

WORD, CHAIN, LETTER, CHANGE

by Harth

Ten unclued entries (1D, 14A, 32A, 17A, 34D, 5D, 22A, 28D, 36A, 28A, 1D), form a word chain like: BOOK, MARK, TIME, LIFE, VEST, POCKET, BOOK.

Ten other entries each consist of two answers that differ only by one unchecked letter. Cram both letters into the grid. Each pair is clued by a “double” definition, like “Improved character (6)” for (B/L)ETTER. (B and L would be entered in the same box.) In one case, one of the pair is a two-word phrase.

Other clues are normal.

Across

- 1 Workers’ protests are tests of strength (9)
- 10 Mutter “Danger!” (6)
- 11 Musical group with spirit (4)
- 13 Gloomy morning becomes noon. Be happy! (4)
- 15 Exchange a tiny amount (5)
- 19 More than one free electron is carrying on (4)
- 20 An upset in store disturbed politician (7)
- 21 Look narrowly -- a knowing look (4)
- 25 New jewelry is appropriate (4)
- 26 God’s territory (4)
- 30 Greek letters without modifications (4)
- 31 From Sartre: “Existentialism? It has roots”... (4)
- 33 ...“Follows obstetrics?” “Yes, perhaps.” (5)
- 37 Traveled on a highway, so to speak (4)
- 38 Resort reassigned personnel (6)
- 39 Number game (9, hyphenated)

Down

- 2 Type of produce mishandled in cargo (7)
- 3 Terrible dread over sinful, foolhardy person (9)
- 4 Idle on tail or step unevenly (6)
- 6 Arrest and put one in the pen (3)
- 7 Wonderful cure... (5)
- 8 ... by way of clipping the wings of birds (3)
- 9 Card game (5)

- 12 Bishop’s staff is Catholic, more optimistic (7)
- 16 Veto of Red nukes upheld, getting in the way (9)
- 18 Frugal at heart, in getting away from extortion (7)
- 23 Italian course — its root is tangled (7)
- 24 Greet US-foreign movement (7)
- 26 Absent hint about castle (rook) is to be added (6)
- 27 Fundamentalist nurse wearing garment backwards? Quite the opposite. (6)
- 29 Start off hungry, get thin (5)
- 35 Understood an adage (3)

