

# Technical Challenge Solution

The word “element” refers to the chemical elements of the periodic table. “Look closely” suggests that something is obscured in each step of the recipe.

Each step of the recipe includes one hidden chemical element:

Make dough for scones. (I know these terse instructions have earned me the reputation of “bad **cop.**” **Personally**, I think I’m the nice judge!)

Don’t forget to preheat your oven, **Einstein!** (**I, um**, have faith in you, I swear.)

Next, get ready to mix some corn into your dough. Use a sharp knife to slice corn off the **cob.** **Alternatively**, use a corn stripper tool.

Mold dough on a wooden slab, **or on** the countertop if you prefer.

Shape dough until **boxy.** **Gently** form into proper shape.

**One onion**, diced, should be plenty to sprinkle on top.

I was just about to remind you to **stir only** 1/2 cup of corn into your batter. Oops, too late!

Scones in the oven are like precious **cargo.** **Never** stop watching! Cues that they’re ready to come out include a light brown color and cracked top.

For dipping sauce: Never fear extra spice! Add enough chilis so lips get bee-**stung.** **Stench** of garlic should waft through the tent -- don't skimp on it!

For garnish: Place walnuts in food processor and pulse until **coarse.** **Nicely** ground (not too fine) is the ideal texture.

Hidden elements are (in order): Copper, Einsteinium, Cobalt, Boron, Oxygen, Neon, Iron, Argon, Tungsten, and Arsenic.

“Shortening” hints that solvers must translate these hidden chemical elements into their chemical symbols. The chemical symbols are (in order): Cu, Es, Co, B, O, Ne, Fe, Ar, W, As. These letters need to be paired to form five words: Cues, Cob, One, Fear, and Was.

These words are “familiar” because they appear in some steps of the recipe.

“Counting” means solvers need to count the number of words into each step. “Cob” appears 20 words into step 3, “one” appears 1 word into step 6, “was” appears 2 words into step 7, “cues” appears 12 words into step 8, and “fear” appears 5 words into step 9.

Solvers must translate the word positions into letters. Place them in order, according to where they appear in the recipe. 20 is T, 1 is A, 2 is B, 12 is L, and 5 is E.

The solution to the puzzle is **TABLE** (something bakers need at the end of the day -- it’s also a reference to the periodic table).

# The Judges Solution

The term “mixed up” is cluing anagrams. The contestant’s name, Ana, is also meant to evoke “anagram.” (It’s not necessarily a hint word, but something fun for solvers to notice once they’ve solved the puzzle.)

Each of the judges’ comments (on the left) includes one word that must be anagrammed. These words anagram into ingredients, which correspond to dishes (on the right).

- “A delightfully **rustic** dessert!”  
“Rustic” anagrams to “citrus” - The word “citrus” can be found in “**Episode 5**: Cake with citrus compote”
- “Tasted like you used **cheap** ingredients.”  
“Cheap” anagrams to “peach” - The word “peach” can be found in “**Episode 7**: Peach cobbler”
- “It’s **plainer** than your usual dishes.”  
“Plainer” anagrams to “praline” - The word “praline” can be found in “**Episode 4**: Almond praline”
- “You were **fretful**, but it turned out delicious!”  
“Fretful” anagrams to “truffle” - The word “truffle” can be found in “**Episode 1**: Chocolate truffle”
- “You can’t **blame** this one on the time limit.”  
“Blame” anagrams to “melba” - The word “melba” can be found in “**Episode 6**: Melba toast topped with pâté”
- “You decided to go with the **flow** this time.”  
“Flow” anagrams to “fowl” - The word “fowl” can be found in “**Episode 2**: Guinea fowl pie”
- “This is one for the **ages**!”  
“Ages” anagrams to “sage” - The word “sage” can be found in “**Episode 3**: Potato and sage tart”

The word “index” in the preamble text refers to indexing. Solvers must use the corresponding episode number to index the judges’ comments. For example, look at the 5th letter of comment #1, since episode #5 corresponds to judges’ comment #1.

The indexed letters are highlighted:

1. “Such **b**uttery layers – a delightfully rustic dessert!”
2. “Seemed **l**ike you used cheap ingredients.”
3. “So **v**ery bland – plainer than your usual dishes.”
4. “**N**o need to be fretful – it turned out delicious!”

5. “You didn’t finish – and don’t try to blame this one on the time limit.”

6. “Deciding to go with the flow this time paid off.”

7. “Very delicious – truly one for the ages!”

This spells out **BLENDER**, which is the solution to the puzzle (i.e., what Ana needs for the last signature challenge). “Blender” also evokes mixing things around, like letters being anagrammed.

