

[Solution] Skewers

Written by KP

Answer: XXXXXXXXXX

The goal of this puzzle is to solve for each skewer component and use them to create a full skewer. We can begin by solving for the skewer components, and then we may later realize that the components can be literally combined to form the full skewer.

Skewer Components:

Num	Clue	Answer
A1	"... and get this __ __ shield." (4)	MANA
A2	According to (3)	PER
A3	C2 clue's sib, perhaps (3)	BRO
A4	Caper (5)	ANTIC
A5	Choose (5)	ELECT
A6	Companion of neither (3)	NOR
A7	Deception or event (3)	CON
A8	Horse control (4)	REIN
A9	It gets dropped on stage (3)	MIC
A10	Knock-out sound (3)	POW
A11	Picnic guest (3)	ANT
A12	Place (3)	PUT
A13	Popular Vietnamese soup (3)	PHO
A14	Potter's mother (4)	LILY
A15	Singer-songwriter Miranda, to his friends (3)	LIN
A16	Smuggler Solo (3)	HAN

Num	Clue	Answer
B1	Autobiographer who wrote about cats Yon and Mu (3)	ITO
B2	French tea? (3)	THE
B3	Lousy start? (3)	MAL

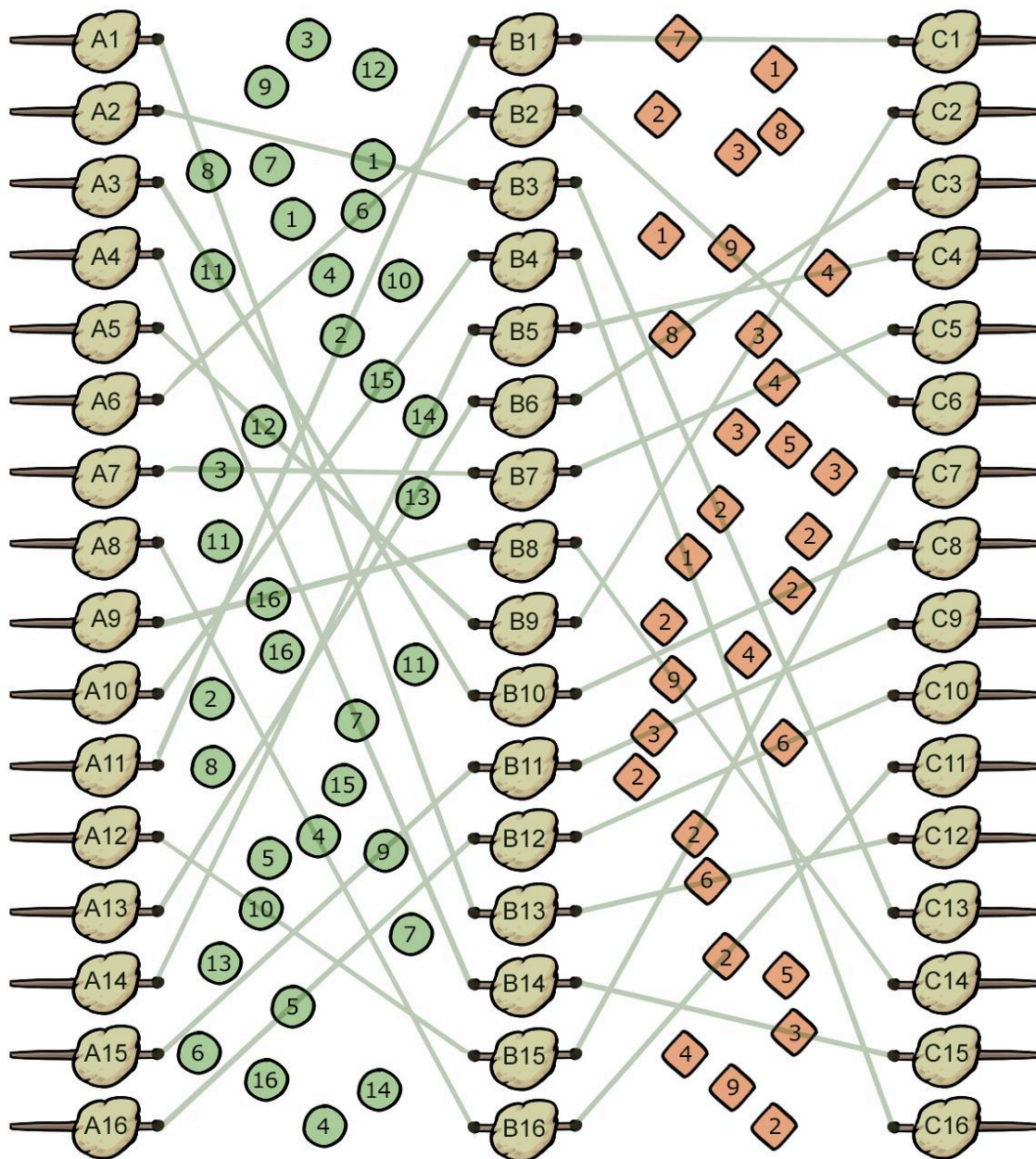
B4	Mess up (3)	ERR
B5	On air (4)	LIVE
B6	One of three pacts, along with Blade and Chain (4)	TOME
B7	Penny denomination (4)	CENT
B8	Placement of corn or ducks (3)	ROW
B9	Poly's partner (4)	ROLY
B10	Some may try to skip them (3)	ADS
B11	The corn and the cobs (4)	EARS
B12	Tiny bite (3)	NIP
B13	Topaz or onyx (3)	GEM
B14	Turn the key (4)	LOCK
B15	Ump (3)	REF
B16	Word ___ word (3)	FOR

