

SolTrade Portfolio Summary II

2-1. In this cryptogram, the first letters of each word are missing (as indicated in the flavortext). The solved cryptogram (with first letters reinserted) is:

Never offer benefits exceeding levels indicated.
Strikes thoroughly madden everybody.
Negative attitudes can harm employee morale.

First letters spell NOBELIST MENACHEM, to which the answer is **BEGIN**.

2-2. All of the answers are a letter bank of LEAST, plus one other letter.

WALLETS, OSTEAL, ALTERS, DATELESS
LEAFLETS, SELL AT A LOSS, ALERTEST
STELLAR, SATELLITE, LEGATES, TALLIES, TASSELLED
DELTAS, REAL ESTATE, TASTELESSLY
LOST AT SEA, ARTLESS
BEATLES, ALLOTTEES, STARLETS, TAILLESS, SEALANTS, EAGLETS
TESSELLATED, TEETOTALS, SALUTE, GESTALT, TALLAHASSEE

The extra letters spell WORD FOR DRY OR BORING DOUGH, the answer to which is **STALE**.

(Give yourself bonus points if you recognized that LCD here stood for LEAST "common denominator".)

2-3. Each line consists of a clue followed by an enumeration for the answer. All clues are entirely lower-case, even when (as in "Albion") a capital letter would ordinarily be used; all answers will be similarly lower-cased.

Half of the clues are upside-down (the flavortext mention of "ups and downs" is intended to draw attention to this fact). Their answers will also be written upside-down; in the font used in the puzzle, these upside-down answers will still be sequences of letters. The complete set of clues and answers (and upside-down answers, where appropriate) is:

1. (belly, for an m.d.) abdomen
2. (fruit ape eats) banana -> eueueq
3. (fall or winter) season
4. (sphinx killer) oedipus -> sndipao
5. (brothlike fog) pea soup
6. (asp-haired gal) medusa -> esnpaw
6. (backs of necks) napes
5. (make uncheery) sadden -> uappes
4. (they've 88 keys) pianos
3. (he did marches) sousa -> esnos
2. (line in albion) queue
1. (un-see-through) opaque -> anbedo

Next, from each answer to a clue in the top half of the grid we subtract the letters of the answer to the same-numbered clue in the bottom half of the grid; this is indicated by the minus sign between the two halves (and also hinted at by "pluses and minuses" and "weeding" in the flavortext). We thus get:

1. abdomen - anbedo = m
2. eueueq - queue = e
3. season - esnos = a
4. sndipao - pianos = d
5. pea soup - uappes = o
6. esnpaw - napes = w

The answer is **MEADOW**.

(continued)

2-4. The diagramless can be solved normally, and reveals the grid to the right. Arranging the blocks will form the same grid, with one exception per block.

Reading the correct letters for each 3x3 block, across then down reveals YAHOO'S WEBSITE OR DOORWAY EG, to which the answer is **PORTAL**.

Portfolio Summary 2. The rule is hidden in puzzle 2-4, in the erroneous letters in the blocks in grid order. They read, FOR STOCK SYMBOLS, NO BOOZE. Each of the four "companies" contains an alcohol in their name: GIN, ALE, MEAD, and PORT. The remaining letters in order spell **BESTOWAL**.

Y	A	K	S		A	H	E	M	S		C	A	R	P
A	D	E	N		L	E	T	U	P		A	L	O	E
L	A	L	O		L	A	S	S	O		B	E	T	S
E	M	P	O	W	E	R		T	O	B	A	C	C	O
				P	A	R	T	H	E	N	O	N		
S	H	E	E	T		I	E	R		T	A	I	L	S
W	A	N	D	E	R	E	D		M	A	S	C	O	T
A	I	R		R	A	S		L	O	N		I	S	O
P	R	O	U	S	T		D	O	M	I	N	E	E	R
S	Y	L	P	H		R	U	R		S	O	R	R	Y
				D	E	M	O	C	R	A	T	S		
S	T	A	R	D	O	M		A	S	S	E	R	T	S
N	I	N	A		T	A	C	I	T		G	O	W	N
O	L	A	F		I	N	O	N	E		A	S	I	A
W	E	L	T		F	O	Y	E	R		Y	A	N	G