

МАТРЁШКИ

1	2	*		3	h	4	d		5	g		6	7
							8			*		9	f
			10						11	e			
12						13	b					a	
		14			c					15			
16	*											*	

A (Definition and Letter Mixture)

1	2		3	4		5		6	7
					8				9
		10				11			
12				13					
		14						15	
16									

B (Letters Latent)

1	2		3	4		5		6	7
					8				9
		10				11			
12				13					
		14						15	
16									

C (Misprint)

1	2		3	4		5		6	7
					8				9
		10				11			
12				13					
		14						15	
16									

D (Normal cryptic)

The four grids are to be considered engraved on the successive elements of a Russian Doll – A outermost, D innermost. Each doll's entries are obtained from clues of a particular type, as indicated. The dolls are cylindrical, hence 9a and 15a run off one side and reappear on the other.

Each set of four clues contains one of each type in no particular order. The Letters Latent phrase is an abridged quotation offering a reprimand to solvers who give up. Half of the misprints are in clue definitions, half in the grid. The correct letters in the definitions spell out a possibly relevant phrase.

Grid A has annotations in the top *right*-hand corners of certain squares. The asterisks mark the starting-points of the Through answers. Solvers will find it necessary to imagine that the inner dolls have been rotated by various amounts in order to fix these solutions. Once this is done, the letters reading through from the squares marked a-h will reveal a quotation (which is not the reference used!) and its author. This will determine the misprint that is apparently in an unchecked square.

There are two proper names and a well-known foreign word amongst the answers. [The original published reference was the 1988 edition of Chambers, which had apparently deleted a 'helpful cross-reference' from the 1977 edition (which was used to set the puzzle back in 1984). I cannot now determine what this relates to, but I cannot see anything not in the 2011 edition.]

Across

- 1 A particularly frigid sort of lass who's invaluable in the office (2 words)
Rejected bone china – amateurish – this place is known for shoddy work
Running fast errand – an important event for the Bank
Very clever – taking short lead in river, raced the canoe
- 8 Move furtively, lacking guts – it must be strain
Notices ban affecting the last worker in Glasgow
Powder from duel can upset life mechanisms, primarily
Revolutionary school is curtailed in the perfect state
- 9 First of repayments in series extortioner heartlessly ups, meeting with rejection
Make a few tears and take a remnant
New convert now kitted out in habit
The language in a Swiss region's not on
- 10 Extremely small distance – there isn't much in it
Former principal border curtailed by a mile
Restore cricket matches, getting over without last of deliveries
Waller's buildings often found in blocks
- 11 Ears may be burning
Endlessly thump an animal
Mother certainly rebutted the allusion
North Sea product about a pound, rejected? It may suffer inflation at Whitby

- 12 Forecast by means of Meteosat, originally
He drove a hard bargain to get small change when taking away record-player
Lanolin is an exotic animal product
Makes off with items of regalia – half will be returned
- 13 It's the meaning of 'loathe'!
Odd bits of hate dropped from patter of a macabre comedian?
Put on edge after uranium loss? Just one example here
The gas unit bust
- 14 European country backing high-level summit, perhaps
Space man discarding one before orbiting globe in reverse
Work well, absorbing a spell of prosperity? Quite the reverse
Zoo may pursue me – I'm a big bird
- 15 A period of punishment – in clink, too
Developer of TV put on display's not English
In Maine it may be a sort of hill
Prim female one
- 16 A source of silver – old headdress will incorporate it
Being merely a stopgap measure, I display a poor temper
Headless roses, then, in waving will be sporting stem
New separations? Divorced one appears in second rumour that's circulating

Down

- 1 A type of ornament beginning to sell in marketing
Eat voraciously – see the chocolate log polished off
It may hurt a fool, getting involved in risky venture
Sheep-fat coming in various grades
- 2 Act like a Blue in the women's College, finally
Plant, gold in colour, coming up
The Nile rises near a stony outcrop
Told off about plot involving Unionist
- 3 Defeatist, no good life thrown over
Here's a bird chirruping an eloquent line
Stands for election, as The Soviet Union's taken in the past President (2 words)
The end of the rich milk source, cut off short, not any showing up
- 4 Eradicate the extremes of troubles, seemingly
Lake Anvil, in the forefront of Central America
Loose cape is warm if chunky
Seeing that, one's held up an article
- 5 A variety of amber I once meant to provide hair decoration

Expect spine or part of foot to be broken
Some roads may have provided the basis of this – i.e. a main road in the States
(in Kansas)
Whales' food turns up on one place for storing North Sea produce

- 6 Decimating stock, keeping outer parts only, by way of providing leather
Fishing aid otherwise swallowed by newt, not fish's head
Sedative, fancy that, injected into a gossip? Not half!
Wager a boat excursion will repel intruder
- 7 Flowers – they may keep well
Hardly ever caught in a panic
I was punished by donkey-work
Take in a heavy blow? Tend to become comatose
- 8 Grass containing leaf-bud within in
One prescribes inches
Revel provided by company with music
Rhythm was given by old instrument

Through (all of four letters)

Beer – and an arcade game? Not half!
Flag I attack – one's wiped out
One type of fuel for a number of cookers
There's nothing in France to compare with the boundless East?