



Other Spells!

by Philip Z Loh

This metapuzzle makes it obvious that the 32 spells obtained by solving the 32 non-meta puzzles do not all feed into both metapuzzles, unlike in previous years. The 16 rows, some with unique letter counts, are a scaffolding to help you make progress on solving, but the final few steps will require solvers to have a keen intuition of where to go next.

In the set of all 32 spells, only NA is 2-lettered. That signals to solvers that NA should belong in the 2-letter row. There are 3 7-letter spells: MUSTDIE, PALEALE, and SAFFROS. It's a natural next step to go from MUSTDIE to ROMEO MUST DIE and PALEALE to INDIA PALE ALE. These breakthroughs, along with other common phrases such as HOTEL CALIFORNIA and ALPHA CENTAURI, get solvers to thinking NATO Phonetic *Spelling* Alphabet.

Solvers may find making parallel progress on "Which Spells?" to be efficient as that removes spell candidates from this list.

These are the 16 spells and their corresponding NATO prefixes:

LETTER	PHRASE	WHAT IS THIS?
I	INDIA pale ale	Type of beer
A	ALPHAbet	The letters that form the basis of spelling
C	CHARLIE horse	Common name for a muscle spasm
H	HOTEL California	I don't know but I can't seem to leave
I	INDIAna	U.S. State
E	ECHOLocation	The ability to use audio signals to map one's surroundings
V	VICTOR Hugo	French novelist
E	ECHO dot	Amazon's smart speaker model
A	ALPHA male	Dominant male in a group
M	MIKE and Ike	Candy brand
I	INDIA rubber	Common name for natural rubber
R	ROMEO Must Die	2000 movie starring Jet Li
A	ALPHA Centauri	Closest star system to us
C	CHARLIE Sheen	American actor
L	LIMA bean	Type of kidney bean
E	ECHOCardiography	Technology that produces a sonogram of the heart

Despite the impossible-looking task of checking all the spells and separating them into "Which spells?" and "Other spells!" in such a short time, you boldly declare to the world: **"I ACHIEVE A MIRACLE"**!

ANSWER:

I ACHIEVE A MIRACLE