

By Dorian Tyrell

Solution to **DOWNSIZING**:

Inspecting the 8×8 grid of letters yields intersecting last names of two actors from the same TV show (Glee): Cory MONTEITH and Matthew MORRISON. By removing those names as hinted by the title, the grid can be downsized to 7×7 .

This process of identifying and removing pairs of actor names can then be repeated four more times. The titles of the respective TV shows (Glee, Modern Family, The Office, Parks and Recreation, and Community) are hinted in the flavor text.

After you have completed downsizing, you arrive at the final 3×3 grid. When read left to right, top to bottom, this spells out the final answer, **COSTARRED**. Congratulations to Nick, who first submitted the correct answer on our website.

As you encounter more game puzzles, you may recognize familiar mechanics (like the word search from last week). This leads us to **Rule 8: Know your common puzzles**. Intro guides often start with crosswords and sudokus -- not only are they popular and common, but they often get used as steps in game puzzles.

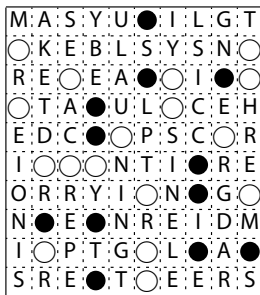
Cryptic crosswords are another common word puzzle, and sudokus just are one of a number of logic puzzles (many from the publisher Nikoli). Being able to identify such puzzles will help you get started.

This is your last week to register for the Berkeley Mystery Hunt, our annual puzzle solving competition, on Sun. Apr. 29! There will be food, t-shirts, and prizes. See our website below for more information.

And as always, if you think you have the answer, submit it online.

STEPS TOLD

Follow the path of the evil influence.



<http://puzzle.berkeley.edu>