

PREFIX-ATION

by Megan Davis



I know we were supposed to use AI to create our puzzles this year, but I must have picked an AI with a chip on its shoulder. I asked it to write a story using words with prefixes, and then make the prefixed words into a word search. But I don't know - the words in this word search don't make any sense to me. Anyway, I tried to adjust it, but everything I tried seemed to put holes in the word search. I know it's probably just my imagination, but now the word search seems to be... laughing at me? Maybe it's trying to tell me something...over and over again...

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          M T T H M M C
            T H H U I H O N S E E
      D E L E C B R C N C O A D E U
      I U I U I S E D S S S I I E V
Q C E C T   T T T T T   F T S N I
      U T R A D       S C R       R P P U T V
      A A I T U       A O A       O E C A H O
O T B O E N       G M T       N N O O R T
K E L R S D       N B E       T T M M U T M
E D Y E S A Y E I O E E K A A R R R T I
M I I   E N R D G B C S N T N   S S A H
P A   A N T E E A U N D O I T L   L T
T E L   W L L L R L E O W O W   W R D
      H T   C A L T U A G R N N A   I I A
      Y E A   Y I N O T I S S Y   M S S
      B R C   T U C I L E T   E E S
      S W I I   R W O L W   N R X R
            R T R G O N E O T O O
            N N A N G T A G D
            V G L
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Steve is having a bad day. His co-worker quit without warning, leaving him to in _____ the task of re-filing a client's anti _____ paper reports files. He is dis _____ about it, because the files are essentially a re _____ system that is just a physical backup for their new AI system. But he doesn't want to risk a hostile con _____ with his boss; that could be de _____ to his chance for a raise.

With a distinct lack of en _____, he faces the rickety multi-drawer con _____. Unbe _____ to him, his co-workers have also been using it to hold old office memos. Pre _____, each person also put their memos in a different drawer, making this job an even more dis _____ and daunting.

Faced with this messy, un _____ pile of papers, Steve flees. Rather than pre _____ - OK, LIE - about his progress to his boss, he decides to go sit his post _____ down in a booth at the de _____ around the corner. A nice ham on rye would be para _____ compared to this utter dis _____. Visiting a dis _____ for a flight of bourbon would be even better. What a de _____!

While he knows his behavior is un _____, he tries to think of a way to get his boss to en _____ asking the client to cancel the project. He knows this kind of turning down work would be without pre _____, but he is unre _____; nothing should ever re _____ that old pile of dead reports!

It's a conun _____, even a para _____: how to get this task cancelled without getting himself fired. Should he ex _____ some kind of brilliant in _____, or de _____ total dis _____?
