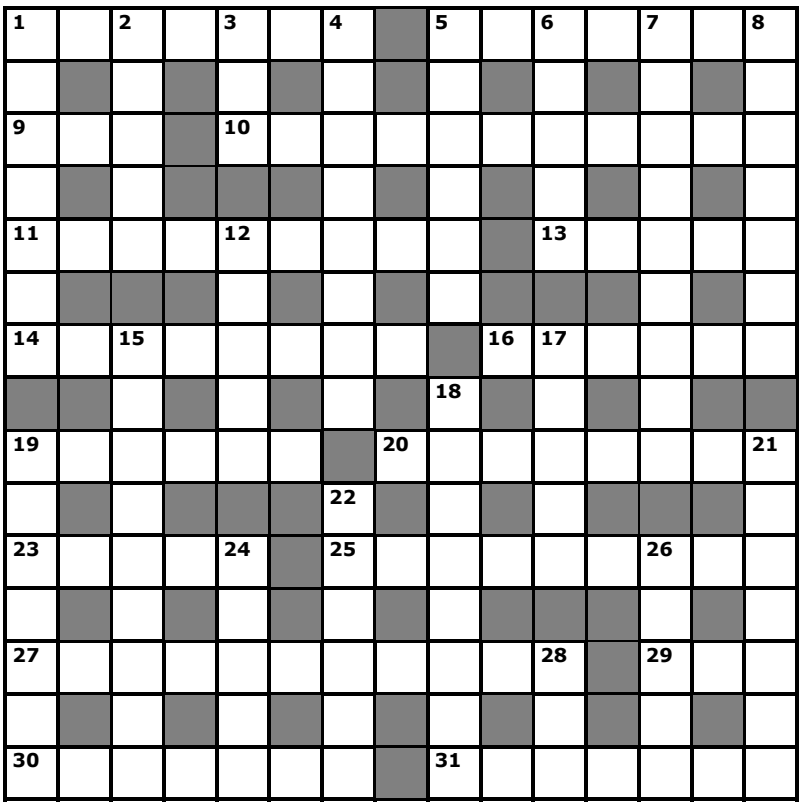
# May 2026 Slot 2 by REW



**Across**

**1** Fantastic speller has gravity and a life editing vowels (7)

**5,23** Pens clog – a problem for author (7,5)

**9** Leaders of lunatics are very potty (3)

**10** This reason for acquittal is bound to huge mishandling (6,5)

**11** Ailing favourite is poorly picked (3-6)

**13** Message giving me back trouble (5)

**14** Strategy emerges from adjustment of map angle (4,4)

**16** Furniture made from carbon fibres (6)

**19** Wicked writer shackled by blondes "a deux" (2,4)

**20** Plantation had a nice design (8)

**23** See 5

**25** Hold drug dealer and clerk (3,6)

**27** To fulfil berthing manoeuvres, engineer has trophies (4,3,4)

**29** Mend frayed guys (3)

**30** Blue looked doleful (3-4)

**31** That group accepted mineral hypothesis (7)

**Down**

**1** Treasure in bargain centre for chronicler of Piggy's plight (7)

**2** Book "Principals of English Literature" after November (5)

**3** Copy clipped tape (3)

**4** Takes in top sheet (8)

**5** Coaches skip school on Sunday (6)

**6** Heard it is windy out west, but production is self-sufficient (5)

**7** Teaching new A.I. to dunce (9)

**8** Comes to an agreement and calms down (7)

**12** Shy pedant somewhat talked up (5)

**15** Badly poised mic recorded inaccurately (9)

**17** Falsetto coo, sounds like poetry (5)

**18** 2001: Santa mixed up the most important pole (8)

**19** Degrades and removes alkalis? (7)

**21** Initial word? (7)

**22** Add on a two-piano conclusion (6)

**24** Bengal may provide communal fund (5)

**26** Old storyteller is big hit (5)

**28** Cut the fat and take to court (3)