

## B.5 Amigos



Puzzle by: Ben Carr  
Difficulty: Hard

cisra Puzzle Competition 2008  
<http://puzzle.cisra.com.au>

You were excited to find the magnetically keyed elevator in the empty exhibit room, but the room it has carried you to is the most bizarre yet. A diorama-in-progress depicts UFOs hovering over a crowded street. The scene has a dizzying forced perspective sloped floor and askew horizon, with a mix of tiny dolls in the background and mid- to full-sized mannequins crowding the middle of the room, surrounding you in various action poses of terror and arms-out zombification. Grey-skinned aliens (in silver jump-suits, for goodness sake) are depicted throughout the scene, emerging from their UFOs carrying what look like super-soakers in the background, and herding zombies into pens in the foreground.

The scene is so surreal that it takes you a moment to realise that in the background, one of the aliens is incongruously huge - or rather, is human-sized, but placed too far back. Then, horrifically, it moves its arm and you realise that it is alive. It appears to be putting the final touches on a cutaway dollhouse showing an alien family sitting happily at a dinner table being served by zombie human slaves. Suddenly, it looks in your direction and your eyes meet. It whips out a super-soaker and points it at you.

“Please explain what you are doing in the explanatorium,” it says.

You stammer something about having lost your way, but the unreality of the situation has you on the verge of clicking your heels together and shouting “There’s no place like home!”

It sighs. “Never mind. Might as well zombify you, although frankly you seem half-way there already.” It squeezes the trigger of its super-soaker, but only a trickle of purple gunk oozes out and splats onto the floor.

“Stupid human technology!” shouts the alien, shaking the bottle. Stung into action, you leap forward through the frozen crowd and clock it on the head with the dinosaur femur you’re carrying. It collapses in a heap, and you quickly tape its arms and legs together with a handy roll of duct tape.

Your eye is caught by the glowing screen of a weird-looking PDA, next to the dollhouse. It appears to be showing some kind of spreadsheet.



4th Century nomadic Eurasians modelling	H4I2P5	4
Armour made from pathogenic microorganism	G4M4	9
Autograph sketch	S9D6	5
Barracks multitude	G8H5	8
Beat the miserly drug cop at chess	M4T5N4	3
Bird made of woven fibre	W6C4	2
Blitz Shermans	B4T5	15
Boxes of produce	S5C7	7
Burrowing marsupial in the entranceway	P6W6	3
Can cook and lead a flock	C4S8	18
Clean nibbler	N4B5	8
Compose a lyric poem to a Fuji	W5A5O3	1
Customer slipped	C6S4	6
Desire goose noise	W4H4	6
Emancipate cold cut coating expert!	F4H3G7A3	9
ENCOM security system scaredy-cat	T4C6	2
Enumerate smartest	C5C9	6
Erector spinae	B4M6	5
Expose Dwalin's older brother to sun	T3B5	3
Extremely furious	V4F6	8
Feel sadness for the science of operating firearms	M5G7	5
Fidel gambit	C6P4	1
Fountain lauraceae bark dasheen	F5C8T4	15
Gastropod in the frequency domain	F7S5	2
Grizzly ballet	B4D5	2
Hopeless pearl bearers	G4O7	8
Incantate Dr Crane	C5F7	16
Juniper berry alcohol from Italian st in Melbourne	L5G3	5
Kill obnoxious people	S9J5	4
Little grouch from a Scottish lake	W3L4G5	9
Little orphan US highway patrolman	T7A5	10
Little red muppet's capsicum spray	E5M4	11
Messy person trident	S4F4	2
Moisture absorbing powder powered electro shock weapon	T6T5	19

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Muslim law sweet sauce eggs	S6S5O3	6
Old French currency pains	F5A5	10
On Bart Simpson's head	S5H4	4
Parasol for Sauron	M6B6	13
Plasticine groin	C4C6	2
President Ford birthing large numbers of a diminutive people	P5S8G6	14
Pu	P9	1
Put the falsetto voice in the microwave	N4H4T6	4
Red jewelled toilet	R4L3	1
Skinny ogler	S4P6	2
Slepice	C5H3	12
Smartly packs backbone therefore overly proactive	C8F5S5S2T3G4H2	2
Snack counter! Brilliant!	B6T8	6
Sow	P3M6	17
Stink spirit	S6G5	10
The home of love bites	H6H5	4
The infectious protein croon	T3P5S4	4
The misplaced cloning sect	T3L4R7	14
Thor	T7M5	2
Throws crab	F6C10	4
Tub invader	B4R6	3
Unescorted Tibetan quadrupeds	Y4A5	7
Very large borders of hairs and foreheads	M10H9	3
Weird halitosis aroma	S7S5O2B6	20
Whip Bozos	L4C6	1
Wild card national carrier	J5Q6	2