## BUILDING BLOCKS By Will Shortz

In each of these puzzles, insert the three-letter "blocks" beside the grid into the squares - without rearranging the letters inside the blocks - to complete eight nine-letter words reading across. Each of the blocks will be used exactly once, so you may cross them off as you proceed. When all the squares in a puzzle have been filled, three blocks will be left over. These can be combined to provide a hint to a phrase reading down two of the columns in the completed grid.

Puzzle \#1

| ARK | ASS | AST | EGR |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ERH | ERO | GHT | GOI |
| IFE | IQU | KKN | LFI |
| LGE | LUE | NGF | NZA |
| SCO | SIC | TCH |  |

Puzzle \#2

| AMP | BEA | DEM | DET |
| :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| DIA | ENT | ETY | FUL |
| GER | GUE | OGY | OLE |
| OVE | PAS | RIG | ROW |
| SIS | UDE | UTI |  |

Puzzle \#3

| EHO | ELO | ESH | ESO |
| :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| INT | LAS | NEW | PBE |
| PLA | QUE | RAS | RDS |
| STA | STO | TER | THR |
| TIS | TWO WAR |  |  |


| $\mathbf{H}$ | $\mathbf{O}$ | $\mathbf{P}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{S}$ | $\mathbf{U}$ | $\mathbf{P}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\mathbf{B}$ | $\mathbf{U}$ | $\mathbf{L}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\mathbf{A}$ | $\mathbf{N}$ | $\mathbf{A}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\mathbf{I}$ | $\mathbf{N}$ | F |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A | $\mathbf{N}$ | $\mathbf{T}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\mathbf{J}$ | $\mathbf{A}$ | $\mathbf{C}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| B | $\mathbf{L}$ | $\mathbf{U}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |


|  |  |  | $\mathbf{A}$ | $\mathbf{G}$ | $\mathbf{O}$ |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  | $\mathbf{M}$ | $\mathbf{A}$ | $\mathbf{R}$ |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | $\mathbf{R}$ | $\mathbf{T}$ | $\mathbf{H}$ |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | $\mathbf{S}$ | $\mathbf{E}$ | $\mathbf{N}$ |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | $\mathbf{E}$ | $\mathbf{R}$ | $\mathbf{G}$ |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | $\mathbf{M}$ | $\mathbf{O}$ | $\mathbf{L}$ |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | $\mathbf{L}$ | $\mathbf{I}$ | $\mathbf{T}$ |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | $\mathbf{G}$ | $\mathbf{N}$ | $\mathbf{O}$ |  |  |  |


|  |  |  |  |  |  | $\mathbf{T}$ | $\mathbf{I}$ | $\mathbf{C}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | $\mathbf{O}$ | $\mathbf{L}$ | $\mathbf{D}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | $\mathbf{R}$ | $\mathbf{R}$ | $\mathbf{Y}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | $\mathbf{A}$ | $\mathbf{L}$ | $\mathbf{L}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | $\mathbf{I}$ | $\mathbf{C}$ | $\mathbf{A}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | $\mathbf{U}$ | $\mathbf{S}$ | $\mathbf{E}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | $\mathbf{I}$ | $\mathbf{F}$ | $\mathbf{F}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | $\mathbf{N}$ | $\mathbf{C}$ | $\mathbf{E}$ |

