage at advertising event? (7)
- 33 Old money holds nothing to valley (5)
- 35 March is a good place to find a spark (3)
- 36 Relish breaking wind for nothing (5)
- 37 He could be his own parent, no? (3)
- 38 Appropriate direction for parties (5)
- 39 Doctor who raps in German army uniform (9)

DOWN

- 1 Mislaid copper container with first swarming insects (7)
- 2 Stylish way to destroy red coat (3,4)
- 3 Watch for last day, with afterthought rising (3)
- 4 Bottom star follows 35 underneath the arches (6)
- 5 Douglas fought a thousand, broke gun and briefly swore! (4,2)
- 6 Black after even tweed is woven (3)
- 7 Puzzled that I have no title (7)
- 8 Travellers took record company to Greece and Spain (7)
- 14 Actor from an American town should be in Germany (7)
- 16 Silver clown with a tailless cat plays restlessly (7)
- 18 Touch the middle of arsenic (5)
- 20 Break, eat and drink (3)
- 22 River afore the blade (3)
- 24 Bad-guy Robin lost a grand - sad! (7)
- 25 Could this be a mini age of musical dragons? (7)
- 27 Plans to oppose rumours of a male sapling (7)
- 28 Tax those who buy things when they don't hesitate (7)
- 29 Maybe no man would join, starting with an odd insult (6)
- 30 Split peach with a leading native (6)
- 34 Dashes to clone Dorothy's relative (3)
- 36 It's funny when you fall backwards (3)