

Grid, Directions, Clues

by Tyler Hinman

Welcome to GDC! The shaded Center of the grid represents the conference, which has plenty of **speakers**. Accordingly, seven entries will be homophones of their clue answers. For each such entry, circle the Nth letter, where N is the number of words in its corresponding clue. The circled letters will all be in the shaded space and, read *from left to right*, identify that area.

I don't actually have a pass to the conference, but I'm still getting involved just outside of it by going to several **meet-ups**. Six letters not in the shaded space will literally "meet up" at their crossing answers. These letters, from *top to bottom*, spell my typical reaction when I get invited to such a gathering. Furthermore, the aforementioned circled letters, this time read *from top to bottom*, will spell what I consider these meet-ups as they pertain to GDC.

ACROSS

1. Remnant after a fire
4. Critter-protecting org.
8. Shrek or Fiona
12. Tech-conscious exec (hidden in "tech-conscious")
13. Where to visit the Nazca lines
14. Performance art often involving punny names
15. Ctrl-Alt-___
16. Menswear brand linked to Lacoste
17. Place to get your kicks?
18. Home of a mythological labyrinth
20. Buildings with dark rooms
22. Muscle to stretch before a run
24. "Alternatively..."
25. Only appear to be
27. Rack at a barbecue joint
29. Government takeover
32. Land measurement
33. Artist often blamed for a famous breakup
34. Vase
35. Stuff in a shed
36. Suspecting of, as tricks
37. Channel that often shows *Shark Tank* reruns
38. Queen's subject
39. "I'll pass"
41. Mediterranean nation whose capital is Nicosia
45. Oafish
48. Take in, as a GDC talk
49. "Dig in!"
51. When you're solving this puzzle, presumably
52. Shakespearean name for an animated parrot
53. Resident near the Red Sea
54. Co. known for its creative color names
55. Bunch of friends
56. Like a typical 38-Across
57. Stereotypical cowboy name

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
18			19			20		21				
		22			23		24					
25	26				27	28				29	30	31
32					33				34			
35				36					37			
			38				39	40				
41	42	43				44		45			46	47
48					49		50			51		
52					53					54		
55					56					57		

DOWN

1. "Thunderstruck" band
2. Sub opposite
3. It's face down on the poker table
4. Sales pitch
5. Candy with collectible dispensers
6. Complete load of bull
7. Something not bound to be enjoyed?
8. More eyebrow-raising
9. Set, or put into sets
10. Indian prince
11. Obstacles to good teamwork
19. Certainly not offensive
21. Rapper whose real name is ___ir bin Olu Dara Jones
23. Shotgun's position on a road trip
25. Has an evening meal
26. Green prefix
28. QB's setback
29. "Stop it; that's annoying"
30. Shape pondered in memes
31. Supplement store
34. Subj. on 37-Across
36. Triumphed
38. Helpful symbol in a conference hall
40. Anti-development acronym
41. Dressed to kill
42. End of a date
43. Something often numbered in the corner
44. Garment for a 10-Down's wife
46. Annoying online ad
47. Candy with left and right "varieties"
50. What a redhead apparently can't get

Hi! I'm Tyler. I hope you enjoy this crossword. I'm a puzzle expert and software engineer and I'm eager to turn puzzling into a career! Check out my résumé.