# The Artist Solution

Each object depicted in the grid needs a letter to it. For example, the first image depicts a nail (“something to hammer”). Adding an “s” to the beginning of “nail” makes it “snail” (“a mollusk”).

The answers (in order):

- **Snail** (add “s” to nail)
- **Shack** (add “h” sack)
- **Coat** (add “a” to cot)
- **Card** (add “d” to car)
- **Beacon** (add “e” to bacon)
- **Tear** (add “t” to ear)
- **Shake** (add “h” to sake)
- **Cane** (add “e” to can)
- **Grain** (add “a” to grin)
- **Heron** (add “n” to hero)
- **Pail** (add “i” to pal)
- **Mice** (add “m” to ice)
- **Orca** (add “a” to orc)
- **Seal** (add “l” to sea)
- **Hose** (add “s” to hoe)

The solver should keep track of what letters are added to each object word.

In order, these letters spell out “shade the animals.” When the correct letters are added, 5 animals are represented in the grid: **snail**, **heron**, **mice**, **orca**, and **seal**. “Shade the animals” means to shade in the squares corresponding to these animal words.

“Zero” and “one” in the preamble text hints that binary should be used at this point. The name “Bri” is also meant to evoke binary. (It’s not necessarily a hint word, but something fun for solvers to notice once they’ve solved the puzzle.)

The shaded squares represent ones, and the unshaded squares represent zeroes.

- The first row of the table is 10000
- The second row is 00001
- The third row is 01110

This spells out the solution: **PAN**. To “pan” also means to “criticize severely” (i.e., what an art critic does). It’s also a baking word!

# Letters from Alice Solution

The words “letters” and “sounds like” in the preamble suggest that there are words in the puzzle that sound like letters of the alphabet.

Solving the fill-in-the-blank clues leads to WHY TERNS TOO EM, which sounds like “Y turns to M.” Therefore, solvers must write an “M” above the letter “Y” in the blanks at the bottom.

“More letters” and “keep listening” in the preamble suggest that there are other words in Hiro’s letter that sound like letters of the alphabet. These are: YOU, ARE, SEE, EX, BE, TEA.

“Keeping looking up” refers to looking above each word that sounds like a letter of the alphabet. Look at the blank above each of those words: “H” is above “you” (“U”), “Y” is above “are” (“R”), “T” is above “see” (“C”), “R” is above “ex” (“X”), “O” is above “be” (“B”), and “E” is above “tea” (“T”).

**ANSWER:** More Thyme

*Of the 5 basic questions of information gathering, this one is often listed last*    **W   H   Y**  
These past few months have been rough. Baking is stressful, and you are  
*Seabirds (add “in” to the beginning to get a word for “trainees”)*    **T   E   R   N   S**  
the only person who understands me & sympathizes. See, my ex would  
*Excessively, or as well*    **T   O   O**  
never let up & let me be, but you’re totally supportive. I can’t wait to visit  
*Dorothy’s auntie*    **E   M**  
& drink some tea together. I promise I’ll bake your favorite scones!

<b>M</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>E</b>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Y	B	X	T	C	U	R	Y	T

# Meta: The Finale Solution

The meta references the solving methods from the main set of puzzles. The names of past contestants hint at which puzzles to reference.

- “You can reach that final **mile** if you do it with a **smile**.” - Art Rader
  - “Art Rader” sounds like “art raider.” That evokes art criticism, which means you should use the solving method from **The Artist**. That puzzle involved adding a letter to a word to make it a different word.
  - “S” is added to “mile” to make “smile,” so the letter is **S**.
- “Had victories and losses... it all **evens** out in the end.” - Anna Graham
  - “Anna Graham” sounds like “anagram,” which hints you should use the solving method from **The Judges**. That puzzle involved anagramming and indexing.
  - Anagram “events” to a number (“seven,” in this case), then use indexing. That is, look at the 7th letter of the quote, which is the letter **T**.
- “To get **ready**, **read** your favorite book.” - Judd Jovart
  - “Judd Jovart” sounds like “judge of art.” That evokes art criticism, which means you should use the solving method from **The Artist**.
  - “Y” is added to “read” to make “ready,” so the letter is **Y**.
- “You’re probably tired of the word **‘carb’... only** it’s just the beginning of your bread journey!” - Molly Cule
  - “Molly Cule” sounds like “molecule.” Since molecule a chemistry-related word, you should use the solving method from **Technical Challenge**. That puzzle involved finding hidden chemical elements.
  - **Carbon** is hidden, which produces the letter **C**.
- **Oh!** Don’t forget oven mitts.” - Lissa N. Cair-Fulli
  - “Lissa N. Cair-Fulli” sounds like “listen carefully,” which means you should use the solving method from **Letters from Alice**. The puzzle involved words that sound like letters of the alphabet.
  - “Oh” sounds like “O,” so the letter is **O**.
- “Wear **a donut** like a bracelet for good luck.” - Ella Mintz
  - “Ella Mintz” sounds like “elements,” so you should use the solving method from **Technical Challenge**.
  - “Radon” is hidden, which produces **Rn**.
- “To get in the mood to **win**, drink some **wine!**” - Dee Zyne-Criddick
  - “Dee Zyne-Criddick” sounds like “design critic.” That evokes art criticism, which means you should use the solving method from **The Artist**.
  - “E” is added to “far” to make “fear,” so the letter is **E**.
- **Net** another win.” - Saul McZup
  - “Saul McZup” sounds like “all mixed up.” This hints you should use the solving method from **The Judges**.
  - “Net” anagrams to “ten,” so look at the 10th letter, which is **R**.
- “If wishes were dishes, you’d be **The Genie**.” - Rhea Orr-Durr

- “Rhea Orr-Durr” sounds like “reorder.” This hints you should use the solving method from **The Judges**.
- “The Genie” anagrams to “eighteen,” so look at the 18th letter, which is **S**.

Place the letter(s) on the blanks in order.

Full solution to part 1 is **STY CORNERS**.

From here, solvers should look at the diagram of the tent on the next page. “Corners” instructs solvers to look at the corners of the diagram, and “sty” clues pig pen. The corner objects in the tent diagram are also pig pen letters.

Starting with the entrance (marked “please enter”) and moving around the tent, the letters spell out “CAKE.”

The answer is **CAKE** (i.e., the winner of the competition will “take the cake”).

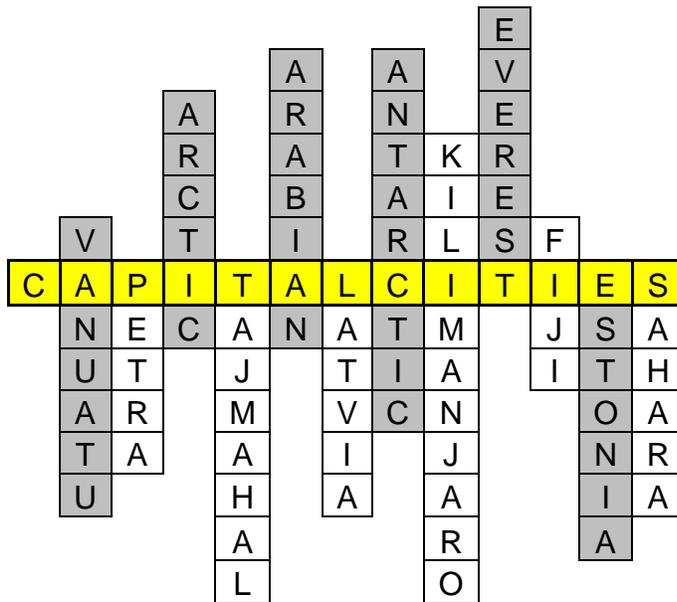


# Around the World



This is a word puzzle that includes some famous places around the world. See what cities on the departures chart you should be paying attention to and at the sema time figure out your next clue. Remember, the clock is ticking for you to find your final destination!

1 2 3 2 5 4 3 6 6 1 4 5



1. Island destinations in Oceania
2. Among the 7 modern wonders of the world
3. Polar circles
4. Baltic countries
5. Large deserts
6. Tallest mountains on their continent

DESTINATION	TIME	SEMA
ATLANTA	12:15 AM	
BARCELONA	8:00 PM	
BEIJING	9:30 PM	<b>B</b>
BERLIN	7:52 PM	<b>I</b>
BOGOTA	4:30 PM	<b>G</b>
CHICAGO	4:45 PM	
HAMBURG	2:15 AM	
KINSHASA	7:30 PM	<b>A</b>

DESTINATION	TIME	SEMA
LAHORE	11:15 PM	
LISBON	9:00 PM	<b>P</b>
MUMBAI	4:15 AM	
MUNICH	6:35 PM	
PARIS	9:00 PM	<b>P</b>
ROTTERDAM	8:45 PM	
SINGAPORE	8:10 PM	<b>L</b>
WASHINGTON D.C.	1:30 AM	<b>E</b>

Where are you flying to next?

**NEW YORK CITY**