

## SOLUTION

### One before Many by eXternal

Answers to ten clues are thematically reduced by a letter. The redundant letters when rearranged suggest a pattern to be highlighted in the finished grid. All other clues contain a misprint in the definition. In clue order the correct letters spell out a relevant quotation. The title suggests the one letter to be changed within the grid. All enumeration refers to answers, not grid entries.

1	M	2	A	3	R	4	A	5	A	6	B	7	E	8	T	9	S
A	R	A	10	C	A	L	L	I	P	11	E	R	T				
12	M	A	N	D	R	E	L	13	S	I	M	P	A				
14	A	P	O	15	S	T	A	T	E	C	16	B	I	L			
17	M	A	F	I	O	S	O	18	T	H	A	N	E				
19	I	H	F	20	B	O	21	X	L	E	22	A	R	23	T	S	
24	N	O	25	D	S	26	N	O	D	E	S	27	D	O	T		
28	B	29	R	E	A	S	30	W	I	N	C	I	N	G			
31	R	A	M	32	G	33	P	L	O	S	I	V	E	34	S		
35	I	N	U	R	E	36	I	N	I	T	I	A	L				
E	37	G	R	E	E	N	T	E	A	N	R	U					
38	F	E	I	G	N	G	39	F	R	E	E	M	E				

### Across

1 Thin batteries supplied regularly to doctors for instrument often used with thin (6) MARACA

Thin batteries = AAA, doctors = MRC, supplied regularly = intertwine indicator, instrument often used with tWin = definition

6 Will's to stir and turn over embraced by his queen intimately (6) BETOS{S}

Will's = Shakespeare indicator, to stir = definition, turn over = TO, embraced = container indicator, his queen intimately = BESS (familiar for Elizabeth)

10 Sleet thickness grounds musician heading off (8) CALLIPER

sHeet thickness = definition, grounds = CALL, musician = PIPER, heading off = initial deletion

12 In demand, reliable stock to be rotated (7) MANDREL

Hidden word in deMAND RELIable, stIck to be rotated = definition

13 Monkey and sloth following goose (6) SIMPA{I}

Monkey = definition, sloth = AI, goose = SIMP

14 Rag's article and column had taste (8) APOSTATE

raT = definition, article = A, column = POST, had taste = ATE

16 British crook with the police (4) BILL

**British = B, crook = ILL, 'with the' police = definition**

17 Family in recession getting satellite, that's extremely good (7) MAFIOSO

**Family = FAM, in recession = reversal, satellite = IO, extremely = SO, Hood = definition**

18 A knight's framed by the parson close to king (5) THANE

A knight = A+N, framed by = insertion indicator, pErson close to king = definition

20 Scientist from Iceland is said to be very angry (5) BOYLE

**Scientist from Ireland = definition, is said to be = homophone indicator, very angry = BOIL**

22 Crafty deer losing head of herd (4) ARTS

craftS = definition, deer = HARTS, losing head of herd = delete H

24 Lad reverses over his sister and shows signs of dazing (4) NODS

**Lad = SON, reverses over = reversal and container, his sister = D (daughter), signs of dOzing = definition**

26 Parts of curvy artistic figures, having removed uniform, receive love (5) NODES

**Parts of curve = definition, artistic figures = NUDES, swap U (uniform) for O (love)**

28 Manfully oppose bidder after bronze (6) BREAS{T}

**Manfully oppose = definition, bidder = EAST, bronze = BR**

30 Moping in pain from firm arm holds (7) WINCING

**moVing in pain = definition, firm = INC, arm = WING, holds = container indicator**

31 Arm smashed brat hard (3) RAM

**Arm smashed = anagram ARM, bEat hard = definition**

33 Opal stops volatile ex disappearing with son (8) PLOSIVES

**oRal stops = definition, volatile = EXPLOSIVE, ex disappearing = delete EX, son = S**

35 Accept wags associated with another one, anonymous and concerning (5)

**Accept waYs associated with another = definition, one = I, anonymous = NU, concerning = RE**

36 One set about guarding that foremast (7) INITIAL

One = I, set = LAIN, about = reverse, guarding = container indicator, that = IT. foremOst = definition

