

# CHRISTMAS CAROLS

JOHN: How about some Christmas music?  
 ARGYLE: This is Christmas music!

Enroute to the Nakatomi holiday party, John and Argyle are having a hard time agreeing on music. What should they listen to?

DIM HALO



DID HARM



DIG HERE



TOE HOLD



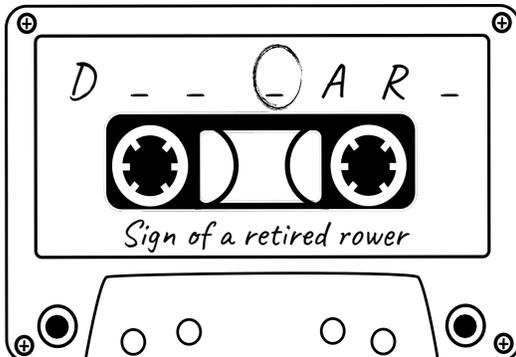
DOE HERD



TIP JARS



DRY OARS



BIG YARD



# ELLIS & ELEVATORS

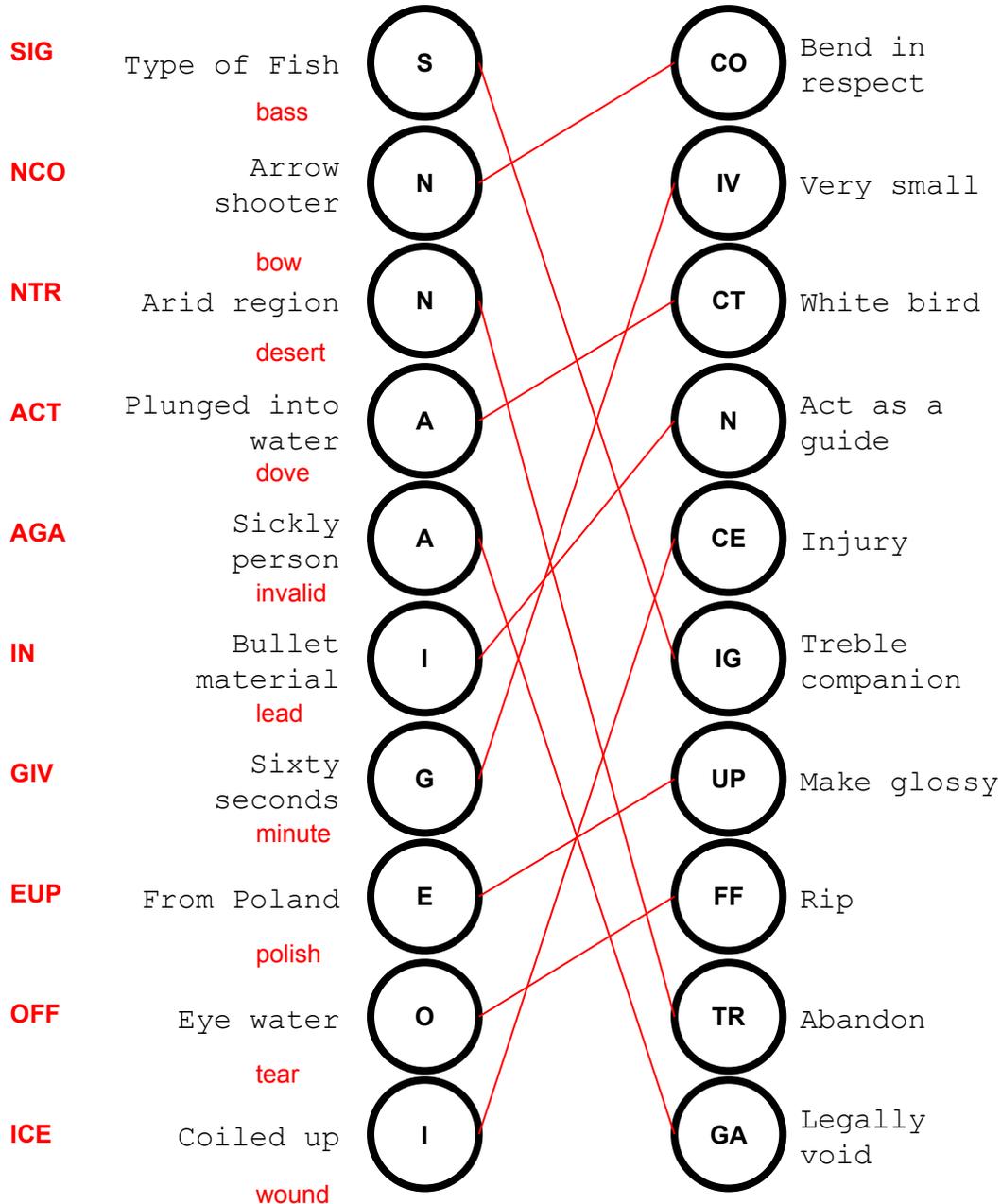
NAKATOMI PLAZA - FLOOR 30

ELLIS: So apparently our kidnappers have shut down the elevators. Heck, they've even relabeled all the buttons! Good thing I've got a back up plan.

HOLLY: Please don't do something foolish.

ELLIS: Hey - I'm Nakatomi's second best negotiator; I **connect** with people!

In retrospect, what should Ellis probably do?



The two columns have matching sets of heteronyms (word pairs that share spelling - but have different pronunciation and meaning).

Connecting the left and right columns gives clues for one last heteronym.

S I G N    C O N T R A C T    A G A I N / G I V E    U P    O F F I C E

=

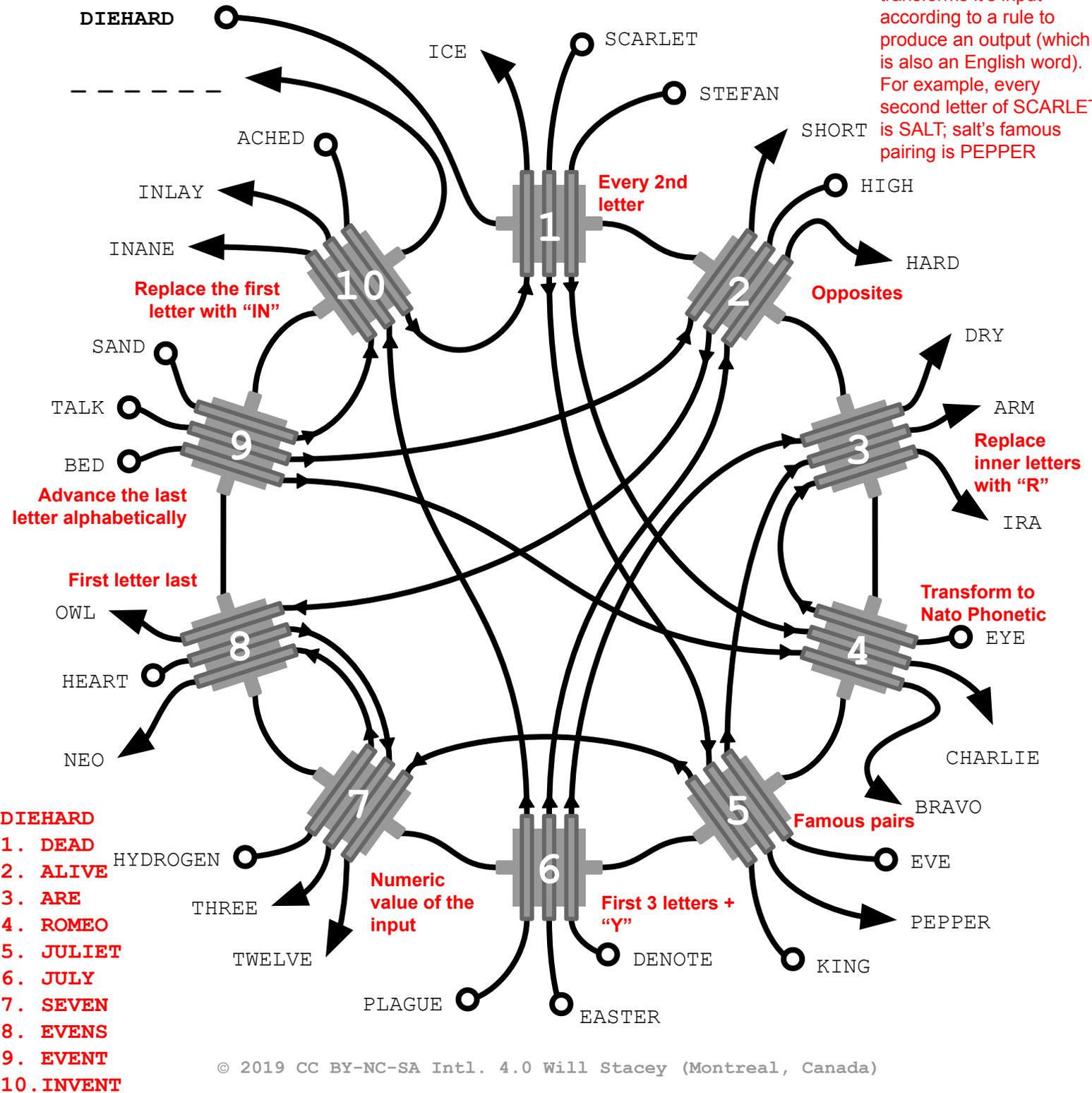
R E S I G N

# CIRCUIT CIRCUS

NAKATOMI PLAZA - FLOOR 34

KARL: Have you bypassed the Nakatomi computer's security yet?  
 THEO: That I have! They were using a simple **ten step** encryption method. Each circuit **transforms the input password**; the first removes **every second letter**, the second transforms the input into its **opposite** -  
 KARL: Spare me the details. Just look up where our friend John McClane is hiding.

Each numbered box transforms its input according to a rule to produce an output (which is also an English word). For example, every second letter of SCARLET is SALT; salt's famous pairing is PEPPER



# MAPPING MAYHEM

NAKATOMI PLAZA - FLOOR 38

JOHN: (over radio) You there, Al? I need to find the roof. I found a map but our party crashers shot it to pieces.  
 AL: Think you could **put the map back together** again?  
 JOHN: Maybe. But I can't tell how the rooms were supposed to be ordered. **Alphabetically? By size?** I reckon there's... heck, maybe **eight different ways** to stitch it back together...

How should John reach the roof?

I B A	<b>1</b> E C E	H G D	O N I	<b>2</b> B N B	I N I	S O O	<b>3</b> S N E	S D W
