Adalogical Ænigmas

No. 23

Pavel's Puzzles

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Gentle solver,

My attention recently was drawn to an oddly interesting *game* originating, I am told, on the Scottish heath. In "golf," as they term it, one wields an *astonishing* array of cudgel-like weapons to propel a small ball repeatedly across the countryside, all with the *strange* goal, eventually, of landing said sphere in a tiny *hole!*

I have never myself *witnessed* this peculiar pass-time, but my musings on its description inspired the present ænigma.

In the grid below, each circled number represents a golf *tee*, the starting point for a single ball. Each ball must travel in a sequence of horizontal or vertical *shots*, eventually arriving at a *hole*, represented by a dark circle. The *first* shot of a ball must travel *exactly* the distance given by the number at its tee. If the ball has not yet reached a hole, each *subsequent* shot must then travel precisely one space *less* than that ball's previous shot, until finally landing in a hole.
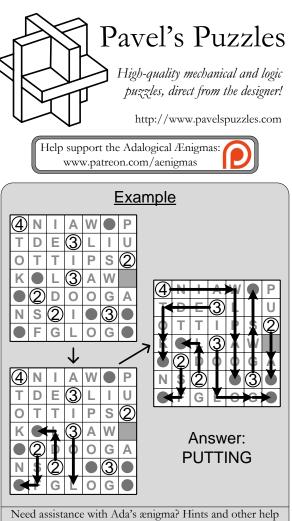
Each ball must come to rest in a *different* hole from any other ball, and the path taken by a ball may not touch or cross either itself or that of any other ball.

To add a taste of the *wilderness* of Scotland, the grid contains several shaded squares, representing little *traps* filled with sand. The balls' shots may fly unimpeded *over* these sand traps, but must never *land* in them.

Once you've completed your grid, you can move on to finding the final answer to my ænigma. Simply read all of those letters not covered by the paths of the balls, from left to right and top to bottom, to reveal a clue to your final answer.

Good luck!

Ada

Example

Answer:
PUTTING

Need assistance with Ada's ænigma? Hints and other help are available at ‹www.pavelspuzzles.com/aenigmas/23›

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