37 Eastern cops might contain this troublesome teenager (5,3) GREEN TEA

**Eastern cUps might contain this = definition, troublesome = anagram, teenager = fodder**

38 Pub on marsh is about one grand (5) FEIGN

**puT on = definition, marsh = FEN, about = container indicator, one grand = IG**

39 People benefitted from number of Cockneys playing pieces (7) FREEME{N}

People benefitted = definition, number of Cockneys = FREE (whimsical homophone of THREE), playing pieces = MEN

## Down

1 Sue has child in the morning, doubled over (4) MAMA

**sHe has child = definition, in the morning = AM, doubled over = AM again and reverse**

2 Face of America is a musician heard to go with prostitute (7) ARAPAHO

**Race of America = definition, A, musician is heard = homophone rapper = RAPA, prostitute = HO**

3 Belted out for fan (3,3) RAN OFF

**bOlted = definition, out = anagram, for fan = fodder**

4 Draper's creations fill boxes with love (8)

**draWer's creations = definition, fill boxes = insertion indicator CARTONS, love = O**

5 Admin trainee's clothing lines unfashionable, including every thong (3,4)

**Admin trainee = AT, clothing = container indicator, lines = LL, unfashionable = OLD, including every thIng = definition**

6 Swiss blusher twice applied to base (4) BISE

**Swiss blusTer = definition, twice = BIS, base = E**

7 Starring in European short film (4) EPIC

**stIrring = definition, European = E, short film = PIC**

8 Soldiers fix plane (5) ORPIN

**Soldiers = OR, fix = PIN, planT = definition**

9 Most teak and deal gaining weight over time (7) STALEST

**most Weak = definition, deal = SALE, weight = ST, over = container indicator, time = T**

10 Board meeting's leader hides in arranged break (6) EMBAR{K}

**Board = definition, meeting's leader = M, arranged break = anagram BREAK**

15 Ken is going back on lies (4) SIBS

**kIn = definition, is going back = reversal SI, lies = BS**

18 Rank sandwiches seen horribly getting less marge (8) TEENSIER

**Rank = TIER, sandwiches = container indicator, seen horribly = anagram SEEN, less Large = definition**

19 Popular guide's curtsy (2,5) IN BRIEF

**Popular = IN, guide = BRIEF, curtly = definition**

21 Unknown bird in good dog's gob (7) YOWLING

**Unknown = Y, bird = OWL, IN, good = G, dog's sob = definition**

22 A scientific individual's code (5) ASCI{I}

**A, scientific = SCI, individual = I, code = definition**

23 Parp of gramophone like piercing cat (7) TONEARM

**part of gramophone = definition, like = NEAR, piercing = insertion indicator, cat = TOM**

25 Grave doubt over drug (6) DEMUR{E}

**Grave = definition, doubt = DEMUR, drug = E**

27 Trendy blocked jumper in medium (7) DIVINE{R}

**Trendy = IN, blocked = insertion indicator, jumper = DIVER, medium = definition**

29 Room wanting primary colour (5) RANG{E}

**room = definition, wanting primary = initial loss indicator, colour = ORANGE**

32 One after gross coat (5) GREG{o}

**One = EGO, gross = GR, coat = definition**

33 Heartless fowl spells end of badger (4) PEEN

**Heartless fowl = PEAHEN – AH, end of baNger = definition**

34 Obscene book taken out for special loans (4)

**Obscene = BLUE, book = B, taken out for = replaced by, special = S, loads = definition**

Ten clues are shortened thematically by losing the last letter ie tailless like Manx cat. These letters not entered in the grid form a jumble of TRISKELION, which is the symbol on the flag of the Isle of Man.

Correct letters for misprinted clues spell out WHITHERSOEVER YOU THROW IT, IT WILL STAND. This is a variant translation of the Latin motto of the Isle of Man.

The title suggests the letter to be changed is Y to X ie not Man+y, but Man+x. There is only one Y which is centrally placed in the grid and forms the focal point of the pattern. The triskelion is represented as three legs formed by the names of three divisions of the Isle of Man ending with the X. These three divisions can also examples of MAN – MICHAEL, ANDREAS and GERMAN. As these all end at the X they are examples of MAN+X.