X R X	<b>4</b> P T P	T R L	D O E	<b>5</b> T T S	D L O	T A T	<b>6</b> P A P	T S E
C O C	<b>7</b> T R R	R O O	E F E	<b>8</b> D S S	E O A	W F G	<b>9</b> C R 7	E E 5

There are 8 ways to order the rooms from page 2 on the grid above. The missing "chunks" in each room are used to fill in the blanks.

Word length



A B O R D E R S C.

Roman numeral



B I S P L A C E 7.

Binary dots



C I S P L A C E 5.

Semaphore (arrows)



D I S T O P R O W.

Room name (abc)



E O N T O P O F G.

Underlined letter (abc)



G N E X T T O A & E.

Room size (m<sup>2</sup>)



H N E X T T O D & F.

Letter label



I B O R D E R S E.

These hints give you one last unique ordering of the rooms:

HDI  
FCE  
BAG

This spells out "END LETTER". Using the same ordering, the end letter of each room spells "THE STAIRS."

# YIPPEE YAPPY

NAKATOMI PLAZA - FLOOR 42

HANS: *Mr. McClane has been particularly chatty on the radio. It appears he is using some sort of code. What is it he's always saying...*

THEO: **Yippee ki yay?**

HANS: *That's it. He is a bit of a... well, you know.*

Each radio encodes its input. If you study the output, perhaps you can help Hans and Theo reconstruct the original message.

Each radio reorders the left-hand inputs according to a specific rule. By comparing how it transforms the top input, you can reconstruct the bottom input.