Num	Clue	Answer
C1	___ Nian Kuai Le! (3)	XIN
C2	A3 clue's sib, perhaps (3)	SIS
C3	Attempt (3)	TRY
C4	Common velvet cake color (3)	RED
C5	Fee amount (4)	RATE
C6	Late-summer flower (5)	ASTER
C7	Lights, camera, ___ (6)	ACTION
C8	Part of a phrase (4)	WORD
C9	Runner's speed (4)	PACE
C10	Smokey holiday dish (3)	HAM
C11	Solidify (6)	CEMENT
C12	Tree-like Tolkien creature (3)	ENT
C13	What makes pasta al nero unique (3)	INK
C14	Wide city st. (3)	AVE
C15	With Sam, a lover of potatoes (4)	WISE
C16	Wrath (5)	ANGER

Skewers:

Skewer Clue	Answer (Clues A/B/C)
Time going backward?	ANTIC/LOCK/WISE
Poison curative	ANT/ITO/XIN
Wide, bladed weapon	BRO/ADS/WORD
Focus	CON/CENT/RATE
Current reaction	ELECT/ROLY/SIS
Member of Super Shy group, in full Western convention	HAN/NIP/HAM
Cowardly	LILY/LIVE/RED
Structure with a group and a field	LIN/EARS/PACE
Administration	MAN/AGE/MENT
Leftover device	MIC/ROW/AVE
Coastal storm, in full	NOR/THE/ASTER
It's static online	PER/MAL/INK
Observatory technique	PHO/TOME/TRY
One of many who performs a roll call	POW/ERR/ANGER
Part of a postmortem	PUT/REF/ACTION
Back-up	REIN/FOR/CEMENT

With skewers and their components identified, they can be connected in the image. Each of the line connections between clues in columns A, B, and C pass through one pea (green circle) and one carrot (orange diamond), which gives us the next step.



The orange carrot tells us which letter to extract from the full skewer, and the green pea tells us which position to put the extracted letter.

Full Skewer	Position Order (Green Pea)	Index (Orange Carrot)	Indexed Letter
PER/MAL/INK	1	2	E
ANT/ITO/XIN	2	7	X
CON/CENT/RATE	3	4	C
REIN/FOR/CEMENT	4	2	E
HAN/NIP/HAM	5	6	P
NOR/THE/ASTER	6	9	T
ANTIC/LOCK/WISE	7	3	T
MAN/AGE/MENT	8	6	E
LIN/EARS/PACE	9	3	N
PUT/REF/ACTION	10	2	U
BRO/ADS/WORD	11	2	R
ELECT/ROLY/SIS	12	3	E
PHO/TOME/TRY	13	8	T
LILY/LIVE/RED	14	4	Y
POW/ERR/ANGER	15	1	P
MIC/ROW/AVE	16	9	E

This gives us **EXCEPT/TENURE/TYPE**, which is not the final answer yet. We need to do the same thing we did with the skewer components and solve them.

- EXCEPT → BUT
- TENURE → TERM
- TYPE → ILK

When re-combined in a skewer, this gives us **BUT/TERM/ILK**. The solution is **BUTTERMILK**.