

INGREDIENT: Obscure Alloys

Once you collect the metals we need, there's a very precise method of chemically processing them to release their inner scent. Fortunately, I've documented the steps on these carefully ordered index cards. Let me just hand them to you without dropping them haphazardly onto the floo—oops.

* Add a letter to the end of Word 2 to get a homophone of the word you're replacing. Remove the first two letters from Word 4, and insert a new letter into the middle to get a sidekick. Change the first letter of Word 5 to get a metric unit. In Box V, write one-half of the total number of letters.

* Change one of the two vowels of word 1 to match the other, and rearrange the letters to get a 1970 song named after a woman. Remove two vowels from Word 3 to get a body part. Reverse the order of the letters in Word 5 to get a form of transportation. In Box B, write the length of the shortest word. In Box P, write the total number of consonants.

* Double the middle letter of Word 1, and then change the last letter to get a land formation. Remove two letters from Word 5 to get a synonym for the word you're removing letters from. In Box S, write the total number of letters in the three shortest words.

* In Word 1, switch the positions of two letters to get a word meaning "worse." In Word 2, replace a letter with a type of high school class to get something an interior decorator might be interested in. Reverse the order of the letters in Word 5 and change the new last letter to get the name of a TV show featuring an animal. In Box K, write the number of letters that appear in the third row of a QWERTY keyboard.

* Now that you've followed all of the other directions, take the five words, put them in *reverse* alphabetical order, and fill them into the boxes to the left of the lettered boxes, letter by letter from top to bottom.

	-	A
	-	B
	+	C
	+	D
	-	E
	+	F
	+	G
	+	H
	+	I
	-	J
	-	K
	-	L
	+	M
	+	N
	+	O
	+	P
	+	Q
	+	R
	-	S
	-	T
	+	U
	-	V

* Rearrange the letters in Word 2 to get a possible component of a meal. In Word 3, replace a letter with the two letters that are adjacent to it in the alphabet to get a powerful person. Remove the last letter of Word 4 to get a homophone of the word you're replacing. In Box M, write the number of letters that appear more than once (counting each letter only once, not once per appearance).

* Remove the first letter of Word 1, and remove the first two letters of Word 2, to get two words that start with the same letter. Add three letters to the end of Word 4 to change it to a female version of word you're replacing. In Box F, write the number of letters that appear in the second row of a QWERTY keyboard. In Box R, write the total number of letters in the words that do not contain R's.

* Remove the first letter of Word 1 to get an organ. Replace two nonadjacent letters of Word 2 to get a weapon. Move the middle letter of Word 3 to the end of the word, and replace it with a letter from earlier in the alphabet to get a substitute. In Box J, write the number of words that contain at least one letter R.

* Replace one consonant and one vowel in Word 1 to get someone you might tip at a restaurant. Replace the second letter of Word 4 with the name of a TV show to get something you might eat at a restaurant. Replace the second letter of Word 5 with a form of transportation from the Bible to get a six-letter past tense verb. In Box T, write the number of words that would still be words if their last letter was removed. In Box C, write the total number of letters in the words you did not count in the previous sentence.

* Replace the first letter of Word 2 with the symbol for a transition metal to get a verb. Add a letter after the second letter of Word 4 to get something thin. Change the fourth letter of Word 5 to get a word that's short for a type of transportation. In Box D, write the word length which occurs the most times. In Box H, write the number of letters that have a vertical axis of symmetry.

* Replace two adjacent letters in Word 1 with a single vowel to get the same type of thing you were told to get in the previous clue. Add a letter after the first letter of Word 2 to get things that may occur during trials. Reverse the order of the letters in Word 3 to get something you might put on your head. In Box A, write the number of letters that are not Roman numerals. In Box U, write the number of words that start with a consonant.

* Reverse the order of the letters in Word 2, and change the middle letter to get things that sometimes occur in MMA fights. Remove the middle letter of Word 3 to get a form of transportation. In Box E, write one-half of the total number of letters if you don't count any R's. In Box N, write the length of the longest word.

* Reverse the order of the letters in Word 3, and change the new last letter to get the title character from an Oscar-nominated film. Change the first two letters of Word 4 to a greeting to get a six-letter gerund. Remove the first half of Word 5 and add an M to the end to get a noun. In Box I, write the number of letters made up entirely of straight lines. In Box Q, write the number of words that contain a palindromic three-letter sequence.

* Switch the second and third letters in Word 1 to get something small. Remove the last letter of Word 3 and place a US state abbreviation at the beginning to get a world capital. Add a letter to the beginning of Word 4 and one at the end to get a performer's stage name. In Box L, write the total number of vowels.

* To begin with, let Word 1 be SILVER, Word 2 GOLD, Word 3 IRON, Word 4 TIN, and Word 5 COPPER. When instructions for putting numbers in boxes refer to "letters" or "words," they are referring to the current states of Words 1 through 5. Letters that occur more than once are counted more than once, unless otherwise specified. For any instructions that involve the appearance of letters, assume they are written in capital letters in a serifless font. To avoid any arguments, for any instructions referring to consonants or vowels, the letter Y counts as neither a consonant nor a vowel.

* Word 3 is half the name of an Alfred Hitchcock film; replace it with the other half. In Word 4, replace a word for a shape with a letter that has that shape to get something you can eat. Replace the last letter of Word 5 to get somewhere you might obtain ingredients for the new Word 4. In Box G, write the number of words which contain the common name of a book of the New Testament. In Box O, write the number of words that have an even number of letters.