Reverse the output



Reconstructing the input gives a set of instructions.

First, convert the top inputs to base three:

Shift the vowels back (ex. E -> A, I -> E, O -> I, etc.)



012, 210, 022,  
010, 210, 100  
= EUHCUI

Then shift back six positions in the alphabet:

= YOBWOC

Vowels have been moved to the end (but stay in order).



Finally reverse the word

= COWBOY

Take the first letter of the output, then the last, then the second letter, then second-last, etc.



Shift every second letter forward 1



Swap every pair of letters



# META: PLAZA PUZZLE

NAKATOMI PLAZA - EXTERIOR

The Nakatomi holiday party was a blast! Unfortunately the building will need a few repairs. Some of the floors are completely missing! **But perhaps you've seen them before?** Anyways, it shouldn't be too hard to reconstruct; each floor looks **half-like** its neighbors. I guess there's only one thing left to do...

FLOOR 42	→	c	o	w	b	o	y
		c	o	m	e	d <sup>7</sup>	y
		c	o	v	e	r <sup>9</sup>	s
		s	e	w	e <sup>3</sup>	r	s
FLOOR 38	→	s	t	a	i	r	s
		c	h <sup>4</sup>	a	i	n	s
		r	o	b	i <sup>2</sup>	n	s
		r	o	d <sup>1</sup>	e	n	t
FLOOR 34	→	i	n	v	e	n	t
		c	e	m	e <sup>8</sup>	n	t
		r	e	p	e	a <sup>5</sup>	t
		r <sup>6</sup>	e	s	o	r	t
FLOOR 30	→	r	e	s	i	g	n

First, floors 30, 34, 38, and 42 can be filled in using the answers from the four main puzzles. (See the top-right corner of each puzzle for the floor number.)

The hints below can be used to fill in the remaining rows. The hints are listed in alphabetical order.

Each row is "half-like" its neighbors, i.e. it shares exactly three letters in common.

Finally, order the circled letters to get **DIE HARDER**.

Construction material or binding element	(below floor 34)	CEMENT
Metal links or mountain ranges	(odd floor)	CHAINS
Tragedy's companion or a genre	(between floors 38-42)	COMEDY
Reports a story or blankets	(above floor 38)	COVERS
Say again or a rerun	(below floor 34)	REPEAT
Vacation destination or a last option	(odd floor)	RESORT
Springtime birds or the various Boy Wonders	(even floor)	ROBINS
A rat or a mouse	(between floors 34-38)	RODENT
Tailors or waste conduits	(odd floor)	SEWERS



DECEMBER 2019



# DASTARDLY DEMANDS

*HANS: I have comrades in arms around the world languishing in prison. The American State Department enjoys rattling its sabre for its own ends, now it can rattle it for me. The following people are to be released...*

Of course, Hans' demands are just meant to keep the LAPD busy - but perhaps if you **put two and two together** you can tell what Hans Gruber really wants.

1. Release the Bodyguards of **Bistro Building** R E S T A U R A N T
2. Release the Sergeants of **Solicit Something** R E Q U E S T O R D E R
3. Release the Scorpions of **Social Site** F A C E B O O K
4. Release the Footmen of **Full-length Film** F E A T U R E G R O U P S
5. Release the Pensioners of **Pawn Pastime** C H E S S
6. Release the Tastemakers of **Telemarketer's Task** C A L L C H E C K
7. Release the Satirists of **Speaker's Stage** P O D I U M
8. Release the Pranksters of **Professional Placement** P O S I T I O N T H I R D
9. Release the Citizens of **Correspondence Companion** P E N P A L
10. Release the Cheerleaders of **Consumer Commodity** P R O D U C T L E T T E R

Each bolded set of words is a clue for the left-hand blanks (i.e. Social Site = Facebook.) Similarly, each set of left-hand blanks is a clue for the right-hand blanks (i.e. Chess Call = Check). The right-hand blanks give the clue "ORDER GROUPS, CHECK THIRD LETTER." Ordering the groups (bodyguards, pensioners, etc.) alphabetically, and then taking the third letter gives the final answer of DETONATORS.