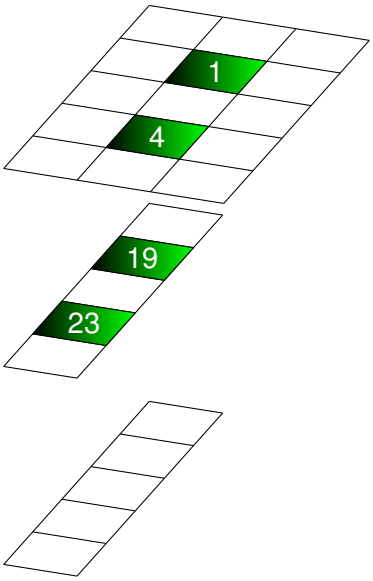
Fitting solutions into the November 2024 Soup grid

We use Soup's partial grid to indicate how we can fit solutions into the grid. Remember that each solution must be entered in a ring round the clue's number (not the Day) in the grid. Solvers should determine where in the ring the solution starts, and which direction it should go in (clockwise or anticlockwise).

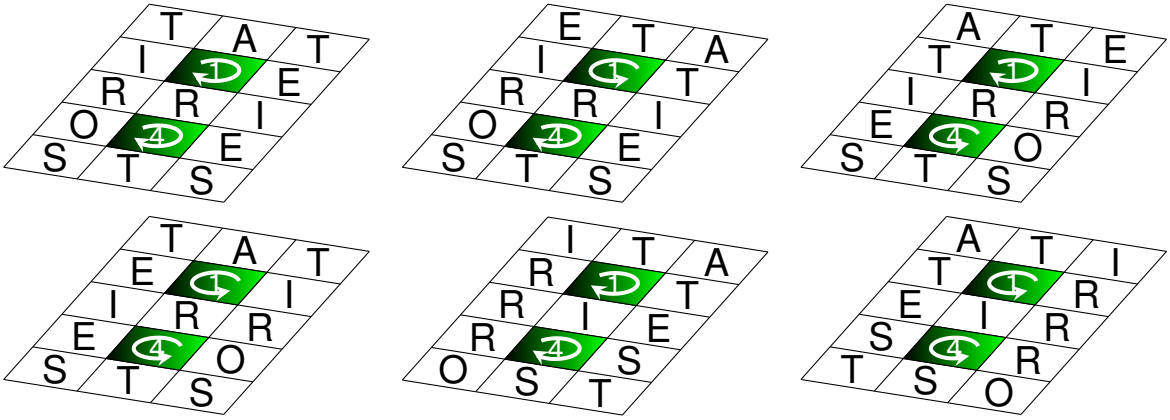


Suppose that we are given the partial empty grid and have found that the solutions are:

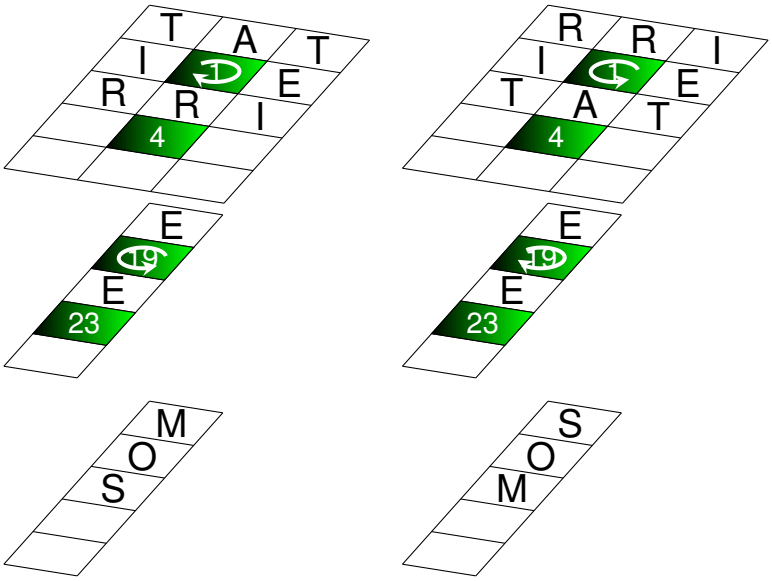
1 IRRITATE
4 SORRIEST
19 TIRESOME
23 BEDSORES

Is this enough information to fill this part of the grid with certainty? It will turn out that it is. We have two entries: 1 and 4 that fit horizontally and two entries: 19 and 23 that fit vertically. Note that 1 and 4, 1 and 19, 4 and 23 and 19 and 23 are each pairs of entries meeting in a three-letter sequence.

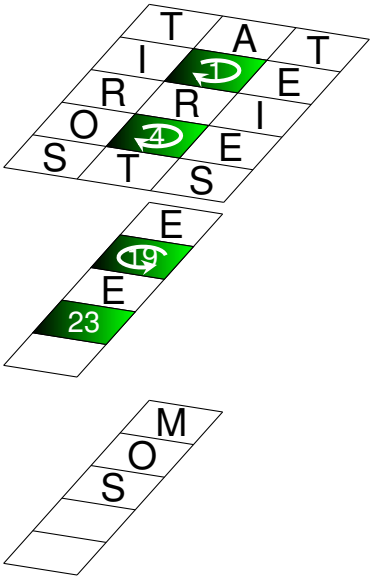
The most obvious pair to consider is 1: IRRITATE and 4: SORRIEST. These meet in three consecutive letters (possibly including the beginning and end of a ring). This sequence cannot contain the O or either S in SORRIEST. This leaves RRI and RIE as possible sequences, and unfortunately both work. Worse still, the sequence RRI can appear two different ways in IRRITATE. This means that we have the following *six* possibilities (we indictate the orientation in the numbered square).



That wasn't very productive, so let's consider 1: IRRITATE and 19: TIRESOME. The three-letter intersection sequence can't include S, O or M, so must be a sequence from ETIRE. We don't have E next to R in IRRITATE and ET is followed by A there, so the only possible sequence is TIR. This could work in two ways (orientation for 19 is as viewed from the right-hand side of the grid):



Only the first diagrams in each of the last two sets coincide, so we must have the diagram to the right.



Now we have a sequence SORES going clockwise round 23, so BED-SORES must fit clockwise starting on the bottom layer and this means that the final completed diagram is as below: