

Interpol (8)

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As clued by the (hidden) title, this puzzle is about interpolation (ie what's between Interpol(7) and Interpol(9)).

Both pages include word ladders where the links between words will help in solving. The gray boxes contain the messages INDEX BY RIGHT NUMBER and ORDER USING LEFT NOS which are standard steps in many puzzles and work as expected on the "Too Easy?" page. However, there are fractional numbers on both the left and the right on the "Too Hard?" page and taking fractional words and fractional letters requires some outside the box thinking.

There is an extra line on the right side of the "Too Hard?" page, suggesting a different word list is needed to fill those spaces. This list is generated by breaking the words somewhere in the middle as indicated by the fractions. $1 \frac{2}{3}$., for example, starts at the CU of APERCU, the $\frac{2}{3}$ rds point; continuing to the next fractional break, $2 \frac{5}{7}$, takes the REALL from REALLOT to form the new word CUREALL.

To then find the correct letter to index, solvers must interpolate between the letters. If the second letter of a word is P and the third letter is E, as in APER, then the $2 \frac{4}{11}$ ths letter is $\frac{4}{11}$ ths of the way from P to E (which are 11 letters apart). Repeating this process, always starting at the earlier letter in the word when looking at the fractional position, spells out an answer phrase for the "Too Hard?" page.

The answers are "What's left is PYRAMID" and "LIFE SCIENCE is right". Repeating the search for words between the two reveals the answer: PYRAMIDLIFESCIENCE.

Too easy?

Interpol (7)

3. Phone feature A U T O D I A L

8. Blow up I N F L A T E

18. Skin layer E P I D E R M I S

12. Ballet producer I M P R E S A R I O

16. 1040 et al. T A X F O R M S

13. Woody and Buzz's home T O Y B O X

9. Portal E N T R Y W A Y

1. Sausage W I E N E R

17. Great G I G A N T I C

15. January stone G A R N E T

2. Fit A T H L E T I C

14. Pittsburgh player P I R A T E

4. Rot C O R R U P T I O N

5. Capital of Belgium B R U S S E L S

7. Beat P U M M E L

6. Creole recipe J A M B A L A Y A

10. *The Karate Kid* star J A D E N S M I T H

11. Blue female toon S M U R F E T T E

1. WIENER (1) W

2. ATHLETIC (3) H

3. AUTODIAL (7) A

4. CORRUPTION (7) T

5. BRUSSELS (5) S

6. JAMBALAYA (6) L

7. PUMMEL (5) E

8. INFLATE (3) F

9. ENTRYWAY (3) T

10. JADEN SMITH (8) I

11. SMURFETTE (1) S

12. IMPRESARIO (3) P

13. TOY BOX (3) Y

14. PIRATE (3) R

15. GARNET (2) A

16. TAX FORMS (7) M

17. GIGANTIC (7) I

18. EPIDERMIS (4) D

Too hard?

Interpol (9)

16. November stone **T O P A Z**

12. Hold back **H A M P E R**

13. Desert event **S A N D S T O R M**

17. Plate ____ **T E C T O N I C S**

10. *Inception* star **D I C A P R I O**

1. Quick insight **A P E R C U**

5. Stalemate **I M P A S S E**

15. Susceptible to corruption **T A I N T A B L E**

4. Capital of Belarus **M I N S K**

8. *Portal*, e.g. **V I D E O G A M E**

3. "Hi!" **H E L L O T H E R E**

14. Beg **E N T R E A T**

11. M40 et al. **R I F L E S**

2. Assign anew **R E A L L O T**

7. Sausages company **D E L M O N T E**

9. Beat **O V E R C O M E**

6. Greatest: Sp. **S U P R E M O**

1. APER ($2\frac{4}{11}$) L
- $1\frac{2}{3}$. CUREALL ($1\frac{1}{3}$) I
- $2\frac{5}{7}$. OTHELLO ($3\frac{2}{3}$) F
- $3\frac{1}{2}$. THEREMIN (5) E
- $4\frac{3}{5}$. SKIM (1) S
- $5\frac{2}{7}$. PASSES UP ($2\frac{1}{9}$) C
- $6\frac{3}{7}$. REMODEL ($2\frac{1}{2}$) I
- $7\frac{3}{8}$. MONTEVIDEO ($7\frac{4}{5}$) E
- $8\frac{5}{9}$. GAME OVER ($6\frac{8}{17}$) N
- $9\frac{1}{2}$. COMEDIC (7) C
- $10\frac{3}{8}$. A PRIORI ($1\frac{4}{15}$) E
- $11\frac{1}{3}$. FLESH ($3\frac{2}{7}$) I
- $12\frac{1}{6}$. AMPERSANDS (10) S
- $13\frac{5}{9}$. TORMENT ($6\frac{2}{3}$) R
- $14\frac{3}{7}$. REATTAIN ($5\frac{11}{19}$) I
- $15\frac{4}{9}$. TABLETOP ($3\frac{1}{2}$) G
- $16\frac{3}{5}$. AZTEC ($3\frac{4}{5}$) H
- $17\frac{1}{3}$. TONICS (1) T